



(The study is conducted by the 16th batch participants of Gender and Governance Training Program, Democracywatch)

**A Study on the
Life and Livelihood of
Women Pavement Dwellers
of Dhaka City**

Democracywatch
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Published by:
Democracywatch
15 Eskaton Garden Road
Ramna
Dhaka-1000

First Edition 2014

Copy Right:
Democracywatch

Printed by:
Democracywatch
15 Eskaton Garden Road
Ramna
Dhaka-1000

Preface

Democracywatch, a trust and a registered NGO was established in 1995 with the aim of strengthening Democracy in Bangladesh. We ventured out to achieve this through creating awareness of democratic process, values, human rights and good governance and thereby foster democratic culture. These are to be implemented through education, training of youth especially women, concluding research, increase capacity of democratic institutions and advocacy. Democracywatch trained around 25000 youths sofar in “Life skills” and “Lifestyle” course on basic skills for developing as a confident, aware and competent human being ready to contribute as leaders towards ushering in a better society.

Democracywatch developed a special gender and governance training to add its leadership program. Awareness of gender issues is one of the main themes of training the youths of tomorrow. So an innovative training program called Gender and Governance Training Program (GGTP) and later named as Gender and Governance Sensitization Program (GGSP) was introduced in 2005 funded by CIDA. After two terms of funding by CIDA the Royal Danish Embassy, the Program for Asian Project (PAP) gave us the necessary support. Young public university graduates both male and female came forward to undertake this innovative and purposeful training program. Our rich pool of resource persons includes renowned academics and researchers on gender, politics, sociology and law. These immensely enriched trainings attracted well attributed women and men. The training period was only four months. It was highly regarded as it incorporated some additional components which are not readily found in other short courses i.e. research on gender issues and internship with reputable development and economic organizations. Both of these gave the participants of the course practical knowledge and hand on experience. This inculcated in many of the participants being well placed in renowned international and national NGOs and also engaged in big corporate. We feel elated that the course has been successful in creating female and male leaders in our society within such a short time.

We are proud to present the research reports that each batch has produced. These researchers are rather empirical with small sample size, as it had to be finished within the course period on a shoestring budget. These studies need to have a sympathetic view by its readers. Nevertheless topics selected often created a lot of interest among the stakeholders and academics when they were presented by the students at our seminars. Hope this study is useful to some in their own work and in giving an insight on women’s plight in our society.

To end I thank Mrs. Taherunnesa Abdullah, Magsaysay Award Winner, Prof. Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Prof. A.S.M Atiqur Rahman of Dhaka University, Mr. Saiful Islam our Monitoring and Evaluation Team Leader and the gender unit for helping the students in completing the reports of these researchers. The students would have been at a loss without their all out support.

I congratulate and thank all the participants for their hard work and willingness to learn about importance of gender in all spheres of the society and contribute in achieving it.

Last but not the least my deepest gratitude to our donors Norad, CIDA, PAP and Royal Danish Embassy for their support.

Taleya Rehman
Founder Executive Director
Democracywatch

Acknowledgement

We, the participants of the 16th batch of the “Gender and Governance Training Program” of Democracywatch conducted the research titled –“**A Study on the Life and Livelihood of Women Pavement Dwellers of Dhaka City**” as part of our training program. In doing this research we received guidance and support from people, without whom this research would not have been possible. As such we would like to thank a number of people for their contribution to this research work. First of all we would like to thank **Ms. Taleya Rehman**, Executive Director, Democracywatch for always being so enthusiastic about our research and taking time out of her busy schedule to guide us in different stages of research. We thank **Mrs. Tahrunnesa Abdullah** for her precious advice and guidance. We express our sincere gratitude to **Prof. A. S. M. Atiqur Rahman**, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, **University of Dhaka** for acquainting us with basic research methods. It’s due to his excellent teaching on the theoretical aspects of social research that we felt comfortable in undertaking this field of research. We would like to convey our special thanks to Ms. Mansura Akhter, Ms. Anupama Anam, Ms. Syeda Nazneen Jahan Ms. Dipannita Kundu and Mr. Anando Mostofa for their continuous guidance and suggestions in every stage of the research. Thanks to all the respondents for their time and sharing with us valuable knowledge and experience on the study subject.

Participants of the 16th Batch

Gender and Governance Training Program

Democracywatch

February-April 2011

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SUMMARY

1. Street-dwellers are among the most deprived people in urban areas, in terms of living conditions, access to basic facilities, and health indicators¹. Thousands of homeless, destitute street dwellers live day after day on the sidewalks and pavements of Dhaka city. It is a sight that has become so common and widespread that this disadvantaged segment of the population largely goes unnoticed. Adults and children alike are daily subjected to dangers and adversities on the streets, natural elements like the rain and cold, police brutalities, not to mention the indignity and contempt from the society.

Regardless of the reasons for people living on the street, street-dwelling can create specific problems, such as crime, and other antisocial activities, including prostitution, begging and drug abuse (Anam *et al.* [1997](#)). The city authorities may view pavement dwellers in terms of social and environmental problems resulting from their activities, such as blocking footpaths and contributing to unhygienic conditions. This creates a public-health hazard, as large numbers of poor people living in unsanitary conditions without access to proper health care can transmit diseases.

There are almost an equal proportion of female (50.3) and male (49.7%) street-dwellers in Dhaka city (Kader [2008](#)). Women are considered as the poorest of the poor. Eventually, they are the most vulnerable amongst the victims of environmental degradation. So, their problems should be discussed separately. This kind of thinking drove us to conduct the study on migration and changing pattern of woman pavement dwellers.

2. The objective of the study is to identify the changing pattern of life and livelihood of women pavement dwellers in Dhaka City. More specifically to identify their pattern of life and livelihood, the real scenario of present and past life, the reasons behind migration, the problems that the women pavement dwellers are facing and their need and aspirations.

3. The study sample consists of the women pavement dwellers in Dhaka city. 371 women pavement dwellers were selected purposively as per their availability during data collection

¹ NIPORT [1994](#); Thwin and Jaha [1996](#); Alamgir *et al.* 2000; Ray *et al.* [2001](#); NIPORT [2004](#)

period as sample from different pavement of Dhaka City. Data was collected through face to face interview using semi-structured interview schedule and case study.

Findings:

4. More than half of the respondents were married and lived with their husbands. Widow, separated and deserted composed of forty seven percent of the respondents probably representing female headed household. Only six respondents were single. Literacy level of the pavement dwellers shows a grim picture. Out of total respondents more than two third were illiterate. One needs to take this low level literacy seriously because without bringing these groups of population within the purview of literacy program government will not be able to achieve the universal literacy in the country². However, it is encouraging that nearly one third were literate. The respondents mostly have small families of one to four members including children living with them on the pavement. Some of them left behind close family members including children in their village homes.

5. Around one third of the total respondents were comparatively recent migrants; 5 years and below and another 23% respondents moved to Dhaka between 6-10 years ago. The rest of the respondents were residing in Dhaka for more than 10 years. Poverty, family discord, income earning opportunities etc. were some of the main factors which forced the respondents to move out of their village homes. The respondents migrated to Dhaka mostly with their husbands, other family members and relatives and friend/neighbors.

6. The availability and access to work influenced the decision of the pavement dwellers where to stay and settle down. Around eighty percent of the respondents were engaged in various income earning activities. Women were engaged in employment; nearly three fourth of them were domestic workers and day laborers. Domestic worker mostly worked in the houses in nearby colony and day laborers were involved in digging soil, brick breaking etc. Other wage employments include, sweeper, hawker, working in battery factory, working in shoe factory, working in canteen/hotel, helper in hospital and garments worker. Forty percent of the self employed respondents were waste collector. The study conducted in the

² A.K. Jalal Uddin and A. Mushtaque Chowdhury (Ed.). 1997. *Getting started-Understanding Quality Primary Education in Bangladesh*. University Press Ltd. There are several articles in the book on Universal Primary Education. In the preface Fazlur Rahman stated that "Bangladesh is committed to the introduction of Universal Primary Education and removal of literacy as a matter of Constitutional Obligation".

colony, market, stadium and park area where there were plenty of rubbish dumps which create scope for the pavement dwellers to be engaged in waste collecting occupation. The other occupations were selling vegetables, rice cake, flower and ornaments made by flower, bread and boiled egg, vegetables, tea, betel leaf and pickle. In addition, there were a few respondents who ran grocery shops, rickshaw mechanic, hawkers, and suppliers of water in bus counters etc. Some of the respondents were beggars. Only sixteen respondents were home makers.

It is interesting to note that 60% of these respondents were home makers before migrating from their village homes. Women working outside home were mostly domestic workers and day laborers involved in agro based work³. Migration to Dhaka created opportunities for many of them to work in variety of occupations for earning money. Because of social norm of segregation and isolation of women in the village community, women were not allowed to do some of the work they are doing now. In a city environment far from village where nobody was watching over village norms and social values, these women pavement dwellers have more freedom to live a life that they chose.

7. Daily income of most of the respondents engaged in various occupation was Tk.100.00 and below. It should be mentioned that 59% of the respondents had no income of their own before migrating to Dhaka. Daily expenditure of the respondents ranged from taka 50/- to 200/-. Major items of expenditure consist of food item.

8. Among the total respondents almost half (49%) mentioned that they took their meal thrice a day, whereas 45% respondents took their meal twice a day. Only 7% reported that they take their meal once a day. It is encouraging to know that regardless of whatever quality and quantity of food taken, most of the respondents could afford to take two to three meals a day.

Managing food is a serious problem for the pavement dwellers. All the respondents were in agreement that there was no guarantee for food for them. If they could not get any food they had to starve. Therefore food security of pavement dwellers is tied to their abilities to buy or obtain food free of cost.

³ **Agro based work:** the respondent mentioned about harvesting, crop processing etc.

Out of total responses nearly two third said that they cook their own meal. They cook food in the shanty (Jhupri)/ in front of living area which is generally pavement or walkway and/or in the kitchen of the family they work. The pavement dwellers of Osmani Uddyan and Sohrawardi Uddyan areas cook meal inside the park. The pavement dwellers living near Kamalapur rail station area and banana airport cook meal either beside the rail line or at the field behind the rail station.

Another 24% responses show the respondents buy food from nearby hotel or restaurant and 15% responses show that the respondents get food from some other sources such as bring food from their work place, eat jointly with their relatives, get left over food from University hostel canteen and begging.

9. A little more than half of the respondents have just one or two dresses. This shows that the respondents have limited options to change dresses after bath or if the clothes get soaked due to rain or sweating. However, 47% have three or more dresses. Majority of the respondents collect old dresses from others, such as, girls from school-college, shop keepers, people from neighborhood, people from work place or get dresses as *zakat*⁴ in the month of Ramadan. Around one third respondents can afford to buy their own dresses.⁵

10. Most of the respondents live in *Jupri* made up with plastic sheet or under open sky on the pavement. They use polythene, paper, *hogla pata* and lie down on it. A few of them live under the shade of bus terminal/ nearby shop/ building/ stadium's veranda. In most cases they do not have to pay any rent for their living place. A few others pay bribes to police/local mastans/ illegal land owners/owner of shanty/guard of stadium or building.

In order to encounter scorching heat during summer the respondents living close to parks some of them go and sleep under the tree and those living near railway lines go to rail station, terminal and stroll around. Others stay where they are living and try to cope with the weather by taking away the roof made of plastic sheet and sleeping under open sky using *haat pakha* (fan made of palmyra leaf), take bath, drink water, etc. During winter some respondents use blanket, quilt and/or warm clothes (sweater, shawl, gunny bag) to protect them from cold. Others sit around a fire to get warm. Some others use more polythene,

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gunny bag, leaves, paper over and around living place before sleeping or hang mosquito net to protect them from cold weather. During rainy season the pavement dwellers suffer most. Some of the respondents use more plastic sheet/ polythene/ cement bag/ gunny bag over and around their living place and some others go to shade of nearby shops, houses, school, mosque, bus terminal, railway station, over bridge or fly over, big tree etc. for protection from rain.

