# A study on floating families in Dhaka City: Problems and prospects

*Muhammad Rashedur Rahman*
*rashedur1986@gmail.com*
*University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

## ABSTRACT

*Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh .There are many types of problems of this city. One of this problems is overpopulation. A large number of floating families live here. They face many adversity every day and lead miserable lives from street to street, they face many problems here. They also create many problems by getting involved in antisocial activities. This study tries to present the socio-economic conditions of floating families in Dhaka city. It reveals the problems and prospects of floating families in the city. For this, 200 respondents were purposively selected and a semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from respondents. Data were analyzed using MS Excel. This Study tries to find out some factors of floating families such as education, number of family members, monthly income and expenditure of family member, living conditions, ownership of property, allowance from GO and NGO, Causes of migration etc. Hence in this research there are some recommendations that will be helpful for policy makers to make effective policy.*

*Keywords— Floating population, Socio-economic conditions, BBS, GDP, GO, NGO, UN, MS*

## 1. INTRODUCTION
Dhaka is the capital and largest city of Bangladesh. It is one of the world's most populated cities with a population of 17 million people in the Greater Dhaka area. There is tremendous pressure of the influx of people in Dhaka city. The current trend of urban migration is driven by rural poverty, river erosion and natural calamities forcing them to migrate to Dhaka city in search of better livelihoods. These newcomers floating people in the city end up sleeping in public places such as street corners, railway and bus stations as well as other available places including abandoned buildings. The existing infrastructure facilities developed in Dhaka megacity can't cope with the minimum living requirements of this poor working class floating population. Our Dhaka centric administrative system is also responsible for the migration to Dhaka metropolitan area from rural areas.

Floating families have become a burden for Dhaka city. Floating families lead miserable lives from street to street. They face many problems here. They also create problems by getting involved in antisocial activities. They create a disturbance to pedestrians, living at the city's footpath. Some floating people are engaged in antisocial activities. Some of them earn their livelihoods by begging. Floating families also have some contributions to the city. Some floating people work as Garbage collector, Rickshaw puller, Day laborer, House worker, a Tea seller, paper collector, household worker, the seller of herbal medicine, folk singer etc.

### 1.1 Background and Problem Statement
Bangladesh's floating population in 2014 was 50 percent less than what was in 1997 revealed a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) census report in 2014. The initial population comprised of 24,439 males and 7,642 females. Aftawards with Hijras included in the enumeration for the first time, the number of males, females and Hijras found last year were 12,509; 4,078 and 34 respectively. Many floating people have started living in slums in Dhaka city, so the number of floating families is decreased. Their living condition is not improved. There is still a large number of floating families in Bangladesh. The growth of floating families is very high in Dhaka.

Floating families are considered as the mother of other problems. They are creating different problems such as Over Population, Environment pollution, Theft, Pick Pocketing, Hijacking etc. They are also contributing for the city by getting involved in different works such as Day Laborer, Rickshaw Puller, Transport Worker, Hotel worker, Servant/ Maid etc. So it is needed to know the problem and prospects of floating families in. Dhaka City through a survey to formulate effective policy.

## 1.2 Rationale of the study

An effective policy should be formulated to reduce the number of floating families in Dhaka city. If the floating families become a burden for the city, a policy based on decentralization of administrative system will be effective. Besides, long term programs and projects should be implemented. To know the current situation of floating families is very important to formulate an effective policy to reduce floating families in Dhaka city. Moreover, it is important to know the causes behind the migration of floating families to Dhaka city. Hence, it deserves an in-depth study of all considerations.

## 1.3 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to explore the *problems* and prospects *of* the floating families in Dhaka city. The specific objectives are as follows:

- To know about the socio-economic conditions of floating families.
- To know about the facilities available for them.
- To know about the problems that they create.
- To know about the causes behind their migration.

## 1.4 Definition of the Concepts Used in This Study

**Floating family:** Floating families are defined for this study as those families who have no permanent residence living in footpaths, railway station, bus station, and foot over bridge and other public places have no roof.

**Dhaka city:** Dhaka is located in central Bangladesh at 23°42'N 90°22'E, on the Eastern banks of the Buriganga River. The city lies on the lower reaches of The Ganges Delta and covers a total area of 300 square kilometers. It consists of 49 thanas- Lalbagh, Kotwali, Hazaribagh, Sutrapur, Ramna, Motijheel, Paltan, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Gulshan, Mirpur, Pallabi, Shah Ali, Turaag, Sabujbagh, Dhaka Cantonment, Demra, Shyampur, Badda, Kafrul, Kamrangirchar, Khilgaon, Uttara etc. In total, the City has 130 wards and 725 mohallas. Dhaka District has an area of 1,463.60 square kilometers (565 sq. mi) with a population of 18,305,671 in 2012; and is bounded by the districts of Gazipur, Tangail, Munshiganj, Rajbari, Narayanganj, Manikganj.

## 1.5 Limitation of the researcher

Conducting vast research is not an easy task. As a young researcher, I had to face many problems. Some of them could be solved and some of them could not. The limitations are as follows:

- To begin with, the selection of a suitable study area was the most challenging task.
- The time frame for such important research is too narrow to take a larger representative sample size for the in-depth study.
- There is no budget from the university to conduct such research. So we had to conduct the study with limited expenses.
- We lack the necessary manpower during the research.
- We had limited access to journals and articles.

# 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In social research, a literature review is one of the most important elements of the development of new research. The main objective of the research is to add new thought or knowledge for the welding and development of society. Literature is called a store house of knowledge. From the past, people are gathering knowledge. They are trying to keep knowledge or thoughts for the use of future. Literature is a published various books report or journal that is acknowledged by authority.

Bangladesh is a *highly populated country.* The density of *population* in Bangladesh is very high. The growth of population is increasing rapidly in city areas due to lack of opportunities in rural areas. After the independence of Bangladesh, the urban areas of the country have experienced massive population growth associated with urban opportunities and rural calamities. There was a trend of coming landless, disaster affected, poor and unemployed people from all parts of the country to urban areas seeking a livelihood. Some of them started to construct unauthorized shanty houses in abandoned land, in government land along highway sides, within rail stations, along railway-tracks and industry belts etc.

When the problem became acute, the sociologists, economists, planners and policy makers were concerned to assess the socio-economic conditions of the slum dwellers and the floating people to chalk out some welfare programmes for underprivileged people.

Migration is an important factor influencing growth and re-distribution of population and resources. Due to some unavoidable circumstances, people are bound to migrate from rural areas to urban areas. Around 50.96% of floating people come to City areas for seeking work/job, 28.76% for poverty, 7.04% for river erosion, 2.15% for insecurity/driven away and 0.84% come to slums due to natural calamities.

Floating people are the mobile and vagrant category of rootless people who have no permanent dwelling units whatever worse these are and they are found on the streets, rail-stations, launch-ghat, bus station, hatbazar, mazar, stair case of public; government buildings, open space etc.

In slum census 2014, about 16,621 persons were counted as floating of which male were 12,509, female 4,078 and hijra were 34. The literacy rate of floating people were 18.82% of which 18.82% were male, 8.83% female and 17.65% were hijra people.