11. The respondents collect water from various public sources which include tap water, from nearby police pump, mosque, 'mazaar', local market, stadium, and railway terminal, public toilet, university campus and local club. Some of them collect water from nearby colony, from relatives' house and from house where they work. A few of them get water from nearby jhil, pond or lake of Osmani park, Sohrawardi Udyan or Chandrima Udyan which are mostly polluted.

Majority of the respondents use public defecation facilities such as toilet of bus terminal, railway station, stadium, mosque, market places, party office, petrol pump, University campus and BUET campus, hospital, 'mazar' etc. Those who are domestic workers or work in shops etc. use toilet facilities there. However, a substantial number of respondents defecate at open place, such as at 'jhil paar' (near the water body), under the bridge or at railway line, bush behind the shanty, inside the park etc.

As water and toilet facilities are not available in the pavement areas. The respondents cannot go to toilet in time of need. Some of them have to pay for use of water and public toilets. The respondents feel insulted when owner of the house sometimes get annoyed when they collect water or use toilets. Defecating in open space is unhygienic as well as matter of embarrassment for them. Although they know that water from open water body is unsafe yet they do not have other option.

12. Majority of the respondents reported fever, cough and cold as the main diseases that the pavement dwellers suffer. Several of them also mentioned that they suffer from pain in different parts of body (chest, headache, muscle, hand, leg). Surprisingly, only few mentioned diarrhea and dysentery and skin diseases.

Majority of the respondents go to an allopathic doctor nearer to their pavement and even they receive treatment from urban health care center close to their vicinity. Only a few of them use traditional medicines.

13. Though the respondents were hesitant to talk about HIV half of them mentioned that they heard about it. Others reported that they do not have idea about HIV or were reluctant to answer.

Similarly, one third of the respondents said that they have heard about some pavement dwellers in their area with different kind of drug addictions. The others were reluctant to talk about this matter.

14. One third of the respondents mentioned that they have family members such as husband, son, daughter, father, mother living in the village. They have regular contact with these members. (Visit home periodically, keep contact through mobile phone, people from home come to them and they sent messages and goods through known people). It is interesting to see that more than one third of the respondents are talking advantage of mobile phone which is a cheaper way to maintain linkage with family members living in the villages.

15. Around half of the respondents have no savings. With the meager income they can hardly meet the daily needs of the family and sometimes they have to repay lone. Among rest of the respondents in most cases daily savings is around Tk.50/-. The amount of savings may not be a large but it indicates a trend that there are some pavement dwellers who have the propensity to save. The respondents have different plans for investment of their savings such as buy land and build a home of their own in the village, to meet emergency situation, spend for welfare of their children, start business etc.

16. The problems encountered by the respondents are access to water and sanitation, cooking facilities, harassment by police, regular quarrel among pavement dwellers, problem of storage and safety of clothes and other belongings, lack of privacy, harassment by local 'mastans', constant threat of eviction by police or 'mastans' etc.

17. Needs of the moment as expressed by different respondents are a good place to live, an employment and money to meet their needs.

18. Future plan as mentioned by different respondents are to return to their own village and live there for the rest of their life, get a job or get engaged in a business to earn money, want to live a better life and settle down permanently in Dhaka, move in a low rent house, save money for future needs, provide support for welfare for their children, get them married, educate and manage job for them,

19. Recommendations:

Problems of the pavement dwellers can be dealt with some initiative taken by the government, NGOs and civil society. Basically the women pavement dwellers do not know where they are and where they will go and what they want. They are helpless and unable to express their needs. These are some of their recommendations:

- There should be sufficient public toilets and supply of safe water for them nearby their living place.
- They should be provided with better housing facilities with clean environment at close proximity of their work place.
- They should have access to free weekly medical and healthcare facilities including facilities for immunization for their children.
- They should have access to wage or self employment opportunities providing sufficient income to meet the basic needs of the family.
- They should be included in Government's safety net program.
- Government should provide assistance in order to protect them and their family against exploitation and discrimination.

Chapter: One

1.1 Introduction:

Bangladesh has experienced one of the highest urban population growth rates in the last three decades, at >6% per year, which compares with a national population growth rate of about 1.5% per year (Perry *et al.* [2007](#)). Employment, shelter and basic services accessible to the growing number of urban poor have become a major socio-economic and policy issue in Bangladesh (Islam *et al.* [1997](#); Khanam *et al.* [2002](#)).

Dhaka is the fastest growing mega-city in the world, with an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 new migrants, mostly poor, arriving to the city annually⁶. Its population is currently around 14 million and is projected to grow to 20 million in 2020, making it the world's third largest city. World Bank report adds that at least 12 million people live in Dhaka, and there are more than 400,000 newcomers each year. The World Bank predicts that these populations could grow dramatically by 2020⁷.

The number of pavement dwellers may not seem large in the context of Bangladesh, a country with a population of 150 million⁸. But the number of pavement dwellers from 1996 to 2007 has increased at about the same rate with the increasing population of Dhaka, from a little over 7 to 10 million presently.⁹ 15 to 20 thousand people are estimated to be living under open skies, in places like ferry docks, rail stations, bus terminals, bazaars, mosques, parks and pavements¹⁰, which may not seem like a large number in the context of Bangladesh, but these are some of the most vulnerable people

in the country, with few assets enabling them to cope with life and a political, social and economic context that virtually ignores them.

⁶ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

⁷ Kakissis Joanna, "Environmental Refugees Unable to Return Home", *the International Herald Tribune*, January 4, 2010

⁸ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2009

⁹ Project "Amrao Manush" by Concern worldwide

¹⁰ "Addressing the Urban Poverty Agenda in Bangladesh, Critical issues and the 1995 Survey Findings", Nazrul Islam, Nurul Huda, Francis B. Narayan, and Praduman B. Rana, Asian Development Bank, 1996.

A significant cause of the city's rapid population growth is rural to urban migration, including people being pushed out of rural areas. Some of these people were born on the streets while others have migrated from their village homes. Many have lost their lands, homes and livelihoods in the villages to floods and other natural calamities. These climate victims chose pavements of Dhaka to settle and search for further livelihood. In 2007, a Bangladeshi scientist stated: "We're already seeing hundreds of thousands of climate refugees moving into slums in Dhaka"¹¹.

Some have been driven away from their villages by social/political unrest or unemployment. Many women abandoned by their husbands have taken to the streets. Others lured by ideas of better job prospects; promises of better opportunities and similar temptations eventually end up homeless in the city pavements trapped in the cycle of poverty.

Most migrants come from rural areas in search of opportunities which can provide new livelihood options for millions, culminating in improve living standards. Many of the newcomers arrive after having been pushed out due to floods arising as a result of climate change damaging their livelihoods in rural areas, or due to crippling debts. But for the future influx of pavement dwellers, the move will not bring better life they hope for. Instead, they are in danger of becoming some of the most vulnerable people in the country.

Street-dwellers are among the most deprived people in urban areas, in terms of living conditions, access to basic facilities, and health indicators¹². Thousands of homeless street dwellers live day after day on the sidewalks and pavements in daily destitution. It is a sight that has become so common and widespread that this disadvantaged segment of the population largely goes unnoticed. Adults and children alike are daily subjected to dangers and adversities on the streets, natural elements like the rain and cold, police brutalities, not to mention the indignity and contempt with which they are regarded by society.

Regardless of the reasons for people living on the street, street-dwelling can create specific problems, such as crime, and other antisocial activities, including prostitution, begging and drug abuse (Anam *et al.* [1997](#)). The city authorities may view pavement dwellers in terms of social and environmental problems resulting from their activities, such as blocking

¹¹ Wax Emily, "In Flood-Prone Bangladesh, a Future That Floats", *Washington Post*, September 27, 2007

¹² NIPORT [1994](#); Thwin and Jaha [1996](#); Alamgir *et al.* 2000; Ray *et al.* [2001](#); NIPORT [2004](#)

footpaths and contributing to unhygienic conditions. This creates a public-health hazard, as large numbers of poor people living in unsanitary conditions without access to proper health care can transmit diseases.

There are almost an equal proportion of female (50.3) and male (49.7%) street-dwellers in Dhaka city (Kader [2008](#)). Women are considered as the poorest of the poor. Eventually, they are the most vulnerable amongst the victims of environmental degradation. So, their problems should be discussed separately. This kind of thinking drove us to conduct the respective study on migration and changing pattern of woman pavement dwellers.

1.2 Objectives of the study:

The objective of this research is to identify the changing pattern of life and livelihood of women pavement dwellers in Dhaka City. More specifically:

1. To find out the real scenario of present and past life of women pavement dwellers.
2. To find out the reasons behind migration of the women pavement dwellers.
3. To address the problems that the women pavement dwellers are facing in while living in pavement.
4. To identify their need and aspiration as pavement dwellers.

1.3 Rationale of the study:

In recent years, the developing countries of the world including Bangladesh have been focusing attention on the most disadvantaged group in the society – the women. Realization has gradually dawned on all concerned that a society cannot afford to waste half of its human resources by discrimination on grounds of sex. This increasing awareness on the part of the government has led to the adoption of national policies to facilitate a development process involving women in all spheres particularly in economic activities focusing especially on entrepreneurship development.

The enormous majority of women in Bangladesh are not only poor, but also caught between two vastly different worlds --- the world determined by culture and tradition that confines their activities inside family homesteads, where they are regarded more as a commodity

necessary only for bearing and rearing children and the world shaped by increasing landlessness and poverty that focus them outside into various economic activities for survival. Thus the female members, constituting half the country's population, are lagging far behind their male counterparts in all spheres of life.

Pavement dwellers are so financially crippled that they cannot afford proper health care during times of illness. Even government healthcare centers don't cater to the ailments of this target group. As a result when they fall sick they have to rely on the treatment of pharmacies or herbal remedies so that even though the sickness may improve somewhat, it is not completely cured. Sometimes, wrong diagnosis and treatment by the doctors results in worse conditions. The unhealthy and unhygienic environment that they live in also breeds more illnesses among the target group. In spite of living in the city pavement dwellers have no access to clean and safe water for drinking and sanitation. Due to lack of water, pavement dwellers cannot take regular baths. There are no hygienic toilets or safe places for them to sleep in during the day or night. Also they have no place to store their clothes.

Every victim of natural disasters or other degradation suffers beyond our thinking. They become homeless and lead a miserable life. But we felt that a woman plays the most critical role in this situation. When a family becomes rootless due to any reason and move to another place, they don't even have a minimum earning facility. The male member tries to earn but the female has to manage in that condition. She basically compromises her minimum needs for satisfying others' wants. In the circumstances, we can see that women are the most vulnerable section amongst such victims. In addition, women who are moving with their families or moving alone, losing all the family or community support, have to face a cruel reality of outside world. It is certainly not secure for a woman to live in an unfamiliar atmosphere or to search for employment in an unknown place. They face severe problems to cope with that situation.

All these matters should be taken into account. In this era of gender equality, any problem could not be completely solved without being gender sensitive or inclusive. This study will help us to understand the status of migrant women living in pavements of Dhaka City; their problems regarding living in pavement, needs and aspiration and discuss various remedies regarding these problems influenced by a large number of factors apart from lack of knowledge and awareness.

1.4 Definition:

Pavement dwellers:

- Who sleep without a fixed roof overhead, under mosquito nets and clothes tents that are taken down daily.
- Who do not pay rent to have a place to stay or sleep, But they may pay protection money
- Who have no other place to stay in Dhaka
- Who may have family outside Dhaka who they visit periodically to hand over the money earned in Dhaka
- People who have a permanent place to stay in slums or rented rooms, but who sleep on the pavement to be close to work or for other reasons.

Livelihood:

Livelihood means living, earning enough money to feed oneself etc. According to Chambers and Conroy **livelihood** comprise the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. (Chambers & Conway, 1991) In this study, occupation of the respondents and their spouse, education, assets like dress, material for home, etc are considered as indicators of livelihood.

Chambers, R., & Conway, G. (1991). Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century. Retrieved February 3, 2010, from <http://www.smallstock.info/reference/IDS/dp296.pdf>

Chapter: Two

Review of Related Literatures

In Bangladesh several researches have been done on women related issues but not enough specifically on women pavement dwellers. One research on pavement dwellers which can be mentioned is “We are Humans Too” by Dr SM Nurul Alam and Dr Siddiquir Rahman of Jahangirnagar University under the project of 'Amrao Manush' (we are humans too)- January to May 2009.

However, recent base line study (2009) of Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh shows that more than eighty percent of the respondents have been staying in the same location for at least five years or more. Some were even born on the streets and the only life they know is street life. That study also reveals that the majority of the people living on the streets are involved in activities that contribute to the life of the city, such as waste collection, construction labor, house helper, vegetable collector, rickshaw and van puller, etc.

Pavement dwellers live near ferry landings, train and bus stations, market centers, religious shrines, parks, on footpaths and others. It is estimated that there are between 15-20,000 pavement dwellers in Dhaka alone. This may seem a relatively small number considering that Dhaka has a population of around 12 million (BBS 2009). However, it is an extremely vulnerable group which is likely to grow due to natural population growth and a continuous high influx from the rural areas. The consequences of climate change may also contribute to an increase in the number of extreme urban poor as more people may lose their land due to erosion and floods. This may leave them with no other option but to move to the city.

Pavement dwellers live on the streets for a variety of reasons. Some have been pushed onto the streets as they were forced to leave their earlier locations, for example loss of land/job or women abandoned by their husbands. Others are lured to Dhaka by the promise of opportunity or they were born and grew up on the streets and know no other lifestyle. Pavement dwellers make a living in different ways and often provide important services to city dwellers; they work as porters in transport centers, as market laborers unloading trucks

on the markets, as rickshaw pullers, maid servants, solid waste collectors and recyclers, construction labor, vegetable collectors and sellers, etc.

The lives of pavement dwellers depend almost completely on their ability to make money. The study of Concern (2009) reveals that around 40 percent of the respondents earn an income of Tk. 101/- to Tk. 225/- daily, around 35 percent earn Tk. 51/- to Tk. 100/- and 23 percent earn below Tk. 50/-. Most of their earning is spent on the same day for food, water, sanitation, treatment and fulfillment of other daily necessities.

Lack of shelter even during emergencies, no access to healthy food and poor quality of water and sanitation services, pavement dwellers suffer from various health problems which have devastating effects for the family of an adult who gets seriously ill and cannot earn money. They are often denied access to health services because they are perceived as having very low status, or disqualified from services due to their inability to give their permanent address. In addition, they do not qualify for formal or informal microfinance services provided by relevant agencies. Unlike people who live in slums or squatter settlements, they have few physical assets that can be sold or pawned. Usually they do not have a community around them to help to cope with, as trust and support among them is very limited.

Although large investments are being made in Dhaka to improve life in the slums, there are very few programs for pavement dwellers. Only a handful of organizations work with street children, drug users and floating sex workers, but there is no organization in Dhaka that specifically works with families who live on the streets. Pavement dwellers are truly the invisible poor.

Chapter: Three

Methodology

3.1 Study area: Due to mass rural to urban migration and urbanization and incorporation of previous outlying areas, growth of street people has been accelerated in Dhaka City, for this different pavement of Dhaka City has been selected as the study area.

Among the total pavements of Dhaka City as representative sample Kawran Bazaar, Kamlapur Rail Station, Green Road, Sadar Ghat, Bangabandhu National Stadium, High court and Osmani Uddan, Farmgate, Panthopath, Dhaka University campus, Banani Rail Station, Uttara, Gulshan, Motijheel and other adjacent areas were selected as the study area purposively for their extensive size and mass identity in Dhaka City.

3.2 Study Population: The study Population consisted of the women pavement dwellers in Dhaka city.

3.3 Sample size and Sampling Technique: Among these women pavement dwellers 371 women were selected purposively as sample as per their availability during data collection period.

3.4 Data collection technique: Considering the nature of variables, numbers and types of respondents and their probable response, data collection technique was face to face interview and case study.

3.5 Data Collection Tools: Semi-structured interview schedule and case study were used as data collection methods to conduct this study.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure: The study had been conducted on around 371 women who live in different selected pavement throughout the whole Dhaka city through knowing about their past and present life tenure, reason behind migration, livelihood pattern, future plan and identification of necessary steps to improve their situation.

After receiving necessary orientation and training, participants of GGTP 16th batch collected out schedule which was formulated for data collection. A rapport was built with the respondents. All questions were put in a conversation style. Respondents were contacted by home visits. After that to collect the qualitative data 10 case studies were collected among the women pavement dwellers.

For analyzing the data, collected information was classified in the light of objectives set forth for the study. The classified data was coded, tabulated and percent calculated for the same. The results were presented along with tables and graphs in numbers and percentages.

3.7 Period of study: February-April, 2011

3.8 Limitations of the study:

- As resources and manpower and time period allocated for the proposed study was very limited, the data collection was limited only within 371 respondents of pavement dwellers of Dhaka city.
- During World Cup Cricket 2011 the Government ordered to evict the pavement dwellers for security reason. As the pavement dwellers were very busy in shifting to other places it was difficult to collect data from them.
- As this study was conducted by the trainee participants of Gender and Governance Training Program and this is the part of their training, they had limited experience in questionnaire survey and case study.

Chapter: Four

Study Findings

1. Number of Family Members:

Among the total respondents 39% mentioned that 3-4 family members live with them. Another 37% respondents reported that 1-2 family members live with them.

Among the total respondents 38% mentioned that 1-2 family members live in the village and 25% reported that 3-4 family members live in the village. (table 5)

2. Number of children:

Among the total respondents six are single. 24 respondents have no children. Among the rest 341 respondents 59% have children ranging 1-2 and another 31% have 3-4 children. Only 32 respondents have 5 and more children. Only one respondent said that her child had been lost. (table 5.1)

3. Marital Status:

More than half (51%) of the respondents are married and live with their husband. Widow, separated and deserted composed of second highest majority (47%) probably representing female headed household. Only six respondents are single. (table 6.)

4. Educational Qualification:

Literacy level of the pavement dwellers shows a grim picture. It shows that among 371 respondents more than two third (69%) are illiterate. Another 30% are in literate group and 4 respondents can only read religious book in Arabic. One needs to take this low level literacy seriously because without bringing these groups of population within the purview of literacy program government will not be able to achieve the universal literacy in the country¹³. (table 7)

¹³ A.K. Jalal Uddin and A. Mushtaque Chowdhury (Ed.). 1997. *Getting started-Understanding Quality Primary Education in Bangladesh*. University Press Ltd. There are several articles in the book on Universal Primary Education. In the preface Fazlur Rahman stated that "Bangladesh is committed to the introduction of Universal Primary Education and removal of literacy as a matter of Constitutional Obligation".

5. Occupation of the Respondents: (percentage needs to be recalculated)

The occupation of the respondents can be divided in to three categories, such as wage earners, self employed and others. Study findings reveal that out of total 371 respondents 50% is engaged in wage employment among whom 64% is domestic workers and another 22% are day laborers. Domestic worker mostly works in the houses in nearby colony and day laborers are involved in digging soil, brick breaking etc. Other wage employments include sweeper, hawker, working in battery factory, working in shoe factory, and working in canteen/hotel, 'ayaa' in hospital and garments worker.

Table 8: Occupation of the Respondents

| Present Occupation | | f | % | Previous occupation | f | % |
|----------------------|--|------------|-----|------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Wage Employed | Domestic Worker | 120 | 64 | Domestic work | 60 | 43 |
| | Day Laborer | 41 | 22 | Day Laborer | 12 | 9 |
| | Sweeper | 10 | 14 | Garments worker | 2 | 1.4 |
| | working in canteen/hotel | 10 | | | | |
| | working in battery factory | 03 | | | | |
| | working in shoe factory | 01 | | | | |
| | Ayaa in hospital | 01 | | | | |
| | Garments worker | 01 | | | | |
| Sub-total | | 187 | 100 | | | |
| Self Employed | Waste collector | 41 | 40 | Agro based work | 44 | 31 |
| | Selling Rice cake | 18 | 18 | Animal husbandry | 8 | 6.0 |
| | Sell flower and ornaments made by flower | 11 | 11 | Biri (local cigarette) maker | 05 | 3.5 |
| | Grocery | 07 | 31 | Grocery | 04 | |
| | rickshaw mechanic | 05 | | Sewing | 02 | 2.7 |
| | Bread/boiled egg seller | 03 | | Work in a polythene factory | 02 | 2.7 |
| | Vegetables/ tea selling | 02 | | Waste collector | 01 | 07 |
| | Hawker | 08 | | | | |
| | selling vegetable | 02 | | | | |
| | Betel leaf seller | 02 | | | | |
| | Provide water in bus counter | 01 | | | | |
| | Pickle seller | 01 | | | | |
| | Business | 01 | | | | |
| Sub-total | | 102 | 100 | | 140 | 100 |
| Others | Beggary | 66 | | Beggary | 10 | |
| | home maker | 16 | | Home maker | 221 | |
| Total | | 371 | | Total (short of 3) | 371 | |

Out of 102 (28%) the self employed category 40% are waste collector. The study conducted in the colony, market, stadium and park area where there is plenty of accumulation of wastes which creates scope for the pavement dwellers in the area to take waste collection as occupation. The other occupations consist of selling vegetables, rice cake, flower and ornaments made by flower, bread and boiled egg, vegetables, tea, Betel leaf and pickle. In addition, there are small grocery shop owner, rickshaw mechanic, hawker, supplier of water in bus counter etc. Sixty six respondents mentioned that they are beggars. This is because both in and outside of Motijhil colony, stadium market, university campus and park area there is opportunity for begging.

The livelihood strategies of this group of pavement dwellers are location specific and the pavement dwellers are available in the vicinity of pavements where they live. Sometimes the availability and access to work influence the decision of the pavement dwellers where to stay and settle down. Only sixteen respondents are home makers.

It is interesting to note that 60% of these respondents were home makers before migrating from their village homes. Migration to Dhaka has created opportunities for many of them to work and earn money. Because of social norm of segregation and isolation of women in the village community, women were not allowed to do some of the work they are doing now. In a city environment far from village people watching over social values these pavement living women more freedom to live a life that they choose. Also, number of beggars increased from 10 to 66 which confirm that both in and outside of Motijhil colony, stadium market, university campus and park area there is opportunity for begging especially for older women.

Before moving to Dhaka, 60 respondents were domestic worker and 44 respondents were involved in agro based work¹⁴. The other occupation that the respondents were involved in before migration were day laborer, garment worker, animal husbandry, Biri (local cigarette) maker, grocery, sewing, employed in a polythene factory and waste collector. (table 8)

6. Respondents husband's occupation:

Out of 192 married women, 67 (34.89%) mentioned that their husband's present occupation is rickshaw pulling. The other major occupations of the husbands mentioned by the respondents are day labor (9.38%), van/cart driver (6.77%), vangari business (6.25%) and beggary (5.73%). Besides these the table shows that the respondents' husbands are engaged in various occupations such as, Rang mistry/painter, Shop keeper, waste paper collector, mason, sweeper, electrician, Rickshaw/van mechanic, guard, porter, hawker, hotel boy, Bus Helper, Fish business, and selling Rice Cake (pitha), boiled egg, tea, betel leaf, vegetable, Chanachur (a kind of snaks) Molasses etc. 12 Respondent reported that their husbands are unemployed at this moment.