# 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In any *scientific* research, *methodology plays an important role as it is a guide* of a framework for conducting research. The methodology includes the principal methods, that research area, data collection methods, techniques, sources and instrument of analyses,

1. **Principal Method:** The study is basic social research to explore facts. A mixed method has been used.
2. **Design:** The study design is non-experimental. Sample survey and case study methods are applied.
3. **Area of the study:** Entire Dhaka Metropolitan area is considered as the study area,
4. **Population and Unit of Analysis:** All families of Dhaka metropolitan area are considered as the population of the study and each of the floating family is a unit of analysis.
5. **Sampling and sample size:** Purposive sampling is used here. The sample size is 200 (100 floating families and 100 non floating families).
6. **Sources of Data:** The members of floating families are the sources of data.
7. **Method of Data Collection:** Data are collected through interview and observation method.
8. **The instrument of Data Collection:** A semi structured questionnaire in English for sample survey and case study have been developed and finalized through pre-test and used for data collection.
9. **Data Processing and Analysis:** Data are computerized, analyzed and interpreted using software like SPSS, Excel.
10. **Presentation of Findings:** Findings is presented through written research report. A draft report was prepared and given to the proper authority for comments and suggestions. According to the suggestions, the draft report was revised and finalized and submitted to the authority.

## 4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

### 4.1 Data presentation and analysis

After the completion of data collection, efforts have been taken to edit the data. Quantitative techniques of data analysis were used. As the study was of survey Design, descriptive statistics were used in the analysis and interpretation of data. Statistical analysis of collected data was analyzed by using the statistical Package for social sciences (SPSS). Here, statistical tables, graphs, maps etc. were used.

### 4.1.1 Age of Respondent

**Table 1: Age analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 10-20 year | 4 | 2% |
| 20-30 year | 20 | 10% |
| 30-40 year | 32 | 16% |
| 40-50 year | 44 | 22% |
| 50-60 year | 80 | 40% |
| 60 to above | 20 | 10% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that, most of the respondents are from age level 50-60. Their percentage is 40%. Besides this, 40-50 age comes from 22% and 16% respondents is from 30-40. Alongside, 10% is from 20-30 age, 2% is from 10-20 ages and 10% respondents is above 60 years.
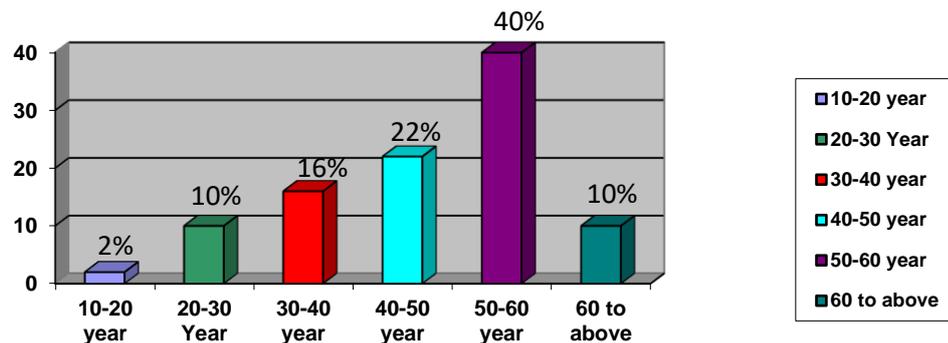


**Fig. 1: Age graph**

### 4.1.2 Sex

**Table 2: Sex analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 84 | 42% |
| Female | 116 | 58% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is seen that, most of the respondents are female. They covers 58% and 40% respondents are male. No transgender is found while collecting information.
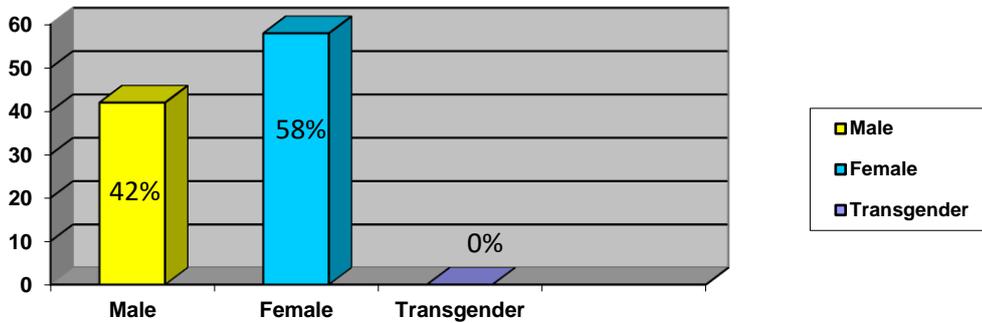
**Fig. 2: Sex analysis graph**

### 4.1.3 Marital Status

**Table 3: Marital status analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Married | 120 | 60% |
| Unmarried | 28 | 14% |
| Divorced | 20 | 10% |
| Separated | 32 | 16% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

The graph shows that, most of the respondents are married. Their percentage is 60%, 16% are separated, 10% is divorced and 14% is found unmarried.
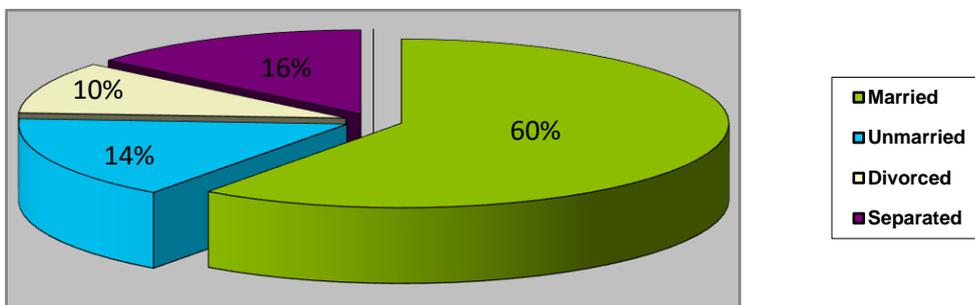


**Fig. 3: Marital status graph**

### 4.1.4. Religion

**Table 4: Religion analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Islam | 160 | 80% |
| Hinduism | 32 | 16% |
| Buddhist | 0 | 0 |
| Christianity | 8 | 4% |
| Others | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

Most of the floating families are Muslim. Among 50 respondents 100% are from Islam. No other religion is found while collecting information.
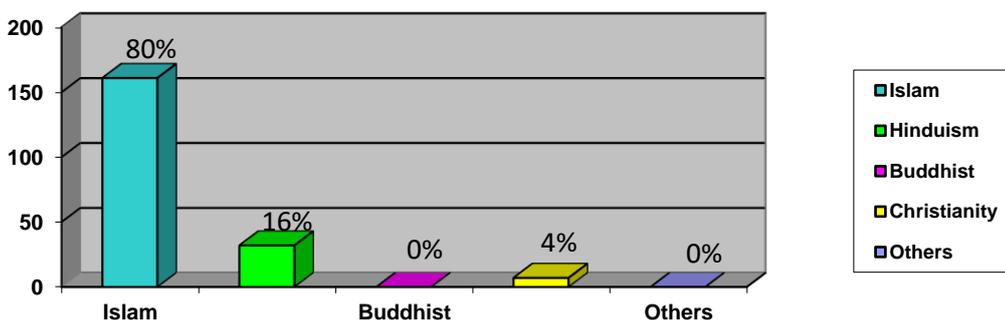


**Fig. 4: Religion analysis graph**

**4.1.5. Educational Status**

**Table 5: Education status analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Illiterate | 128 | 64% |
| Literate | 28 | 14% |
| Primary | 36 | 18% |
| Secondary | 8 | 4% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that, most of the respondents are illiterate. They covers 64%. 14% respondents are literate, 18% respondents from primary and 4% from secondary education.
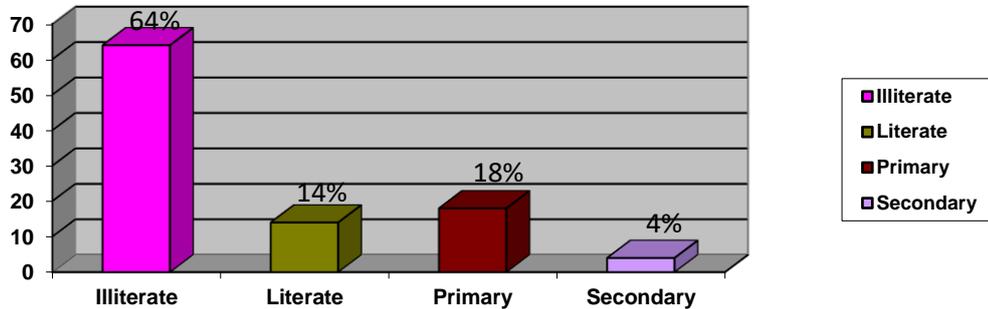


**Fig. 5: Education status analysis graph**

**4.1.6. Living in Dhaka since birth**

**Table 6: Living in Dhaka since birth analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 0 | 0 |
| No | 200 | 100% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that no respondent is living in Dhaka since birth.

**4.1.7. Permanent residence**

**Table 7: Permanent residence analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Dhaka | 36 | 18% |
| Chittagong | 24 | 12% |
| Rajshahi | 28 | 14% |
| Khulna | 16 | 8% |
| Barishal | 16 | 8% |
| Sylhet | 12 | 6% |
| Rangpur | 32 | 16% |
| Mymensing | 36 | 18% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found from information that, all of the respondents come from village. It is found that, most of the respondents are from Dhaka and Mymensing division. It is the same and their percentage is 18%, 16% is from Rangpur division, 14% is from Rajshahi division, 12% from Chittagong, 8% is from both Khulna and Barishal and 6% is from Sylhet.
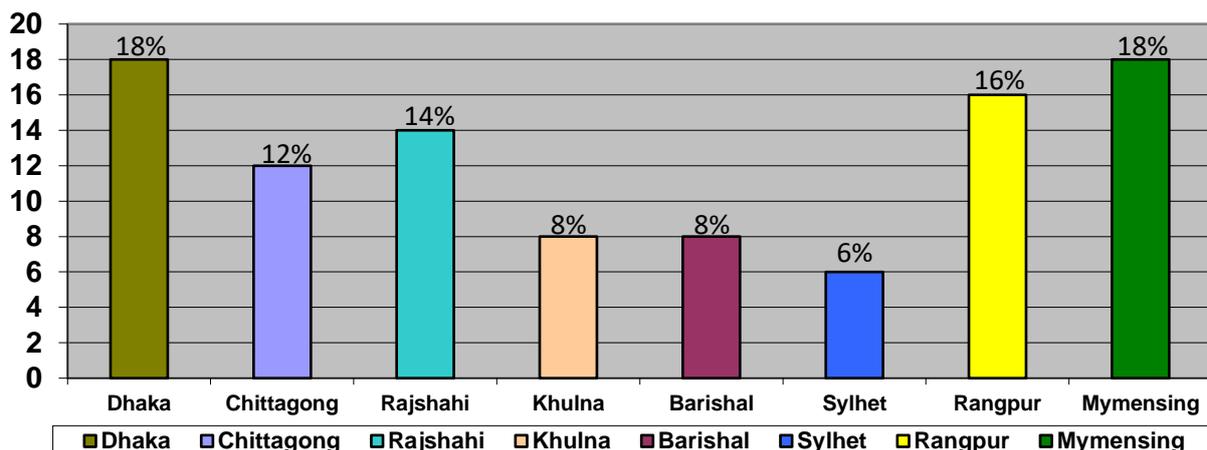


**Fig. 6: Permanent residence analysis graph**

## 4.1.8. The Duration of living in Dhaka

**Table 8: Duration of living in Dhaka analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1-5 year | 44 | 22% |
| 5-10 year | 76 | 38% |
| 10-15 year | 48 | 24% |
| Above | 32 | 16% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

The respondents are floating for different reasons for a variety of period. 38% respondents living in Dhaka for 5-10 years, 24% respondents living in Dhaka for 10-15 years, 22% respondents has been living in Dhaka for 1-5 year and 16% of respondents living in Dhaka more than 15 years.
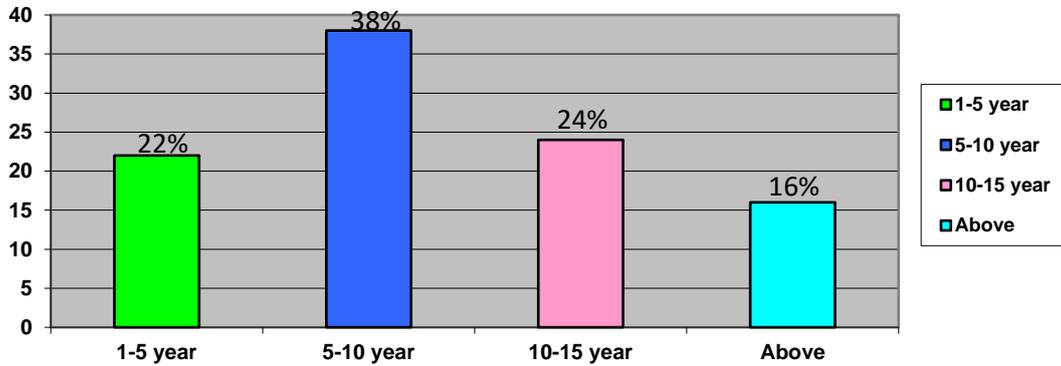


**Fig. 7: Time living in Dhaka analysis graph**

## 4.1.9. Number of family members

**Table 9: Number of family members analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 2-4 | 148 | 74% |
| 5-6 | 48 | 24% |
| 7-8 | 4 | 2% |
| Above | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found from the information that, 74% floating families is consists of 2-4 family members, 24% is 5-6 and the rest is 2%.
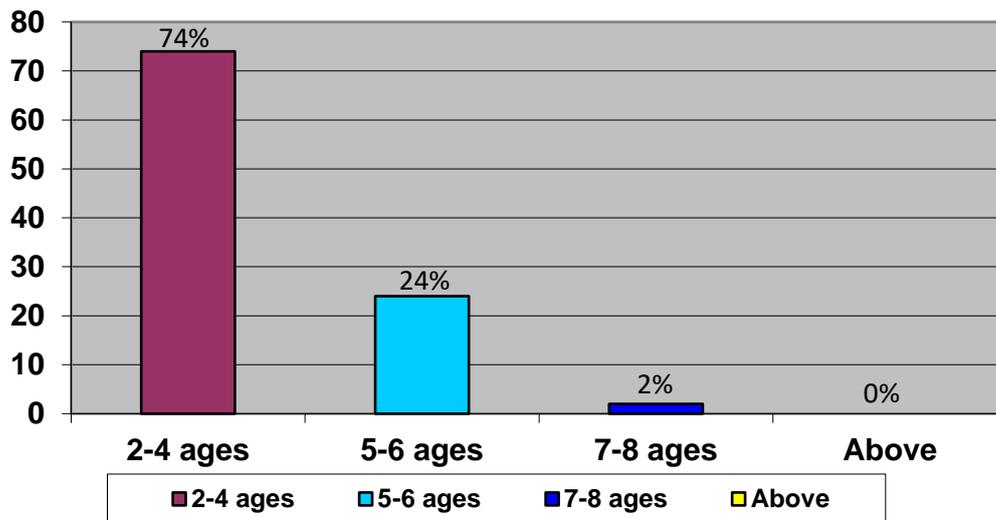