In case of husbands' occupation before migration to Dhaka 43% of them said that their husbands were working as agricultural laborer /day laborer and 19% cases husbands were rickshaw puller The other occupations of the husbands mentioned by the respondents were Van driver/cart driver, Fisher man, Carpenter, Business (bamboo, rice), Boat man/ sailor, Work in small enterprise, Shop keeper, Taxi driver, Mason, selling "Jhal muri", , vegetables, Betel leaf(Pan), hotel boy, Coach man, Kabiraji (village doctor) Village leader, Imam,

¹⁴ **Agro based work:** the respondent mentioned about harvesting, crop processing etc.

Garment Worker and waste paper picker etc. 20 respondents reported that before migration their husbands were unemployed and one was involved in gambling. There were three beggars. (table 9)

7. Respondents' daily income (apprx):

The major (80%) concentration of the respondents' daily income is within the range of taka 100 and below. Among the total respondents 16 have no income as they are home maker. The other responses are within the income range of taka 101-200 (15%), and taka 201-351 and above (5%).

Before migration to Dhaka city 218 (59%) of the total respondents had no income as they were home maker. Among the rest 50% mentioned that their daily income was taka 50 and below and 41% respondents daily income was ranging from taka 51-150. The remaining 4% was earning Taka.151 and above. Seven respondents said that they had no fixed income; they lived from hand to mouth. Data shows that out of 218 home makers who were not working and had no income of their own 202 are now earning and contributing in family income. (table 10.1)

8. Respondents' husbands daily income (apprx):

Out of 192 married women 12 said that their husbands are unemployed at present. Among the rest more than half (53%) of the respondents mentioned that their husbands present income ranges from taka 51- taka 150. Only 3 respondents said that their husbands present income ranges from taka 301 and above.

Nearly two third (70%) of the respondents mentioned that their husbands previous income ranges from taka 50 and below to taka 100. Only 4 respondents said that their husband's previous income was taka 301 and above. (table 10.2)

9. Daily expenditure (apprx):

Among the total respondents 61% mentioned that their daily expenditure ranges from taka 50 and below to taka 100. Another 29% respondents mentioned that their daily expenditure ranges from tk 101-200. The rest 10% reported their daily income above taka 200. Although, several respondents are earning an income, their expenditure mostly consists of food item. (Few of them pay rent for the occupied pavement space but some of them have to pay bribe to avoid eviction). (table 11)

10. Migration period:

More than one third (37%) of the total respondents are comparatively recent migrant (5 years and below). Following that 23% respondents' duration of migration is in between 6-10 years. Another 40% of the respondents mentioned that they are residing in Dhaka for more than 10 years (11 to above 30 years). It will be interesting to know that why their economic condition has not improved enough to move out of pavement dwelling to a better place).

11. Reasons behind migration:

Both push factors (natural calamities, poverty, and family discord) and pull factors (opportunity for work) that influenced people to migrate to Dhaka. The table also shows that out of 614 responses 252 (41%) respondents cited poverty as one of the main push factor of migration. Besides 80 (13%) responses said natural calamities and 35 (6%) responses mentioned family discord as the push factors of migration. Another 232 (38%) responses mentioned better job opportunity as the most important pull factor of migration. 15 (2%) respondents mentioned some other reasons for migrating to Dhaka which includes parents left her at the railway station, Mother died, banished from village because husband is a thief, to bear medical expenses of sick husband, husband's wish etc.

Case Study:1

Khodeja (40) who lives in the Sohrawardi uddan with her second husband came to Dhaka city two years ago because of intolerable torture by her step mother and brothers. Though the house where she lived was her father's house the death of her first husband left her in a deep trouble. In absence of her father, her step brothers did not want to give her share of the land. She was just beaten by her brothers and step mother and also received death threats from them. So she escaped from her house and went to Jessore for finding a secured place for herself where she met her second husband and later they married. She has no educational background and no experience of doing any kind of work to earn an income. The only thing she can do is to write down her name. Right now she has to totally depend on her husband's income who was a rickshaw puller and building painter. But because of an accident he lost his two fingers. He could no longer work as Rickshaw puller. So they came in Dhaka city for an earning. Though Khodeja's husband earned 200/250 taka in Jessore but right now as a betel leaf seller he earns only 40/50 taka per day. Some times Khodeja and her husband manage three meals a day and sometimes they go without food. Some time they even used the money borrowed for business for buying food. Right now they live in Osmani uddan but the place is still uncertain for them to live because the local pavement dwellers can not tolerate them. In this insecure situation she thinks to move from that place and go to high court but she also said that she heard because of World Cup cricket in Dhaka no pavement dwellers will be allowed in the pavements of Dhaka city. She is worried about her present situation because she has no option to go to her village place where she believes that her step brothers may kill her husband. Right now she does not know where she can go with her husband and live peacefully.

The poverty situation is further emphasized by intermittent and sometime regular natural disasters such as, riverbank erosion and floods when people lose their assets and lack ability to rebuild and return to their previous location and condition. Although few respondents mentioned natural disasters as the reason, we got a feeling that disaster and poverty are intertwined that people link natural disaster with hunger, shortage of food and loss of asset. Family discord is another important push factor which includes desertion by husband, death of husband, inability of the family head to support family and also desire to live an independent life. (table 13)

12. Respondents' migration link:

One third (33%) of the respondents mentioned that they migrated to Dhaka with their husband. The other respondents reported that they migrated to Dhaka with other family members and relatives (49%), friend/neighbors (15%) and others (3%) which included migrating alone, migrant fell asleep in the launch and after awaking found herself in Dhaka, some one left her at Kamalapur railway station. (table 14)

13. Reason behind coming to Dhaka particularly:

| Reason behind coming to Dhaka particularly | N | % |
|---|------------|------------|
| More job opportunities | 172 | 46.36 |
| Family (husband/sister/father) / Relative/ Neighbor / known people lives in Dhaka | 127 | 34.23 |
| Everybody talks about Dhaka | 24 | 6.47 |
| Poverty | 20 | 5.39 |
| Near from own village | 10 | 2.7 |
| Do not know other places | 07 | 1.89 |
| Own wish | 05 | 1.34 |
| In fear of parents | 02 | 0.54 |
| Residents of Dhaka are unknown | 02 | 0.54 |
| To avoid village people's back biting | 01 | 0.27 |
| In search for husband | 01 | 0.27 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Near about half (46.36%) of the respondents mentioned that they particularly migrated to Dhaka because there is more opportunity for employment and work. So that in search for better job they came here. Another 34.23% respondents reported that as their Family (husband/sister/father) / Relative/ Neighbor / known people lives in Dhaka who are acquainted with Dhaka city life, can give them security (staying with people they know) and with the expectation that they will find some employment for them. 24 (6.47%) respondents said that as everybody talks about Dhaka and heard that Dhaka is a mega city and give shelter to all so they got fascinated about Dhaka and came here. Poverty mentioned by 20 (5.39%) of the respondents, these respondents said that they heard from others who live in Dhaka that there is no shortage of employment in Dhaka so they thought after migrated to Dhaka their poverty situation would be removed. The other reasons behind coming to Dhaka particularly are Dhaka is near from their own village, do not know other place, own wish, in fear of parents, residents of Dhaka are unknown, to avoid village people's back biting and In search for husband. (table 15)

14. Respondents' contact with their village:

One third (66%) of the respondents mentioned that they have contact with their village and the rest 34% have no contact with their village. (table 16)

15. Family persons living in village:

Among the 459 responses 30 respondents said that they have no family member living in village. Among the rest 341 respondents 130 (30%) responses mentioned that their mother lives in village, another 81 (19%) responses shows that the respondent's father lives in village. The other responses are daughter (17%), son (14%), and husband (9%). Only 46 (11%) responses shows that the respondents' mentioned about some other family member (Grand-mother, younger or elder brother, sister, brother-in-law, granddaughters and son, Step brother, Uncle, father-in law, mother-in law, step mother) live in village. (table 17)

16. Mode of communication:

42% of the respondents mentioned that they go home periodically to keep connection with their family members, whereas 24% respondent mentioned that people from home come to them and they send messages and goods through known people to village. 34% of the respondents mentioned that they keep contact through mobile phone,

It is interesting to see that more than one third of the respondents are talking advantage of mobile phone which is a cheaper way to maintain linkage with family members living in village. (table 18)

Case Study:2

Julekha migrated to Dhaka from Sherpur with her cousin sister seven years ago. She had her own house there. She has two sons and one daughter. Her husband was vegetable farmer and used to sell vegetables at Dhaka market. Her husband died due to road accident while he was carrying vegetables to Dhaka. In order to meet the demand for dowry for marriage of her elder daughter she sold her property. After that she migrated to Dhaka with her other children. She is working as domestic worker in the Banani area. She admitted her children to a madrasa for education. Suddenly after few months she got sick and could not continue her work. Being frustrated of doctor's treatment she went back to her village. She took treatment from Kabiraj and got cured. She returned to Dhaka as there was no job in the village. Since then she continues living in Dhaka and work as domestic worker.. She carries all the expenses of her children. She has connection with her elder daughter through mobile phone. She has planned to raise her younger children properly so that they can get better job and she wants to go back to village. She can manage to save money. She wants to build a big house in the village and arrange marriage for her younger daughter. She does not want to move from this place as her workplace is near from her living place. She will live in this place till she can manage to go back to her village.

17. Source of food:

| Source of food* | N | % |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Cook her own meal | 269 | 61 |
| Buy food | 104 | 24 |
| Beg food | 39 | 9 |
| Other | 27 | 6 |
| | 439 | 100 |
| | N=371 | |

*Multiple responses

Arranging food is a serious problem for the pavement dwellers. All the respondents are in agreement that there is no guarantee for food for them. If they do not get any food they have to starve. Therefore food security of pavement dwellers is tied to their abilities to buy or obtain food for free of cost.

Out of total responses nearly two third said that they cook their own meal. Another 24% responses show the respondents buy food from nearby hotel or restaurant and 15% responses show that the respondents get food from some other sources such as bring food from their work place; eat jointly with their relatives, get left over food from University hostel canteen and begging.(table 19)

18. Place of cooking:

| Place of cooking | N | % |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| In the shanty (Jhupri)/ In front of living place/In footpath | 262 | 81 |
| Work place | 14 | 4 |
| At park | 12 | 4 |
| Beside rail line | 12 | 4 |
| At the field behind station | 14 | 4 |
| At others place (neighbor/relatives) | 10 | 3 |
| Total | 324 N=269 | 100 |

The 269 respondents who cooked food among them 261 (81%) responses show that the respondents cook food in the shanty (Jhupri)/ in front of living place area which is generally pavement or walkway. Another 14 (4%) responses show that the respondents cook meal at their work place. The pavement dwellers of osmani uddyan and sohrawardi uddyan area 12 (4%) specifically mentioned that they cook meal inside the park. The pavement dwellers of Kamalapur rail station area and banana airport (4%) area specially mentioned that they cook meal either beside the rail line or at the field behind the rail station. Only 10 (3%) responses show that they cook at others place (neighbor/relatives/ son's or daughter's place). (table 20)

19. Number of meals taken:

Among the total respondents almost half (49%) mentioned that they take their meal thrice a day, whereas 45% respondents take their meal twice a day. Only 7% reported that they take their meal once a day. It is encouraging to know that regardless of whatever quality and quantity of food taken, most of the respondents can afford to take two to three meals a day. (table 22)

20. Number of clothing:

Among the total respondents 10% respondents said that they have just one dress and another 43% have only two dresses. This shows that the respondents have limited options to change dresses after bath or if the clothes got soaked due to rain or sweating. However, 47% have three or more dresses. (table 23)

21. Source of obtaining the clothing:

Out of 549 responses, 233 (42%) responses show that the pavement dwellers collect dresses from others, such as, girls from school-college, shop keepers, people from neighborhood, people from work place or their son, daughter give them dresses and 153 (28%) responses indicate that they get dresses as *zakat*¹⁵ in the month of Ramadan. Around one third responses reveal that they can afford to buy their own dresses. (table 24)