**Fig. 8: Number of family members analysis graph**

## 4.1.10. Main reason behind migration

**Table 10: Reason behind migration analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Natural Disaster | 24 | 12% |
| Persecution | 4 | 2% |
| Poverty | 140 | 70% |
| Hope for new life | 12 | 6% |
| Employment opportunity | 20 | 10% |
| Others | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

Most of the respondents come to Dhaka city because of poverty. Among 200 respondents poverty range are 70%, 12% respondents come due to natural disasters, 10% is for better employment opportunity and 6% of them comes for new hope of life.
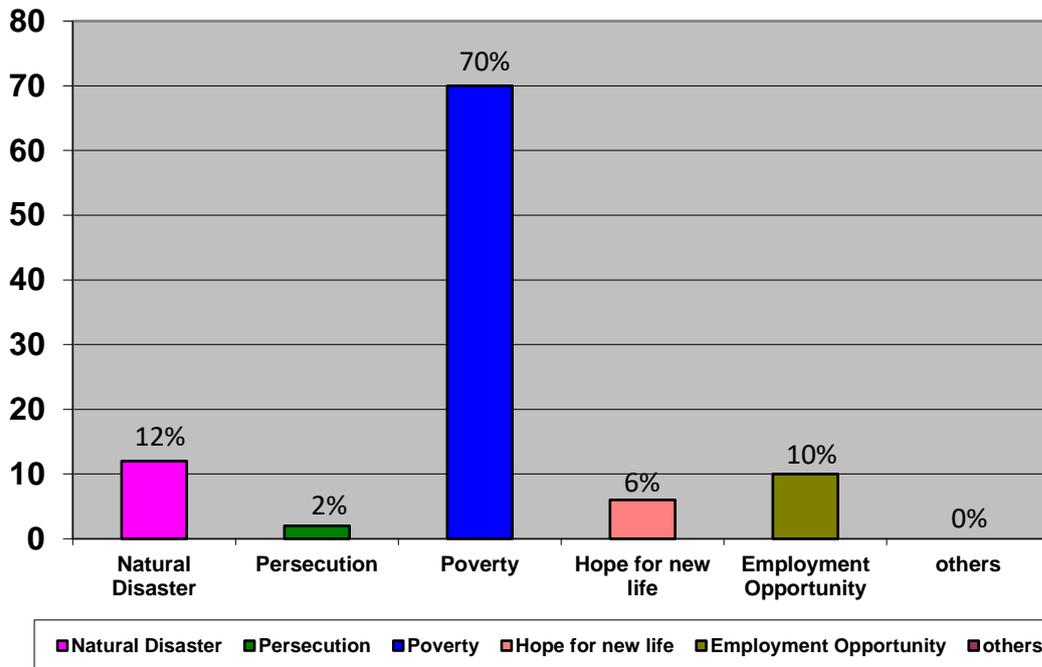


**Fig. 9: Main reason behind migration analysis graph**

**4.1.11. Having property in permanent residence**

**Table 11: Having property in permanent residence analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 72 | 36% |
| No | 128 | 66% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that most of the respondents have no property in their permanent residence. That covers 66%. 36% of respondents have property in their permanent residence.
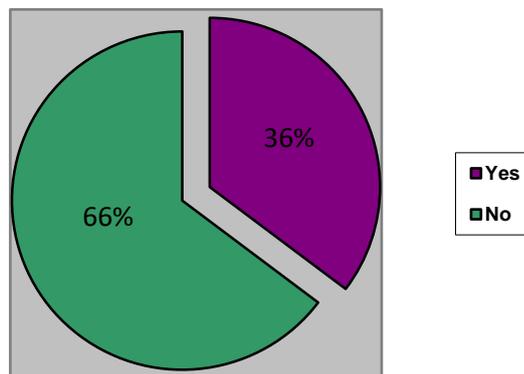


**Fig. 10: Having property in permanent residence analysis graph**

**4.1.12. Spending pastime**

**Table 12: Spending Pastime analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Television | 52 | 26% |
| Radio | 16 | 8% |
| Gossip | 100 | 50% |
| Sports | 4 | 2% |
| Others | 28 | 14% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is observed from the data shown in table that, the highest percent (50%) of floating people spend their past times through gossiping, 26% watching television, 8% listening radio, 2% spend their past time in sports and others 14%.
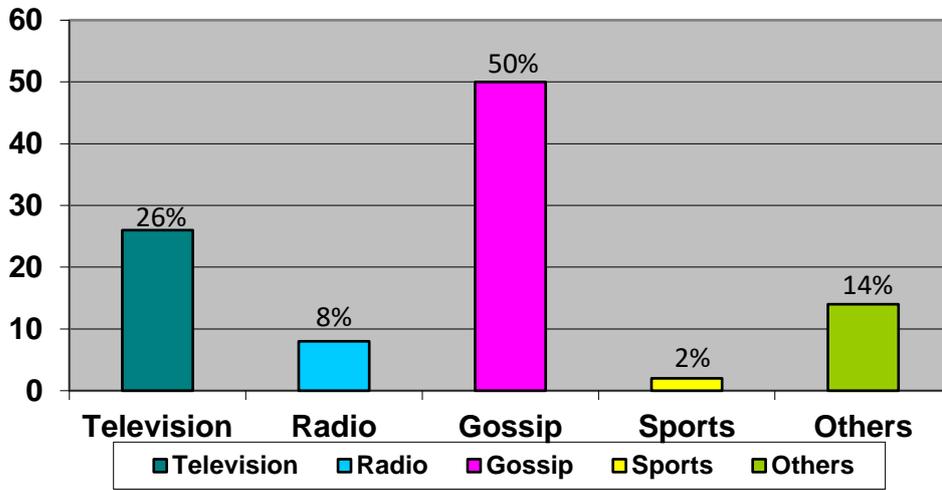
**Fig. 11: Spending Pastime analysis graph**

### 4.1.13. Occupation

**Table 13: Occupation analysis**

| Occupation | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Beggar | 48 | 24% |
| Domestic Worker | 28 | 14% |
| Day Laborer | 20 | 10% |
| Garbage Collector | 16 | 8% |
| Servant/Maid | 36 | 18% |
| Street Hawker | 8 | 4% |
| Paper Collector | 24 | 12% |
| Rickshaw puller | 12 | 6% |
| Transport Worker | 4 | 2% |
| Hotel Worker | 4 | 2% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that most of the respondents are Beggar. Main source of income of 24% respondent is beggary. The second most respondents are servant/Maid. Their percentage is 18%. 14% respondent is Domestic worker. Paper collectors cover 12%. Then 10% is Day laborer, 8% is Garbage collector, 6% is Rickshaw puller, 4% is Street hawker and 2% is both Transport worker and Hotel worker.
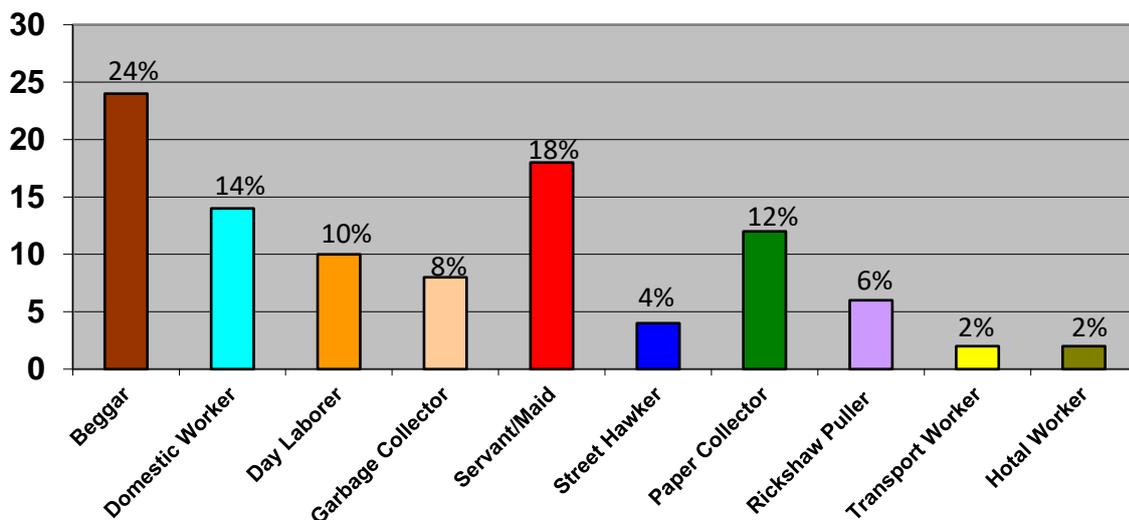


**Fig. 12: Occupation analysis graph**

### 4.1.14. Involvement in occupation

**Table 14: Involvement in occupation analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1-5 years | 76 | 38% |
| 5-10 years | 72 | 36% |
| 10-15 years | 28 | 14% |
| Above | 24 | 12% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

Most of the respondents have been involved in their current occupation for 1-5 years. They cover 38% of total respondents. 36% is 5-10 years; 14% is 10-15 years and 12% is above.
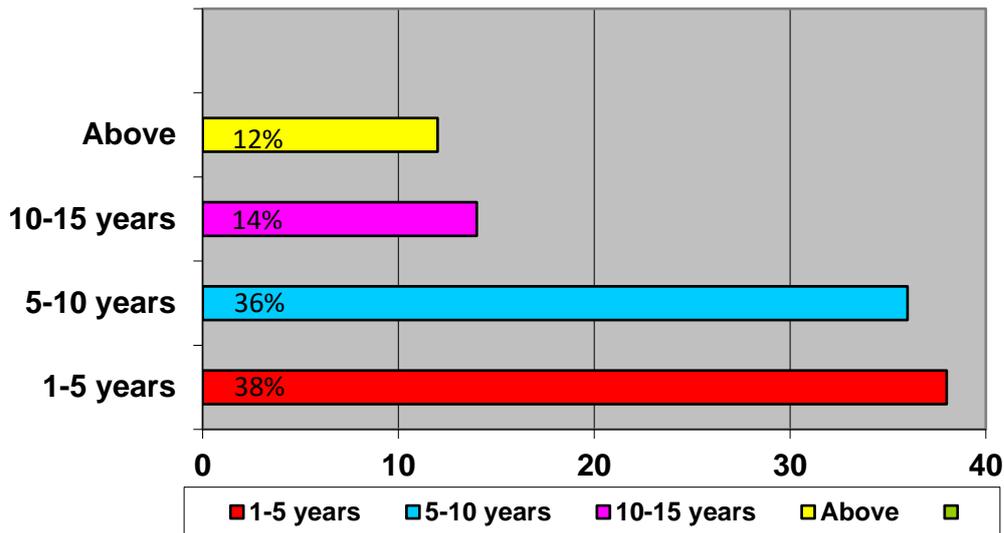


**Fig. 13: Involvement in occupation analysis graph**

### 4.1.15. Family Income

**Table 15: Family income analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 3000-6000tk | 156 | 78% |
| 6000-9000tk | 32 | 16% |
| 9000-11000tk | 12 | 6% |
| **Total** | **N= 200** | **100%** |

It is found from the information that, 78% respondents earn 3000-6000 taka monthly, 16% respondents earn 6000-9000 taka, 6% respondents earns 9000-11000 and rest of the respondents earn more than 11000 taka.
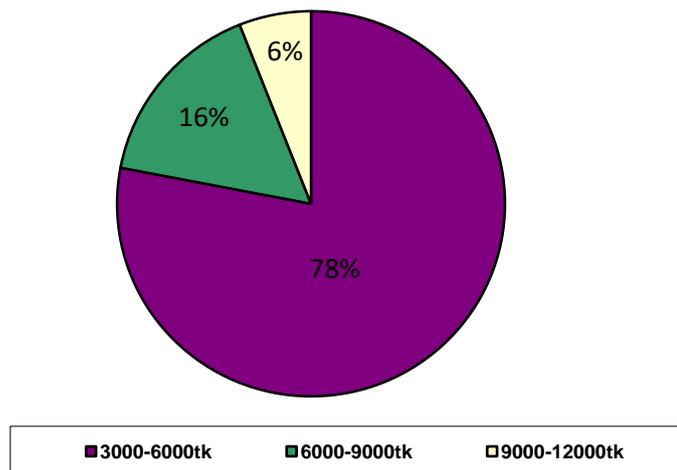


**Fig. 14: Family income analysis graph**

### 4.1.16. Monthly expenditures

**Table 16: Monthly expenditures analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 3000-5000tk | 80 | 40% |
| 5000-7000tk | 56 | 28% |
| 7000-9000tk | 32 | 16% |
| 9000-11000tk | 20 | 10% |
| Above | 12 | 6% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that 40% respondents spend 3000-5000tk monthly; 28% respondents spend 5000-7000tk; 16% respondents spend 7000-9000tk; 10% spends 9000-11000tk and 6% respondents spends more than 11000tk for maintaining their family.

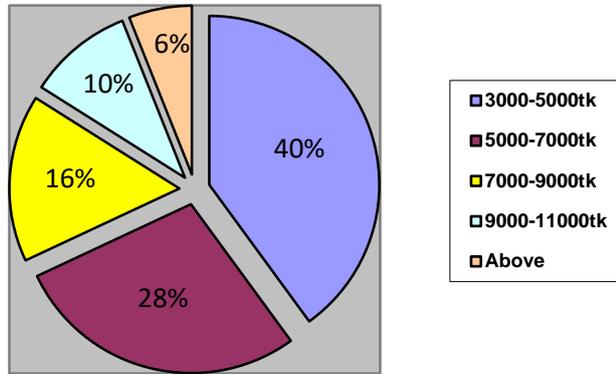**Fig. 15: Monthly expenditures analysis graph**

### 4.1.17. Having savings

**Table 17: Saving analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 84 | 42% |
| No | 116 | 58% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

Most of the respondents are very poor. Many respondents have no savings account. 58% respondents who could not manage to save any cash and 42% could manage to save cash.
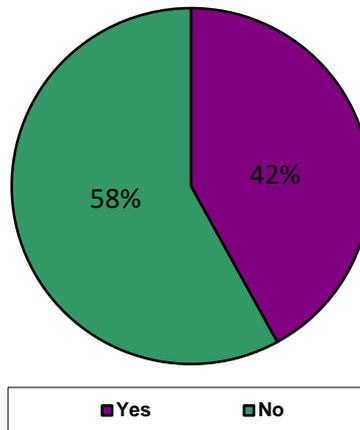


**Fig. 16: Saving analysis graph**

### 4.1.18. Amount of savings

**Table 18: Saving amount analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| 0-1000 | 8 | 9.52% |
| 1000-2000 | 16 | 19% |
| 2000-3000 | 32 | 38% |
| Above | 28 | 33.8% |
| **Total** | **N=84** | **100%** |

Every man wants to save money for the future. But the research shows that (2000-3000) taka monthly is the saving of 38% respondents and (1000-2000) taka is savings of 19% Respondents. And (0-1000) taka is the savings of 9.52% and about 33.8% respondents save more than 3000tk monthly.