22. Duration of living in present area:

The respondents moved to the present location more recently. Majority of respondents in Panthopath-farmgate (82%) and Dhaka University Campus (73%) living in this specific areas for 5 and below years. In case of Gulshan- banana, almost two third (64%) and nearly half (49%) of the respondents in Malibagh and Motijhil-Osmani areas living there for 5 years and below. Also 39% respondents of Kamalapur pavement dwellers living there 5 year and below. Only in Motijheel-Osmani and Kamalapur are around one third of the respondents moved there for 6-10 years. (table 25)

23. Reason behind living in this area:

| Duration of living in this place | Motijhil-Osmani | | Kamalapur | | Panthapath-Farmgate | | DU Campus | | Gulshan-Banani | | Malibag-Khilgaon | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| 0-5 yrs | 32 | 49 | 23 | 39 | 45 | 82 | 24 | 73 | 55 | 64 | 35 | 49 |
| 6-10 yrs | 22 | 33 | 19 | 32 | 08 | 14 | 06 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 13 |
| 11-15 yrs | 4 | 6 | 06 | 10 | 02 | 4 | 01 | 03 | 06 | 07 | 15 | 21 |
| 16-20 yrs | 2 | 3 | 03 | 05 | - | - | 01 | 03 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 11 |
| 21-25 yrs | 2 | 3 | 03 | 05 | - | - | - | - | 06 | 07 | 02 | 03 |
| 26-30 yrs | 2 | 3 | 04 | 07 | - | - | 01 | 03 | | | 02 | 03 |
| 30+ | 2 | 3 | 01 | 02 | - | - | | | | | | |
| Total | 66/34 | 100 | 59/36 | 100 | 55/10 | 100 | 33/9 | 100 | 86/31 | 100 | 72/37 | 100 |

While the respondents asked about the reasons behind living in this specific area they mentioned about different reasons. Almost in all areas the reasons are same. Among 542 responses, 206 (38%) responses show that the respondents have acquaintance with neighbors and /or their relatives live there. Other 130 (24%) responses shows that they do not have financial ability to live in other places. 90 (17%) responses reveal that they live here as they do not find any other place to live. Following that, 86 (16%) responses reveal that as this area is near to their work place so they are living here; whereas 30 (5%) responses shows various reasons such as they do not have to pay rent etc. (table 26)

24. Reason behind moving from the previous area recently:

Among 371 respondents 204 either came to this area directly from their villages or moved here long before. As such they did not change their area recently. The rest 167 respondents mentioned that they have moved here from the previous area due to some reasons. Among this group of respondents 42% reported that due to being harassed by the police and local 'mastans' they had to change their area of living. Another 22% respondents mentioned that

for better job or livelihood they moved here and 19% respondents said that as the they knew the people living there so they moved to this pavement from the previous one. Other reasons mentioned by 29 respondents were could not afford to pay rent/ increased rent of the place, sexual harassment by the spoilt boys, due to quarrelling with other PD's, evicted from the previous pavement etc. (table 27)

25. Nature of problems faced by the pavement dwellers:

| Nature of problems faced in pavement | Motijhil-Osmani | | Kamalapur | | Panthapath-Farmgate | | DU Campus | | Gulshan-Banani | | Malibag-Khilgaon | |
|--|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Water-Sanitation problem | 66 | 33 | 60 | 39 | 38 | 27 | 10 | 13 | 115 | 45 | 48 | 31 |
| Harassment by police | 42 | 21 | 18 | 12 | 39 | 28 | 18 | 24 | 38 | 15 | 30 | 19 |
| | | 54 | | 51 | | 55 | | 37 | | 60 | | 50 |
| Sleeping disturbance | 28 | 14 | 33 | 21 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 28 | 11 | 07 | 4 |
| Problems in Cooking | 22 | 11 | 02 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 01 | 01 | 20 | 08 | 02 | 1 |
| Quarrel among PD's | 14 | 7 | | | 03 | 2 | 04 | 05 | 08 | 03 | 10 | 6 |
| Belongings are stolen | 10 | 5 | 18 | 12 | 06 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 25 | 10 | 23 | 15 |
| Privacy problem | 5 | 3 | 04 | 2 | 08 | 6 | 02 | 03 | 03 | 01 | 04 | 3 |
| Problem to storage of clothes and other belongings | 4 | 2 | 09 | 6 | - | - | 11 | 15 | 13 | 05 | 23 | 15 |
| Other problems | 8 | 4 | 06 | 4 | 02 | 1 | 02 | 03 | 05 | 02 | 10 | 6 |
| Total | 199 | 100 | 155 | 100 | 141 | 100 | 75 | 100 | 255 | 100 | 157 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

The respondents identified nine different types of problems which they face on daily basis in the pavement. These problems can classify into some category such as, problems relating to occupancy, water and sanitation, cooking and harassment by police. It is revealed from the table that in all area except Dhaka University campus the pavement dwellers (50-60%) more or less indicated water-sanitation problem and harassment by police as the major problem which they face in the pavement.

Sleeping disturbance, problems in cooking are other major problems faced in pavement mentioned by the pavement dwellers. The other problems mentioned by the pavement dwellers which they faced always were, quarrel, belongings being stolen, privacy problem and problem of storage of clothes and other belongings. Only 33 responses showed that the respondents faced various problems on pavement such as bathing problem, harassed by local 'mastans', evicted by police or 'mastans', having to keep belongings at others' places etc. (table 28)

Case Study:3

Kulsum (30) lives in front of the gate of “Niketon Housing Society” in Gulshan 1. She lives without any roof under open sky. Kulsum is literate. She is abandoned by her husband. She lives here with her two sons and one daughter. She was facing extreme poverty in her village and migrated to Dhaka from Jamalpur three years back to seek job opportunity here. Before her migration she was a house wife. Now she earns Taka 80-90 per day by doing part time household works in various houses. She always takes her food by purchasing because she has no arrangement of cooking in her living place. The family eats potato, biscuit etc because they are available with reasonable price. They take meal twice a day. Now she has three sarees to wear and she always collect her dress from known people of her workplace. She has to face many problems as a street dwellers such as problem of sleeping, storing her belongings etc. Sometimes she is harassed by the guards but do not take any steps. When she is driven out from this place, she takes shelter in nearby roads. She has no ability to take steps during excessive heat, storm, flood and rain. In winter sometime she gets warm clothes from people. She uses to lake water for drinking and other works. As a result she is compelled to drink unsafe water. But she has the benefited of sanitation facilities around her. She always faces various diseases around the year due to unhealthy environment, lack of health knowledge and nutritious food etc. In this case, she takes medicine as prescribed by nearby pharmacies. She has no idea about HIV (AIDS). She cannot save any money due to low income and excessive expenditure for her children. She has a wish to live in a slum in near future. She is always in need of good accommodation and safety.

26. Persons responsible for eviction:

Among 335 responses, 209 (63%) shows that the pavement dwellers harassed by police. The respondents mentioned that sometimes police takes money forcefully from them or they are evicted, beaten by police. Another 55 (16%) responses reveal that respondents harassed by security guard and 44 (13%) responses show the respondents harassed by local mastans. Only 27 (8%) responses indicated some other causes such as eviction by the shopkeepers when they fight with other pavement dwellers and harassment by the red flag group. Besides they also mentioned, eviction threat given by neighbors, employers etc. (table 29)

27. Steps taken after harassment:

| Steps taken after harassment | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Fled away to nearby places/road temporarily and return again and built shanty the next day | 175 | 52 |
| Do not take any steps, Live here and try to compromise with the situation | 97 | 29 |
| Move to another pavement/another place | 38 | 11 |
| Give bribe (money) to the person who harassed) | 12 | 4 |
| Seek help of police | 7 | 2 |
| Protest the evictors jointly and quarrel with them | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 335 | 100 |

Out of 335 respondents who mentioned that they are the victims of harassment, among them more than half (52%) reported that after harassment they fled away to nearby places/road temporarily and returned again and built shanty the next day. Another 29% mentioned that they do not take any steps to avoid or prevent harassment and try to compromise with the situation. Only 11% said that they move to another pavement/ another place after being harassed. The other steps taken by the pavement dwellers are to give bribe (money) to the person who harass (4%), seek help of police (2%), collectively protest against the evictors and quarrel with them (2%) (table 30)

Case Study: 4

Pori used to live in Mymensingh with her husband and daughter. There she used to work as domestic help in different houses in the season of harvesting and earned money as taka 400/500. Her husband was van driver. Suddenly she become sick and a village doctor said that she has Jaundice. But later it was identified that she was pregnant. Due to mistreatment of doctor she started bleeding. Her mother brought her to Dhaka where she works as domestic worker. That was 5 years ago. She and her husband spent all their savings but could not save the unborn. At that moment her husband left her. Her mother arranged job for her at Banani area. She manages to repay her loan with her income. After that she also engaged her daughter in domestic work so that they can save enough money to go back to village. Meanwhile her husband came back and suggested her to start business. She borrowed money along with her savings for business. But her husband again fled with all her money. She went to village in search of her husband but cannot find him. She moved back to Dhaka again because she does not want to starve in village. She started her old job as domestic worker and tries to save money. Some times police evicts them and they take shelter at nearby road or Banani play ground. After eviction she again builds her shanty with plastic sheets. This is how she survives with her mother and daughter on the pavement.

28. Condition of living place:

| Condition of living place | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Shanty (Jhupri) made up with Plastic sheet | 262 | 71 |
| Under open sky | 77 | 21 |
| Others | 32 | 8 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

It can be seen from the above table that most (71%) of the respondents mentioned that their living place is made up with plastic sheet which is called *jhupri* by them. 21% respondents live under open sky on the pavement. They use polythene, paper, hogla pata and lie down on it. Only 8% respondent mentioned some other options which include live under the shade of bus terminal, stadium's veranda, under the shade of nearby shop under the building of party office, under car type van etc. (table 32)

29. Rent for living place:

Majority (87%) of the respondents mentioned that they do not have to pay rent for their living place. (table 33)

30. Rent taker:

Only 48 respondents reported that they have to pay rent for their living place. Among them 25% mentioned that they have to pay to pay police taka 10 per day. Following that 23% mentioned that they have to pay to local mastans. The other responses are have to pay to land grabber (13%), owner of shanty (10%), equally 8% said about local and unknown people, 6% have to pay to the guard of stadium for living in the stadium's veranda, 2% said that they have to pay to the guard of nearby house and only one respondent mentioned about manager of the pavement. (table 34)

31. Precaution taken in summer:

Among 376 responses, 158 (42.02%) responses reveal that the respondents live under the tree inside the Osmani Park, Chandrima udyan, sohrawardi udyan or live under open sky in pavement or inside the premises of the colony area to get rid of scorching heat. Another 83 (22.07%) responses shows that, pavement dwellers do not take any precaution during the scorching heat of summer. They stay where they are living and try to cope with the weather. 69 (18.35%) responses show that the respondents use haat pakha (hand fan made of Palmyra leaf) as a precaution for getting rid of the hot summer season. Besides 20 (5.31%) responses show that the respondents go to rail station, terminal and stroll around during summer. These groups of respondents are mostly living in Kamalapur station area or banani airport station area. The other responses about precaution taken on summer are hang mosquito net (2.65%), live under curtain or plastic sheet (2.65%) on their living place, Take bath, drink water (2.39%), take away the roof made of plastic sheet (1.32%), go to stadium (1.32%) and others (1.86%) which include live under the bridge, go to live in work place and sleep on gunny bags. (table 35)

32. Precaution taken in winter:

176 (43.34%) responses show that the respondents use blanket/kantha/ warm clothes (sweater, shawl, chhala) to protect themselves from cold. Another 112 (27.58%) responses show that the respondents in a group arrange fire and sit around to get warm. 83 (20.44%) responses reveal that they do not take any precaution to keep them protected from cold; they live inside the shanty, do nothing, just suffer and try to cope with the weather. The other precautions taken by the pavement dwellers during winter season are using more polythene over and around their living place, hanging mosquito net, using gunny bag, leaves, paper over and around living place before sleeping and only one response show that the respondent change area and go to some other place. (table 36)

33. Precaution taken on Rainy season:

During rainy season the pavement dwellers suffer most. Half of the total respondents (50%) show that they use plastic sheet/ polythene/ cement bag/ gunny bag over and around their living place to protect themselves from rain. Nearly one third (31%) of the respondents mentioned that they go to shade/veranda of nearby shops, houses house, school, mosque, bus terminal, railway station, over bridge or under the shade of fly over, under the shade of big tree to get protected from rain. Only 19% said that they live inside the shanty, do nothing and just suffer. (table 37)

34. Sources of water

| Source of water | N | % |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Public Sources | 310 | 80 |
| Private sources | 64 | 16 |
| Nearby Pond/Lake/jhil | 17 | 4 |
| Total | 391 N=371 | 100 |

The sources of water that the pavement dwellers use can be divided into two categories, such as public water sources provided by WASA and private water sources. The above table indicates that most of the respondents rely on public water sources for obtaining safe water. 310 (80%) responses show that the respondents collect water from various public sources which include WASA tap water, from nearby police pump, water from mosque, mazaar, local market, tap of stadium, and terminal, public toilet, university or BUET hostel and from local club. 64 (27%) responses shows that the respondents collect water from private sources which includes water from nearby colony, from relatives' house and from house where they work. Only 17 (4%) responses show that respondents collect water from nearby jhil, pond or lake of Osmani park, Sohrawardi Udyan or Chandrima Udyan. (table 38)

35. Condition of Sanitation System:

| Condition of Sanitation system | N | % |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Public sources | 212 | 50 |
| At open space | 129 | 31 |
| Private sources | 79 | 19 |
| Total | 420 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Fifty percent responses show that the respondents use public defecation facilities, which includes public toilet, toilet of bus terminal, railway station, stadium, mosque, market places, toilet of party office, petrol pump, toilet of University and BUET campus, hospital's toilet, mazar's toilet, etc. Another 129 (31%) responses reveal that the pavement dwellers defecate at open place, such as at jhil paar (near the water body), under the bridge or at railway line, bush behind the shanty, inside the park etc. 79 (19%) responses show that the respondents use private sources such as, toilet of nearby colony, at work place, at nearby slum (known person's place). (table 39)

36. Problems related to water & sanitation:

The pavement dwellers told about different problems related to water and sanitation. From the above table 209 (39%) responses show that as toilet is not available in the pavement areas, as such they cannot go to toilet in time and have to follow queue for toilet. Another 134 (25%) responses reveal that the respondents have to pay for use of toilet. As the respondents have to live from hand to mouth and sometimes they do not even earn daily, so in this situation to pay for toilet facilities is tough for them. 89 (17%) responses show that the respondents have to drink and use unhygienic water. 83 (16%) responses indicate that the respondents have to pay for water. 15 (3%) responses show some other problems which include defecating in open space is unhygienic as well as matter of embarrassment, sometimes it is a matter of problem to use toilet at others home, sometimes the owner of the house feel irritated and the respondent feel insulted, cannot take shower in time. (table 40)

Case Study:5

Parveen is living in the Osmani Uddan for last ten years. She left her husband's home 10 years ago because her husband married another woman. Because of the death of her parents she had no other place to go for shelter. Her relatives were not interested to give her shelter in their house. So she came into Dhaka and decided to live in the Osmani uddan. At first she was harassed by the security guards but now they know her and do not disturb. But she still has some other problems for living. She has to spend nights under the open sky and also have to give money for using public toilet. She also has to buy drinking water and have to complete her bath everyday in the filthy water of the uddan's lake. About her occupation she said that she does bad works (prostitution) and her income is not fixed so she can not eat the same meals every day. Sometimes only have to depend on tea and 'Puri'. She also does not go to doctors when she is ill. Though she is totally frustrated about her life and have many complaints about present social system she still dreams that one day she will have her own family, live in the village with her relatives and bring up her children properly.

37. Type of diseases (in last one year):

As the pavement dwellers live in an unhygienic physical environment so suffering from different diseases is natural to them and the types of diseases they suffer, some of them are very common and are linked with the environment of the pavement. From 371 respondents 600 types of diseases are mentioned. The above table shows that majority of the responses (293) reported fever, cough and cold as the main diseases that the pavement dwellers suffer. Other 145 responses show that they suffer from pain in different parts of body (chest, headache, muscle, hand, leg). Other diseases mentioned by the respondents are heart problem, tuberculosis, gastric, rheumatic fever, uterus tumor, low eye vision, high or low pressure, allergy, epilepsy, inflammation of hand and leg, jaundice, asthma, old age etc. Surprisingly, only few mentioned diarrhea and dysentery and skin diseases.(table 41)

38. Perceived Reasons behind diseases:

| Perceived Reasons behind diseases | N | % |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Unhygienic physical environment | 303 | 36.72 |
| Unclean body | 111 | 13.45 |
| Lack of nutritious food | 102 | 12.36 |
| Hard work | 88 | 10.66 |
| Stale food | 80 | 9.69 |
| Lack of pure drinking water | 50 | 6.06 |
| Lack of health related information | 50 | 6.06 |
| Unsafe sexual relation | 07 | 0.84 |
| Others | 34 | 4.12 |
| Total | 825 N=371 | 100 |

The pavement dwellers think that sufferings from different diseases are evident because of living in pavement. It appears that the respondents are quite aware about the reasons for suffering from different kinds of diseases. The above table shows that majority of the responses which is 303 (36.72%) reveal that the respondents relate most of the diseases to unhygienic physical environment of the pavement. 111 (13.45%) responses reveal unclean body and 102 (12.36%) responses shows lack of nutritious food as other two major reasons for suffering from different diseases. Besides these the other responses behind perceived reasons of causing diseases are hard work (10.66%), consumption of stale food (9.69%), lack of pure drinking water (6.06%), lack of health related information (6.06%). 7 respondent mentioned about unsafe sexual relation behind perceived reasons of diseases. Another 34 (4.12%) responses show other reasons which include old age and irregularity in taking food. (table 42)

39. Type of treatment:

Out of 371 respondents 15 mentioned that they do not take any treatment while getting sick as they cannot afford it. Among the rest respondents majority (89%) prefers to go to an allopathic doctor nearer to their pavement and even they receive treatment from nearer urban health care center. Another 5% respondents receive kabiraji treatment and 3% receive jharphuk treatment. Only 5 respondents reported they receive homeopathic

treatment and 7 said some other reasons which include “Dua and Pani pora” from religious leaders of the nearest mazaar. (table 43)

40. Knowledge of HIV:

More than half (52%) of the respondents mentioned that they have knowledge about HIV. Though they were hesitant to talk about this matter but mentioned that they heard about it. Another 45% reported that they do not have idea about HIV. There is no response from 11 respondents as they are reluctant to answer. (table 44)

41. Knowledge about Drug Addiction in the area:

Nearly half (45%) of the respondents mentioned that they have no knowledge on addiction habit among people in the area they live. Whereas 36% said that they have heard about some pavement dwellers in their area with different kind of addictions. 19% of the respondents were reluctant to talk about this matter. (table 45)

42. Savings (daily):

Out of 371, 158 respondents said that they have no savings and 13 respondents said that they save money with different cooperatives. The remaining 198 (53%) mentioned that they save money whenever they can. It can be surmised from this findings that out of 198, 150 (76%) respondents save around 50 taka daily, 36 (18%) respondents save around 51-100 taka daily. The savings of other respondents are ranging from 101-150 taka (5%), 151-200 taka (2%) and 200+ taka (1%). The amount of savings may not be a large but it indicates a trend that there are some pavement dwellers who have the propensity to save. (table 46)

43. Reason for not saving money:

The willingness to save money is linked with the capacity of a respondent to save. The respondents who do not save money among them 85% mentioned that with their meager income they can hardly meet their daily needs and sometimes they have to repay lone (8%). Another 6% respondents said that their husbands / son take away their savings so they cannot save. Only 2 respondents said that they do not save as in the pavement there is no safety. (table 47)

44. Future plan with savings:

Among the total respondents 198 said that they save money. Among them 141 (47%) responses show that the respondents want to go back to village and invest in land and home of their own. Another 67 (21%) responses reveal that they keep the savings for the welfare of their children; another 60 (19%) responses show that they want to save for future needs whether it is food, health or education. 27 (8%) responses show that the respondents want to start business including having a shop and 18 (5%) responses reveal some other reasons which includes after death the savings will be needed for her burial, keep for her grand son, keep for the old age to look after herself and want to save money for any emergency situation. (table 48)

45. Plan with living place:

More than one third (38%) of the respondents plan that, they will return to their own village and live there for the rest of their life. Followed by this 37% respondents have the plan to stay in the same place, 16% respondents have a plan to move to a slum and 8% have a plan to rent house after some years. Only two respondents mentioned that they have no plan about this. (table 49)

46. Need of this moment:

Out of 66 respondents only five said that they have no need at this moment. Among the rest 182 (40.09%) responses show that in this moment the most vital thing that they need is a good place to live. Another 148 (32.60%) responses reveal that money is second major thing that the pavement dwellers need badly. They said that if they have money they can fulfill any of their needs, they can do whatever they want. Other responses include are Job (16.74%), treatment of illness (3.08%), Food (2.86%), clotheses (2.64%), daily necessities (1.32%), security and peace (0.44%) and person to look after them (0.22%). (table 50)

47. Future Plan:

More than one third (35%) of the respondents mentioned that their future plan is to return to their own village, buy land and build own house to live. Followed by this 22% respondents said that they want to do any welfare for their children, get them married, educate and manage job for them. 11% mentioned that they want to be involved in any kind of job or business to earn money and want to be self employed. Equally 8% said that they want to live a better life and want to settle down permanently in Dhaka. Another 5% respondents want to live in low rent houses and 2% want to save money for future needs. Four respondents mentioned that they want to die in peace. Among the pavement dwellers 30 said that at present they have no future plan. (table 51)

48. Recommendations:

Problems of the pavement dwellers can be dealt with some initiative taken by the government, NGOs and civil society. Basically the women pavement dwellers do not know where they are and where they will go and what they want. They are helpless and unable to express their needs. These are some of their recommendations:

- There should be sufficient public toilets and supply of safe water for them nearby their living place.
- They should be provided with better housing facilities with clean environment at close proximity of their work place.
- They should have access to free weekly medical and healthcare facilities including facilities for immunization for their children.
- They should have access to wage or self employment opportunities providing sufficient income to meet the basic needs of the family.
- They should be included in Government's safety net program.
- Government should provide assistance in order to protect them and their family against exploitation and discrimination.

Chapter Five

Conclusion

Twelve million people live in Dhaka, and there are more than 400,000 newcomers each year. One of the main reasons for city's rapid population growth is rural to urban migration, including people being pushed out of rural areas. Due to floods and other natural calamities many of them have lost their lands, homes and livelihoods in the villages. Some have been driven away from their villages by social/political unrest or unemployment. Many women abandoned by their husbands have taken to the streets. Others lured by ideas of better job prospects; promises of better opportunities and similar temptations eventually end up homeless in the city pavements trapped in the cycle of poverty.

There are almost an equal proportion of female and male street-dwellers in Dhaka city. Women are considered as the poorest of the poor. Eventually, they are the most vulnerable amongst the pavement dwellers. This study was undertaken to know and understand life and livelihood of woman pavement dwellers.

One particular issue came out clearly from the study that most of the respondents have contact with their village homes and many of them want to go back to their village environment. Government and NGOs should undertake programs in the villages to alleviate these push factors so that these people have enough job opportunities and other support services to stay in their own environment.