**Fig. 17: Savings amount analysis graph**

**4.1.19. Income sufficient for maintaining family**

**Table 19: Income satisfaction analysis**

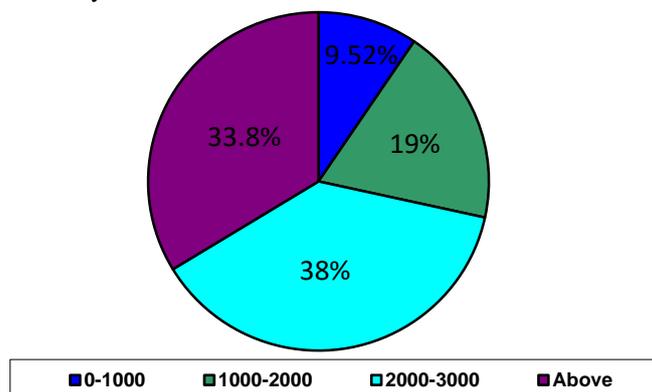| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 60 | 30% |
| No | 140 | 70% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found that, most of the families cannot maintain their family with their current income. 70% respondents cannot maintain their families and 30% respondents can maintain their family.
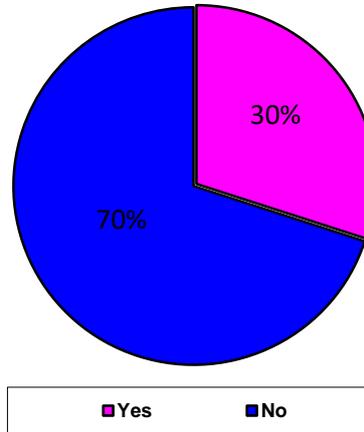


**Fig. 18: Income satisfaction analysis graph**

**4.1.20. Satisfaction with occupation**

**Table 20: Satisfaction with occupation analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 52 | 26% |
| No | 148 | 74% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is said that, on one is happy on their present situation. And this is not exception as the research shows that 74 % respondents are not satisfied with their occupation and only 26% respondents are happy with their occupations.



**Fig. 19: Satisfaction with occupation analysis graph**

**4.1.21. Living condition risky for health**

**Table 21: Living condition analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 200 | 100% |
| No | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

It is found from the information that most of the respondents think that their living condition is risky for their health.
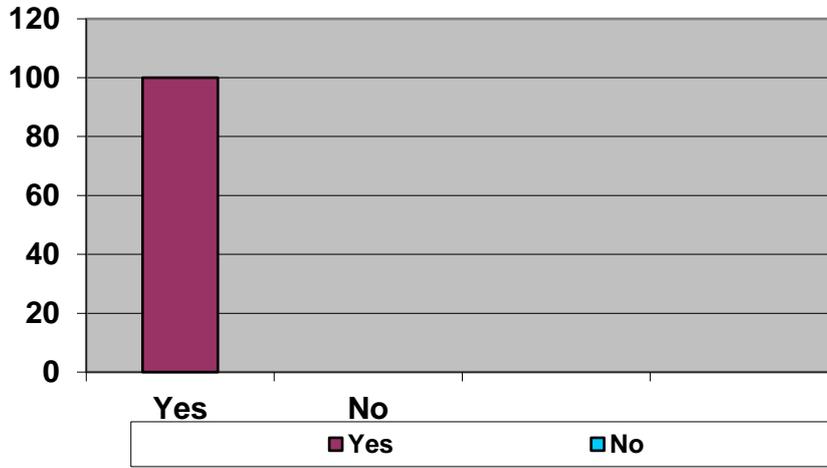
**Fig. 20: Living condition analysis graph**

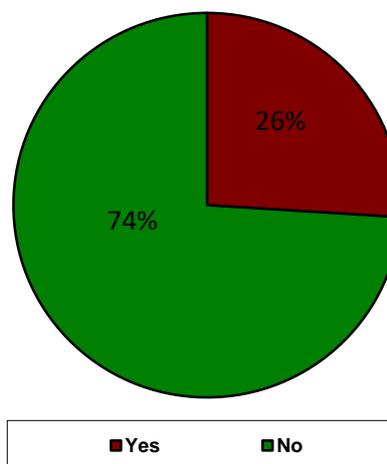**4.1.22 Harassment**

**Table 22: Harassment analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 128 | 64% |
| No | 72 | 36% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

64% respondent faced harassment by others and 36% did not face harassment.



**Fig. 21: Harassment analysis graph**

**4.1.23. Force displacement**

**Table 23: Force displacement analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 132 | 66% |
| No | 68 | 34% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

66% respondent faced forced displacement and 34% did not face forced displacement.
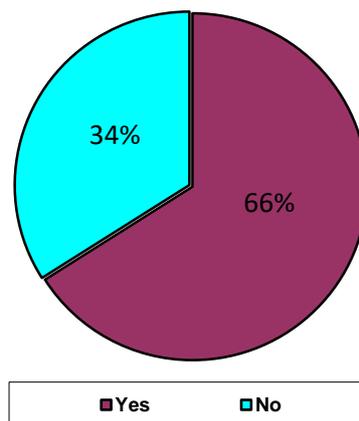


**Fig. 22: Force displacement analysis graph**

**4.1.24. Mental pressure**

**Table 24: Mental pressure analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 172 | 86% |
| No | 28 | 14% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

86% respondent feels mental pressure and 14% does not feel mental pressure.
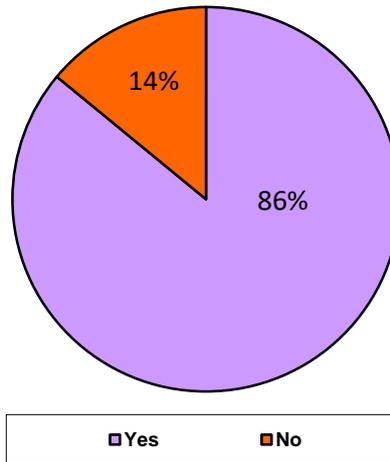


**Fig. 23: Mental pressure analysis graph**

**4.1.25. Addiction**

**Table 25: Addiction analysis**

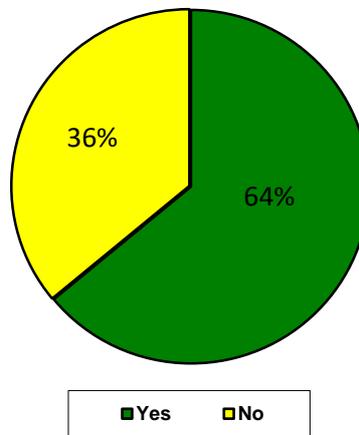| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 168 | 84% |
| No | 32 | 16% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

84% respondent is addicted and 16% is not addicted. Most of them are addicted with cigarettes, Bitter Leaf, tobacco etc.
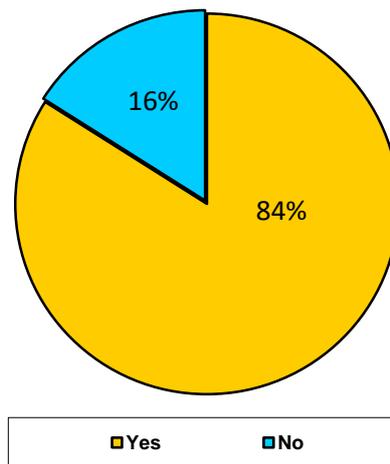