The study indicates that the pavement dwellers are facing numerous problems related to basic needs such as food, housing, water, sanitation, health etc. These street-dwelling is also creating specific problems, such as crime, and other antisocial activities, including prostitution, begging and drug abuse. Also social and environmental problems created due to blocking footpaths and contributing to unhygienic condition resulting public-health hazard. Relevant government departments, Dhaka City Corporation and NGOs should urgently take-up programs to mitigate the problems faced by the pavement dwellers.

More in depth study with larger sample size of respondents from different areas should be undertaken to reveal more details of problems faced by women pavement dwellers and how to solve them.

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Annex I

List of the participants:

Sanzida Fatima

Mizanur Rahman

Noore Jannat Proma

Sayada Jannatun Naim

Tanizila Afrin

K.M.Nishat Jaman

Anwar Hosen

Avijit Bin Anam

Most. Zambiarra Khatun

Nusrat Bari

Farzana Fatema

Mahfuja Sharmin

MD. Nazmul Hassan

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain

Mehnaj Ferdoush

Shimul Reja

Abdullah Al Aman

Mohammad Main Uddin

MD. Asaduzzaman Khan

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain

Madhobi Nishat Devzanee

Umme Salma

Annex II

Tables

Table 5: Number of Family Members:

| Number of family members | Live with family | | Live in village | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| 1-2 | 139 | 37 | 140 | 38 |
| 3-4 | 143 | 39 | 93 | 25 |
| 5-6 | 47 | 12 | 38 | 10 |
| 7-8 | 14 | 4 | 29 | 8 |
| 8+ | 06 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| No family members | 22 | 6 | 67 | 18 |
| Total | 371 | 100 | 371 | 100 |

Table 5.1: Number of children:

| Number of Children | N | % |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| 1-2 | 200 | 59 |
| 3-4 | 104 | 31 |
| 5 and more | 32 | 11 |
| Lost | 01 | |
| Total | 341 | 100 |
| Single | 06 | |
| No children | 24 | |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 6: Marital Status

| Marital Status | N | % |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Married | 192 | 51 |
| Single | 6 | 2 |
| Widow | 93 | 25 |
| Separated | 25 | 7 |
| Deserted | 55 | 15 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 7: Educational Qualification

| Educational Qualification | N | % |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Illiterate | 257 | 69 |
| Literate | 110 | 30 |
| Others | 04 | 1 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 8: Occupation of the Respondents

| Present Occupation | | N | % | Previous occupation | N | % |
|---------------------------|--|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Wage Employed | Domestic Worker | 120 | 64 | Domestic work | 60 | 43 |
| | Day Laborer | 41 | 22 | Day Laborer | 12 | 9 |
| | Sweeper | 10 | 14 | Garments worker | 2 | 1.4 |
| | working in canteen/hotel | 10 | | | | |
| | working in battery factory | 03 | | | | |
| | working in shoe factory | 01 | | | | |
| | Ayaa in hospital | 01 | | | | |
| | Garments worker | 01 | | | | |
| Sub-total | 187 | 100 | | | | |
| Self Employed | Waste collector | 41 | 40 | Agro based work | 44 | 31 |
| | Selling Rice cake | 18 | 18 | Animal husbandry | 8 | 6.0 |
| | Sell flower and ornaments made by flower | 11 | 11 | Biri (local cigarette) maker | 05 | 3.5 |
| | Grocery | 07 | 31 | Grocery | 04 | |
| | rickshaw mechanic | 05 | | Sewing | 02 | 2.7 |
| | Bread/boiled egg seller | 03 | | Work in a polythene factory | 02 | 2.7 |
| | Vegetable/ tea selling | 02 | | Waste collector | 01 | 07 |
| | Hawker | 08 | | | | |
| | selling vegetable | 02 | | | | |
| | Betel leaf seller | 02 | | | | |
| | Provide water in bus counter | 01 | | | | |
| | Pickle seller | 01 | | | | |
| | Business | 01 | | | | |
| Sub-total | 102 | 100 | | 140 | 100 | |
| Others | Beggary | 66 | | Beggary | 10 | |
| | home maker | 16 | | Home maker | 221 | |
| Total | 371 | | Total (short of 3) | 371 | | |

Table 9: Respondents husband's occupation:

| Present Occupation | N | % | Previous occupation | N | % |
|----------------------------|------------|-------|--------------------------|------------|-------|
| Rickshaw puller | 67 | 34.89 | Agriculture/ farmer | 52 | 27.08 |
| Day Laborer | 18 | 9.38 | Rickshaw puller | 36 | 18.75 |
| Van/cart driver | 13 | 6.77 | Day laborer | 31 | 16.15 |
| Vangari business | 12 | 6.25 | Van driver/cart driver | 09 | 4.69 |
| Beggary | 11 | 5.73 | Fisher man | 05 | 2.60 |
| Egg/ Tea seller/betel leaf | 10 | 5.21 | Carpenter | 05 | 2.60 |
| Vegetable seller | 08 | 4.17 | Business (bamboo,rice) | 05 | 2.60 |
| Rang mistry/painter | 07 | 3.65 | Boat man/ sailor | 04 | 2.08 |
| Shop keeper | 06 | 3.13 | Beggar | 03 | 1.56 |
| Paper picker | 05 | 2.60 | Work in small enterprise | 03 | 1.56 |
| Mason | 05 | 2.60 | Shop keeper | 03 | 1.56 |
| Sweeper | 04 | 2.08 | Taxi driver | 03 | 1.56 |
| Electrician | 04 | 2.08 | Mason | 02 | 1.04 |
| Rice Cake (pitha) seller | 03 | 1.56 | Jhal muri seller | 01 | 0.52 |
| Rickshaw/van mechanic | 03 | 1.56 | Kabiraji | 01 | 0.52 |
| Guard | 03 | 1.56 | Raw material seller | 01 | 0.52 |
| Porter | 02 | 1.04 | betel leaf(Pan) seller | 01 | 0.52 |
| Balance load | 01 | 0.52 | Gambler | 01 | 0.52 |
| Hawker | 01 | 0.52 | Worked in hotel | 01 | 0.52 |
| Work in hotel | 01 | 0.52 | Coach man | 01 | 0.52 |
| Bus Helper | 01 | 0.52 | Village leader | 01 | 0.52 |
| Fish business | 01 | 0.52 | Imam | 01 | 0.52 |
| Raw material seller | 01 | 0.52 | Garment Worker | 1 | 0.52 |
| Chanachur seller | 01 | 0.52 | Paper picker | 01 | 0.52 |
| Date juice seller | 01 | 0.52 | Unemployed | 20 | 10.42 |
| Unemployed | 12 | 6.25 | Total | 192 | |
| Total | 192 | | | | |

Table 10.1: Respondents' daily income (apprx)

| Income range (in taka) | Present income | | Previous income | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % |
| Up to 50 | 135 | 38.02 | 77 | 50.32 |
| 51-100 | 150 | 42.25 | 41 | 26.79 |
| 101-150 | 36 | 10.14 | 22 | 14.38 |
| 151-200 | 16 | 4.50 | 03 | 1.96 |
| 201-250 | 01 | 0.28 | 03 | 1.96 |
| 251-300 | 09 | 2.53 | - | |
| 301-350 | 01 | 0.28 | - | |
| 351 and above | 07 | 2.00 | - | |
| No fixed income | - | - | 07 | 4.59 |
| Total | 355 | 100 | 153 | 100 |
| No income (homemaker) | 16 | | 218 | |
| Total | 371 | | 371 | |

Table 11: Daily expenditure (apprx)

| Daily Expenditure (In taka) | N | % |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Up to 50 | 85 | 23 |
| 51-100 | 141 | 38 |
| 101-150 | 56 | 15 |
| 151-200 | 52 | 14 |
| 201-250 | 17 | 5 |
| 251-300 | 12 | 3 |
| 301 and above | 08 | 2 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 12: Migration period

| Duration of migration | N | % |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Up to 5 yrs | 137 | 37 |
| 6-10 yrs | 85 | 23 |
| 11-15 yrs | 37 | 10 |
| 16-20 yrs | 40 | 11 |
| 21-25 yrs | 30 | 8 |
| 26-30 yrs | 22 | 6 |
| Above 30 years | 20 | 5 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 13: Reasons behind migration

| Reasons behind migration* | N | % |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Poverty | 252 | 41 |
| Better job opportunity | 232 | 38 |
| Natural Calamities | 80 | 13 |
| Family discord | 35 | 6 |
| Others | 15 | 2 |
| Total | 614 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses¹⁶

¹⁶ **Note on Multiple Responses:** Multiple Response indicate that one respondent has given more than one response in giving answer to a question. So this will not add up to 66. The percentage column shows the percentage of the total responses and not of the total respondents.

Table 14: Respondents' migration link

| Respondents' migration link | N | % |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Husband | 124 | 33 |
| Family | 96 | 26 |
| Relative | 85 | 23 |
| Friend/Neighbor | 55 | 15 |
| Others | 11 | 3 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 15: Reason behind coming to Dhaka particularly

| Reason behind coming to Dhaka particularly | N | % |
|---|------------|------------|
| More job opportunities | 172 | 46.36 |
| Family (husband/sister/father) / Relative/ Neighbor / known people lives in Dhaka | 127 | 34.23 |
| Everybody talks about Dhaka | 24 | 6.47 |
| Poverty | 20 | 5.39 |
| Near from own village | 10 | 2.7 |
| Do not know other place | 07 | 1.89 |
| Own wish | 05 | 1.34 |
| In fear of parents | 02 | 0.54 |
| Residents of Dhaka are unknown | 02 | 0.54 |
| To avoid village people's back biting | 01 | 0.27 |
| In search for husband | 01 | 0.27 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 16: Respondents' contact with their village

| Responses | N | % |
|--------------|------------|----|
| Yes | 245 | 66 |
| No | 126 | 34 |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 17: Family persons live in village

| Family persons live in village* | N | % |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Mother | 130 | 30 |
| Father | 81 | 19 |
| Daughter | 72 | 17 |
| Son | 60 | 14 |
| Husband | 40 | 9 |
| Others* | 46 | 11 |
| Total | 429 | 100 |
| No family members | 30 | |
| Total | 459 N=371 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 18: Mode of communication

| Mode of communication | N | % |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Go home periodically | 158 | 42 |
| Through mobile phone | 125 | 34 |
| People come from home | 48 | 13 |
| Through known people | 40 | 11 |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 19: Source of food

| Source of food* | N | % |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Cook her own meal | 269 | 61 |
| Buy food | 104 | 24 |
| Beg food | 39 | 9 |
| Other | 27 | 6 |
| | 439 | 100 |
| | N=371 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 20: Place of cooking

| Place of cooking | N | % |
|--|--------------|------------|
| In the shanty (Jhupri)/ In front of living place/In footpath | 262 | 81 |
| Work place | 14 | 4 |
| At park | 12 | 4 |
| Beside rail line | 12 | 4 |
| At the field behind station | 14 | 4 |
| At others place (neighbor/relatives) | 10 | 3 |
| Total | 324 | 100 |
| | N=269 | |

Table 22: Time of taking meal

| Time of taking meal | N | % |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Once a day | 26 | 7 |
| Twice a day | 165 | 44 |
| Thrice a day | 180 | 49 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 23: Number of dresses

| Number of dresses | N | % |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| One | 37 | 10 |
| Two | 161 | 43 |
| Three | 94 | 25 |
| Four | 50 | 14 |
| More than four | 29 | 8 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 24: Source of dresses

| Source of clothes | N | % |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Collect from others | 233 | 42 |
| Buy clothes | 163 | 30 |
| Zakat | 153 | 28 |
| Total | 549 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 25: Duration of living in this area

| Duration of living in this place | Motijhil-Osmani | | Kamalapur | | Panthapath-Farmgate | | DU Campus | | Gulshan-Banani | | Malibag-Khilgaon | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| 0-5 yrs | 32 | 49 | 23 | 39 | 45 | 82 | 24 | 73 | 55 | 64 | 35 | 49 |
| 6-10 yrs | 22 | 33 | 19 | 32 | 08 | 14 | 06 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 13 |
| 11-15 yrs | 4 | 6 | 06 | 10 | 02 | 4 | 01 | 03 | 06 | 07 | 15 | 21 |
| 16-20 yrs | 2 | 3 | 03 | 05 | - | - | 01 | 03 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 11 |
| 21-25 yrs | 2 | 3 | 03 | 05 | - | - | - | - | 06 | 07 | 02 | 03 |
| 26-30 yrs | 2 | 3 | 04 | 07 | - | - | 01 | 03 | | | 02 | 03 |
| 30+ | 2 | 3 | 01 | 02 | - | - | | | | | | |
| Total | 66/34 | 100 | 59/36 | 100 | 55/10 | 100 | 33/9 | 100 | 86/31 | 100 | 72/37 | 100 |

Table 26: Reason behind living in this area

| Reason behind living in this area | N | % |
|---|----------------------------|------------|
| Familiar place/ Familiar neighbor | 206 | 38 |
| Do not have ability | 130 | 24 |
| Do not find any other place | 90 | 17 |
| This area is near work place and suitable for earning | 86 | 16 |
| Others | 30 | 5 |
| Total | 542 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 27: Reason behind moving from the previous area recently

| Reason behind moving from the previous area recently | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Harassment | 70 | 42 |
| For better job/ livelihood | 36 | 22 |
| Familiar people | 32 | 19 |
| Others | 29 | 17 |
| Total | 167 | 100 |
| Did not change the area | 204 | |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 28: Nature of problems faced by the pavement dwellers

| Nature of problems faced in pavement | Motijhil-Osmani | | Kamalapur | | Panthapath-Farmgate | | DU Campus | | Gulshan-Banani | | Malibag-Khilgaon | |
|--|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Water-Sanitation problem | 66 | 33 | 60 | 39 | 38 | 27 | 10 | 13 | 115 | 45 | 48 | 31 |
| Harassment by police | 42 | 21 | 18 | 12 | 39 | 28 | 18 | 24 | 38 | 15 | 30 | 19 |
| | | 54 | | 51 | | 55 | | 37 | | 60 | | 50 |
| Sleeping disturbance | 28 | 14 | 33 | 21 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 28 | 11 | 07 | 4 |
| Problems in Cooking | 22 | 11 | 02 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 01 | 01 | 20 | 08 | 02 | 1 |
| Quarrel among PD's | 14 | 7 | | | 03 | 2 | 04 | 05 | 08 | 03 | 10 | 6 |
| Belongings are stolen | 10 | 5 | 18 | 12 | 06 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 25 | 10 | 23 | 15 |
| Privacy problem | 5 | 3 | 04 | 2 | 08 | 6 | 02 | 03 | 03 | 01 | 04 | 3 |
| Problem to storage of clothes and other belongings | 4 | 2 | 09 | 6 | - | - | 11 | 15 | 13 | 05 | 23 | 15 |
| Other problems | 8 | 4 | 06 | 4 | 02 | 1 | 02 | 03 | 05 | 02 | 10 | 6 |
| Total | 199 | 100 | 155 | 100 | 141 | 100 | 75 | 100 | 255 | 100 | 157 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 29: Persons responsible for eviction

| Persons who harassed | N | % |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Police | 209 | 63 |
| Security guard | 55 | 16 |
| Local Mastans | 44 | 13 |
| Others | 27 | 8 |
| Total | 335 | 100 |
| Avoid to talk about this matter | 17 | |
| Do not face any harassment | 50 | |
| Total | | |

*Multiple responses

Table 30: Steps taken after harassment

| Steps taken after harassment | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Fled away to nearby places/road temporarily and return again and built shanty the next day | 175 | 52 |
| Do not take any steps, Live here and try to compromise with the situation | 97 | 29 |
| Move to another pavement/another place | 38 | 11 |
| Give bribe (money) to the person who harassed) | 12 | 4 |
| Seek help of police | 7 | 2 |
| Protest the evictors jointly and quarrel with them | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 335 | 100 |

Table 32: Nature of living place

| Nature of living place | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Shanty (Jhupri) made up with Plastic sheet | 262 | 71 |
| Under open sky | 77 | 21 |
| Others | 32 | 8 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 33: Rent for living place

| Rent for living place | N | % |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 48 | 13 |
| No | 323 | 87 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 34: Rent taker

| Rent taker | N | % |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Police | 12 | 25 |
| Local mastans | 11 | 23 |
| Land grabber | 06 | 13 |
| Owner of shanty | 05 | 10 |
| Local people | 04 | 8 |
| Unknown people | 04 | 8 |
| Guard of stadium | 03 | 6 |
| Door keeper of nearby house | 02 | 4 |
| Manager | 01 | 2 |
| Total | 48 | 100 |

Table 35: Precaution taken on summer

| Precaution taken on summer | N | % |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Live under the tree inside the park/ live under open sky in pavement or inside the premises of the colony | 158 | 42.02 |
| Do nothing/live as always we live and try to cope with the weather | 83 | 22.07 |
| Use Haat pakha (hand fan made of palmyra leaf) | 69 | 18.35 |
| Go to rail station, terminal and stroll around | 20 | 5.31 |
| hang mosquito net | 10 | 2.65 |
| Live under curtain or plastic sheet | 10 | 2.65 |
| Take bath, drink water | 09 | 2.39 |
| Take away the roof made of plastic sheet | 05 | 1.32 |
| go to stadium | 05 | 1.32 |
| Others | 07 | 1.86 |
| Total | 376 | 100 |
| | N=371 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 36: Precaution taken on winter

| Precaution taken on winter | N | % |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Use blanket/kantha/ warm clothes (sweater, shawl, chhala) | 176 | 43.34 |
| Arrange fire and sit nearby | 112 | 27.58 |
| Live inside the shanty, Do nothing, just suffer and try to cope with the weather | 83 | 20.44 |
| Use more polythene over and around living place | 28 | 6.89 |
| Hang mosquito net | 04 | 0.98 |
| Use chhala, leaves, paper over and around living place before sleeping | 02 | 0.49 |
| Change area and go some other place | 01 | 0.25 |
| Total | 406 | 100 |
| | N=371 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 37: Precaution taken on Rainy season

| Precaution taken on Rainy season | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Use plastic sheet/ polythene/ cement bag/chhala over and around the living place | 184 | 50 |
| Go to shop's shade/veranda of nearby house/nearest school/ building's shade/ shop/ mosque/ bus terminal/ rail station/ on foot over bridge or under the shade of fly over/ under the shade of big tree | 117 | 31 |
| Live inside the shanty , do nothing and just suffer | 70 | 19 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 38: Sources of water

| Source of water | N | % |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Public Sources | 310 | 80 |
| Private sources | 64 | 16 |
| Nearby Pond/Lake/jhil | 17 | 4 |
| Total | 391 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 39: Condition of Sanitation System

| Condition of Sanitation system | N | % |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Public sources | 212 | 50 |
| At open space | 129 | 31 |
| Private sources | 79 | 19 |
| Total | 420 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 40: Problems related to water & sanitation

| Problems related to water & sanitation | N | % |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Cannot go to toilet in time | 209 | 39 |
| Have to pay for toilet | 134 | 25 |
| Have to drink/ use Unhygienic water | 89 | 17 |
| Have to pay for drinking water | 83 | 16 |
| Others | 15 | 3 |
| Total | 530 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 41: Type of diseases (in last one year)

| Type of diseases | N |
|--|----------------------------|
| Fever, Cough and cold | 293 |
| Pain in different parts of body (chest, headache, muscle, hand, leg) | 145 |
| Diarrhea and Dysentery | 40 |
| Jaundice | 16 |
| Inflammation of hand and leg | 4 |
| Gastric | 16 |
| Rheumatic fever | 20 |
| Low/ high blood Pressure | 3 |
| Itching –skin disease | 5 |
| Epilepsy | 2 |
| Heart problem | 8 |
| Tuber culosis | 2 |
| Old age | 2 |
| Faint | 1 |
| Uterus tumor | 2 |
| Asthma | 17 |
| Low eye vision | 3 |
| Weakness | 9 |
| Diabetes | 01 |
| Calcium deficiency | 01 |
| Stone in kidney | 01 |
| Edema | 01 |
| Blood vomiting | 01 |
| Liver problem | 01 |
| Gynecological problem | 05 |
| Urine infection | 01 |
| Total | 600 N=371 |

*Multiple responses

Table 42: Perceived Reasons behind diseases

| Perceived Reasons behind diseases | N | % |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Unhygienic physical environment | 303 | 36.72 |
| Unclean body | 111 | 13.45 |
| Lack of nutritious food | 102 | 12.36 |
| Hard work | 88 | 10.66 |
| Stale food | 80 | 9.69 |
| Lack of pure drinking water | 50 | 6.06 |
| Lack of health related information | 50 | 6.06 |
| Unsafe sexual relation | 07 | 0.84 |
| Others | 34 | 4.12 |
| Total | 825 N=371 | 100 |

*Multiple responses

Table 43: Type of treatment

| Type of treatment | N | % |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Allopath | 315 | 89 |
| Kabiraji | 19 | 5 |
| Jhar-fuk | 10 | 3 |
| Homeopath | 05 | 1 |
| Others | 07 | 2 |
| Total | 356 | 100 |
| Do not take treatment | 15 | |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 44: Knowledge on HIV

| Knowledge on HIV | N | % |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 194 | 52 |
| No | 168 | 45 |
| Do not answer | 11 | 3 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 45: Knowledge about Addiction habit among own area

| Addiction habit of the Respondents | N | % |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 132 | 36 |
| No | 169 | 45 |
| Do not reply | 70 | 19 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 46: Savings (daily)

| Savings (daily) | N | % |
|------------------------|------------|----|
| Up to 50 | 150 | 76 |
| 51-100 | 36 | 18 |
| 101-150 | 10 | 5 |
| 151-200 | 3 | 2 |
| 200 + | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 198 | |
| No savings | 158 | |
| Related to cooperative | 13 | |
| Total | 371 | |

Table 47: Reason for not saving money

| Reason for not saving money | N | % |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Do not have anything to save | 145 | 85 |
| Have to Repay Loan | 13 | 8 |
| Husband/son take away the savings | 11 | 6 |
| Stealing by others | 02 | 1 |
| Total | 171 | 100 |

Table 48: Future plan with savings

| Future plan with savings | N | % |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Return to village and invest in land or house of her own | 151 | 47 |
| Keep for the children | 67 | 21 |
| keep for future need | 60 | 19 |
| Start a business or shop | 27 | 8 |
| Others | 18 | 5 |
| Total | 323 | 100 |
| | N=198 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 49: Plan with living place

| Plan with living place | N | % |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Return to village | 141 | 38 |
| Stay in same place | 137 | 37 |
| Move to slum | 60 | 16 |
| Move to rent house | 31 | 8 |
| Others | 02 | 1 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |

Table 50: Need of this moment

| Need of this moment | N | % |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Living place | 182 | 40.09 |
| Money | 148 | 32.60 |
| Job | 76 | 16.74 |
| Treatment | 14 | 3.08 |
| Food | 13 | 2.86 |
| Dress | 12 | 2.64 |
| Daily necessities | 6 | 1.32 |
| Security and peace | 2 | 0.44 |
| Person to look after | 1 | 0.22 |
| Total | 454 | 100 |
| No need | 5 | |
| Total | 459 | |

*Multiple responses

Table 51: Future Plan

| Future Plan | N | % |
|--|------------|------------|
| Return to village, buy land and will build own house | 130 | 35 |
| Welfare for children | 81 | 22 |
| Will involve in business/job | 40 | 11 |
| Want to live a better life | 28 | 8 |
| Live in Dhaka | 28 | 8 |
| want to live in low rent house | 20 | 5 |
| Save money | 10 | 2 |
| Want to die in peace | 04 | 1 |
| No future plan | 30 | 8 |
| Total | 371 | 100 |