**Fig. 24: Addiction analysis graph**

**4.1.26. Allowance from organizations**

**Table 26: Allowance from organizations analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 48 | 24% |
| No | 152 | 76% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

24% respondent gets allowance and 76% does not get allowance.
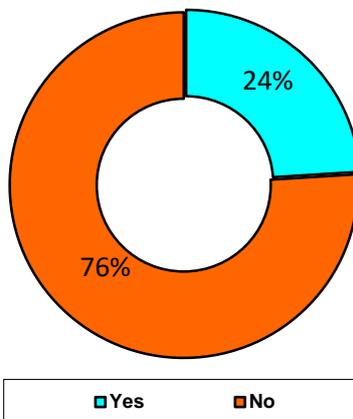
**Fig. 25: Allowance from organizations analysis graph**

**4.1.27. Allowance form Government or NGO**

**Table 27: Allowance form organization analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Government | 168 | 84% |
| NGO/Private | 32 | 16 % |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

84% respondent gets allowance from the government and 16% gets allowance from non-government organizations.
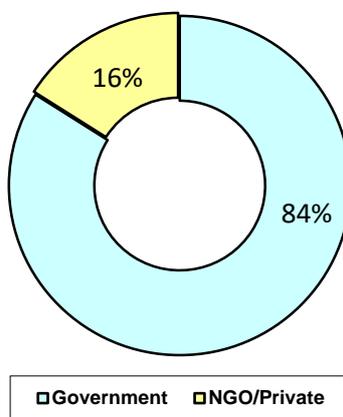


**Fig. 26: Allowance form organization analysis graph**

**4.1.28. Amount of allowance**

**Table 28: Amount of allowance analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 100-500 | 168 | 84% |
| 600-1000 | 32 | 16% |
| 1000-1500 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

84% respondent gets 100-500 taka monthly allowance from government and NGO and 16% respondent get 600-1000 taka monthly allowance.
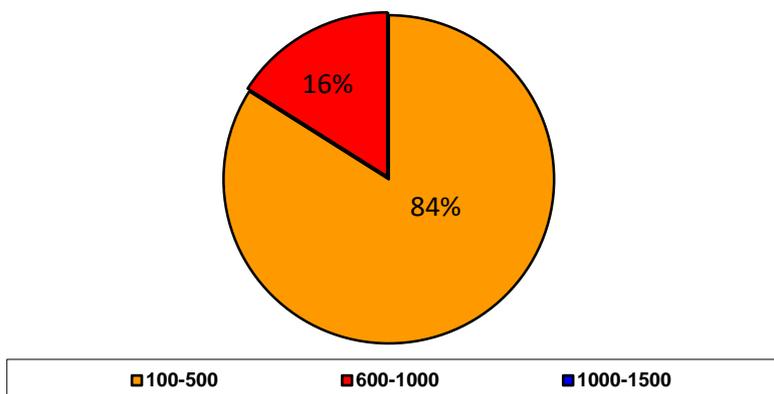


**Fig. 27: Amount of allowance analysis graph**

**4.1.29. Stay in festivals**

**Table 29: Stay in festivals analysis**

| Level | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Present resident | 160 | 80% |
| Permanent resident | 40 | 20% |
| **Total** | **N=200** | **100%** |

80% of respondents stay in Dhaka during festivals and 20% respondents stay in village.
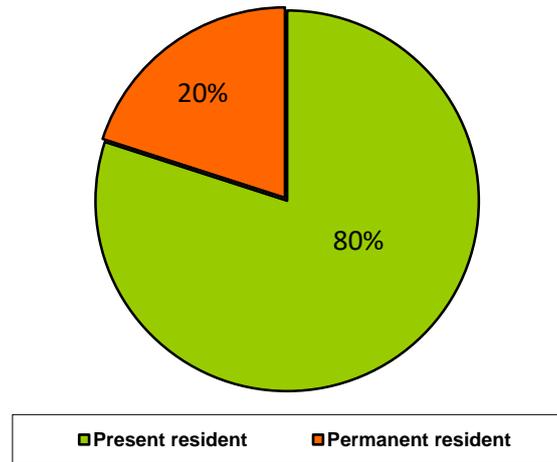


**Fig. 28: Stay in festivals analysis graph**

**Case Study-1**
Monir, aged 30, lives in a footpath in Ajimpur, Dhaka with his wife and three children. He is a rickshaw puller. His wife, Rekha cannot work because she has a 6 month's child Sadia. His elder daughter, Razia is 9 years old and goes to primary school. Razu is the only son of Mr. Monir who is two years old. Mr. Monir can hardly maintain his family with his income. Sometimes he has to give bribe to police. He lives in Dhaka with his family during winter. He gets winter cloths and other financial help from different organizations.

**Case Study-2**
Mrs. Jasmin Akter Sumi, aged 18, begs in Shahbag area, Dhaka. She came to Dhaka 5 years ago with Mr. Sumon, a fish seller from Chittagong. She married him against her parent's opinion. Her husband left her after their marriage. She has a daghter named Mim who is about 3 years old. She uses her child for begging. She can hardly maintain her and her child with her little income. She has no permanent residence and usually sleeps on foot over bridge. Almost every night she is hrassed by other floating people. She wants to give up begging and go back to her family but her family doesn't accept her.

**Case Study-3**
Shorifa Begum, aged 45, lives in Polashi, Dhaka with her husband, Md. mostafa. She is from Habiganj. She has two sons, Suhel and Badsha and a daughter, Mukta . They live separately. Mukta has a daughter name Sadia. All members of Sharifa Bagum's family are engaged in paper collecting and selling. She can earn 200 taka daily by selling papers. She can hardly maintain her family with her income. She has been suffering from Arthritis. So she cannot collect papers every day. As a result, sometimes she starves with her family.

## 5. SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION
### 5.1 Executive summary
- A"research proposal on floating people in Dhaka city" has been conducted based on socio-economic conditions and their lifestyle in the area of Dhaka metropolitan city.
- A study in Dhaka city as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for bachelor degree in social work is conducted. The objective of this study is to investigate the current situation of floating families in Dhaka city and to find out whether they are burden or not. In the study, it is found that most of the respondents are from age level 50-60. Their percentage is 40%. Besides this 40-50 age comes from 22% and 16% respondents is from 30-40.
- It is seen that most of the respondents are female. They cover 58% and 40% respondents are male. No transgender is found from while collecting information.
- It is seen that most of the respondents are married. Their percentage is 60%, 16% me separated. 10% is divorced and 14% is found others marital status.
- The research shows that most of the families are Muslim. No other religion is found. It 7, 78% respondents earn 3000-6000 taka monthly, 16% respondents earn 6100-9000 taka and rests of the respondents earn 9000-11000. They have no decent work and can't earn minimum wage.
- Most of the respondents are from Dhaka and Mymensing division, 16% from Rangpur, 14% from Rajshahi division, 8% from Khulna and Barisal and 6% from Sylhet.
- It is found that respondents are floating for different reasons for a variety of period 38% respondents living in Dhaka for 5-10 years, 24% for 10-15 years, 22% for 1-5 years and 16% for 15 years.
- It is found that 74% floating families is consists of 2-4 family members, 24% is 56 and the rest is 2%.

- Most of the respondents come to Dhaka city because of poverty. So respondent's poverty range is 70%, 12% for natural disaster, 10% for employment opportunity and 6% of them comes for hope of new life.
- Most of the respondents (52%) of floating people spend their past time through gossiping, 26% watching television, 8% listening radio and other 14%.
- It is found that 38% respondents are involved in their own occupation, for 1-5 years, 37% for 10-15 years, 37% for 5-10 years, 14% for 10-15 years and above 12%.
- The found that all the respondents come from village.
- This research shows that all of the respondents are marginal people, 64% have no land and 3.4% of people have little amount of land.
- Most of the respondents have no saving account, 58% of respondents who could not manage to save any cash and 42% could manage to save cash.
- Most of the respondents can save (2000-3000) taka in a month, (1000-2000) is the saving of 19% respondents and above 33.3% of respondents can save money in monthly.
- This research shows that 74% respondents are not happy with their occupation. Only26% respondents are happy with their current occupation.
- It is mentioned that, most of the families cannot maintain their family with their income. 70% respondents cannot maintain and 30% respondents can maintain their family with their current salary.
- It is found that, most of the respondents think that their parent living condition is risky for their health.
- 66% Respondents face harassment by others and 36% respondents did not face harassment.
- 66% Respondents faced displacement and 34% did not.

## 5.2 Limitation of the research
To find out the limitation of the research is an important task of research.

Despite having no practical experience in such type of research work, there have been remarkable efforts to make the research realistic. However, the problems faced during the accomplishment of the research are cited below:
- A good number of respondents have got hesitated. Many respondents considered us as the agent of government while collecting data. Also, many of them have shown reluctance during interview due to shortage of time.
- Due to shortage of finance and time, 200 floating families from different areas of Dhaka city, have been selected for research which might not be representative to the whole class of floating families.
- Illiteracy of respondents have been noticed while they provide information about their socio-economic condition.
- A definite environment was not found for an intimate interview with floating families.
- It has not been possible to collect data from the population of the research owing to unfavorable environment.
- Sound pollution by the road side have disturbed the interview process.
- Due to lack of time, the data collection process has not been possible up to cent percent.
- Non response is one of the important limitations of this study. Many respondents did not give an answer to all questions.
- It is observed that, 86% respondents felt mental pressure and 14% did not feel mental pressure. 14% respondents are addicted and 16% not addicted.
- It is found that 24% of respondents got allowance and 76% did not get allowance.
- Respondents get an allowance from the government, and 16.67% get an allowance from NGO's.
- Respondents get allowance 100-300 taka from the government, and 16.67% get an allowance from NGO's.
- Most of the respondents said that this minimum amount of the allowance is not helpful for them.
- It is found that 80% stay in Dhaka and 20% stay in their own village during their festivals.

## 5.3 Recommendations
The study suggests that the following issue should be taken into consideration:
- A policy based on decentralization of administration should be formulated.
- Long term plans and policies should be formulated and implemented.
- Floating families should be rehabilitated in rural areas and decent work should be ensured for them.
- Charity work should not be Dhaka centric. It is found that some people come th Dhaka to get a warm cloth and other financial help during winter.
- Beggary should be stopped.
- Necessary steps should be taken to prevent river erosion.
- Training programs should be arranged to make self-employed.

## 5.4 Conclusion
Over population is one of the major problems in Bangladesh. The density of population is very high in city areas. Dhaka is the most densely populated city in Bangladesh. It is becoming. Over-crowded day by day. 'There are a large number of floating families in Dhaka city who have become a burden for the city. It is high time the authority took necessary steps to make Dhaka city livable.

Authority should provide trained teacher and appropriate teaching aids suitable for the floating people's education program and training programs on leadership, management of accounts and other skill development programs. Open handicraft outlets should be established, products made by floating people should be exported to other countries and the quality of the product must be maintained which is produced by the floating people. This will directly help them to have an assured income. NGO can negotiate with the local banks to provide them a loan, it will help the floating poor people for better business and regular income generating activities. The

government and non-government organizations should be active to create empowerment opportunities for the women members of the floating families. The findings of the study imply that policy makers should take all possible steps and measures to formulate congenial policy to improve the livelihood condition of floating families in Dhaka city.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
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## APPENDIX

### QUESTIONNAIRE
**Institute of Social Welfare and Research**
**University of Dhaka**
"A study on Floating Families in Dhaka City: Problems and Prospects"

[Respondent's information will be used only for research purpose and confidentiality will be maintained]

**Interview schedule**
Schedule no:

**General Information**:

1. Name:..........................................................
2. Age:............................................................
3. Sex:            a) male            b) female            c) Transgender
4. Marital status: a) married        b) Unmarried        c) Divorced        d) Separated        e) others
5. Religion:        a) Islam          b) Hinduism          c) Buddhist        d) Christianity        e) others
6. Address (Present)
   Village:........................................
   Upazilla:......................................
   District: Dhaka.
   Phone:..........................................

Address (Permanent)
Villege:.......................................
Upazilla:.....................................
Phone:.........................................

**Family information**

| No | Name | Age | Sex | Education | Occupation | Income (Monthly in Taka) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | | | |

**Information about Residence:**

7.  Do you live in Dhaka by birth?
☐ Yes          ☐ No

8.  Where have you come from?
.............................................................................

9.  How many years have you been living for?
☐ 1 year          ☐ 2 years          ☐ 3 years          ☐ Above

10. How many persons do you live in a room?
☐ 2-4          ☐ 5-6          ☐ 7-8          ☐ Above

11. What is the main reason behind this situation?
☐ Natural disaster     ☐ Persecution     ☐ Poverty     ☐ The hope of new life     ☐ Employment Opportunity     ☐ Others

12. Do you have any property in your permanent residence?
☐ Yes          ☐ No

13. What are the facilities available in your residence?
.............................................................................

14. How do you spend your pastime?
☐ Television     ☐ Radio     ☐ Gossip     ☐ Sports     ☐ Others

**Information about Occupation:**

15. What is your occupation?
.............................................................................

16. How long have you been involved in this occupation?
.............................................................................

17. How much is the monthly expenditure/maintenance cost of your family?
.............................................................................

18. Do you have any savings/cash money?
☐ Yes          ☐ No

19. (if answer is yes) How much can you save monthly?
.............................................................................

20. Are you satisfied with your occupation?
☐ Yes          ☐ No

21. Do you think that your current income is sufficient for maintaining your family?
☐ Yes          ☐ No

22. By which diseases do you and your family suffer from?
........................................................................

23. When you get sick, where do receive treatment?
☐ Govt. hospital ☐ Kabiraz ☐ Self Care ☐ Home care ☐ Pharmacy ☐ Others

24. Do you think that your living condition is risky for your healthy?
☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Do you face any harassment by others?
☐ Yes ☐ No

26. Have you faced forced displacement?
☐ Yes ☐ No

27. What measures do you take after displacement?
........................................................................

28. Do you feel any mental pressure?
☐ Yes ☐ No

29. Are you and your family members habitual with cigarettes, Bitter leaf, tobacco etc?
☐ Yes ☐ No

30. Do you get any allowance/support from any organization?
☐ Yes ☐ No

31. (If answer is yes) From which organization do you get allowance?
1) Govt. ................................................ 2) NGO/Private........................................

32. How much do you get per month?
☐ 100-500 ☐ 600-1000 ☐ 1100-1500 ☐ Others

33. Do you think that the amount of allowance is helpful?
☐ Yes ☐ No

34. Where do you stay during festivals?
........................................................................

35. Respondent's Opinion
........................................................................

36. Interviewer's observation
........................................................................


     Respondent                      Interviewer


**Keywords and List of Abbreviations**

**BBS**: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
**GDP**: Gross Domestic Product
**GO**: Government Organization
**NGO**: Non-Government Organization
**UN**: United Nations
**MS**: Microsoft Excel