

The Socio-economic Conditions of Floating People in Dhaka City, Bangladesh: A Study

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Abstract

The floating people are a burning issue specially for urban areas in developing countries. This problem has been condensing gradually with population explosion. Bangladesh does face the problem acutely and the govt. taking various measures to solve it. There have many studies in this respect led by different organizations and researchers through different methods. This study was conducted through sample survey. 100 floating people of Azimpur, Polashi, and Dhaka University areas in Dhaka city, Bangladesh had been regarded as the sample. The purpose of the study was to identify the socio-economic conditions of floating people in Dhaka city. The data were collected by direct interviewing; observation was as the auxiliary technique respectively. After collecting the data were edited and classified properly to be presented. The study would be treated as a guide line to the govt. determining the problems and ndicating the solving measures of floating people in Dhaka city.

Keywords: Socio-economic Conditions, Floating People, Dhaka City.

Introduction

The world now a days has been constructing as urban area gradually to conclude rural area, increasing floating people simultaneously. People's urban trend is the reason to be increased floating people. They come to urban because of various scopes. The rural unemployment is increasing due to flood, drought, river erosion, seasonal labor, landlessness etc. That is why, the rural poor become engaged with very low standard activities after coming in urban area. They can't maintain their living expenditure with these low income activities. So, they take shelter at slum, are treated as floating and lead a vulnerable life. They create a threat for urban community and environment as well as. The terrorism and unemployment are spreading in this way. As a whole, they have been creating instable urban lives.

The population of Dhaka city has been spreading very quickly than another city in Bangladesh. The present population here is about 13 million. It was 6 million 48

thousands in 1991 and will be about 25 million in 2025. Rural-urban migration expedites 74% role at population explosion in Dhaka city, those who come here from rural community facing a lot of difficulties. A large number among them introduce themselves as floating. There are 4% people dwelling as floating in urban area. Most of them are living in Dhaka city.

In these circumstances, if any quick necessary initiative is not executed, a terrific situation will be arisen. Thus, the study had been conducted to receive momentous measures to solve this problem through comprehending its consequence and implication, detecting the guideline to be solved and attracting the attention of govt.'s policy makers and development workers.

Objective of the Study

a. General Objective

The general objective of the study was to determine the socio-economic conditions of floating people in Dhaka city.

b. Special Objectives

The special objectives of this study were as follow:

To know about their life histories and causes of migration, their economic status, social condition, health position, pattern of recreation, their relationship with crime, shelter problems, their recommendation etc.

Methodology

This study was a sample survey. But the observation method had been utilized simultaneously to comprehend the real situation of floating people. The Azimpur, Polashi and Dhaka University areas of Dhaka city had been regarded as the study area. All floating people of this area were speculated as the population and 100 of them considered as the sample. Data were collected directly from the sample by researchers themselves through structured questionnaire of interviewing. The collected data had been properly edited first, then interpreted and presented respectively with some statistical methods.

Findings of the Study

In analysis of profession, it was seen that 22.5% floating people of study area were 'tokai', prostitute 15%, maid servant 15%, unemployed 12.5%, hawker and rickshaw puller both were 10%, housewife and van puller both were 7.5%. So, in explanation of professional information it had been shown, the major portion of floating people were 'tokai'.

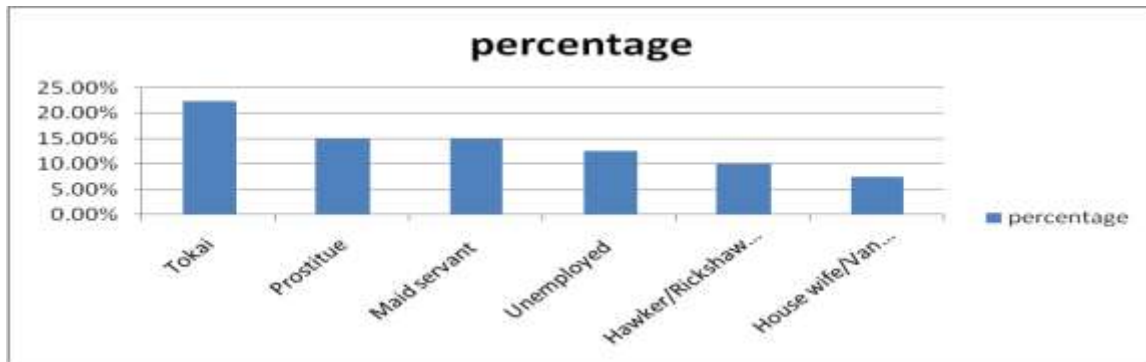


Figure 1: Professional Distribution of the Respondents

In respect of age limit, most of them were in 20-30 years old. They were 52.5%, 30-40 years 17.5%, 40-50 years 17.5% and 10-20 years old 12.5%.

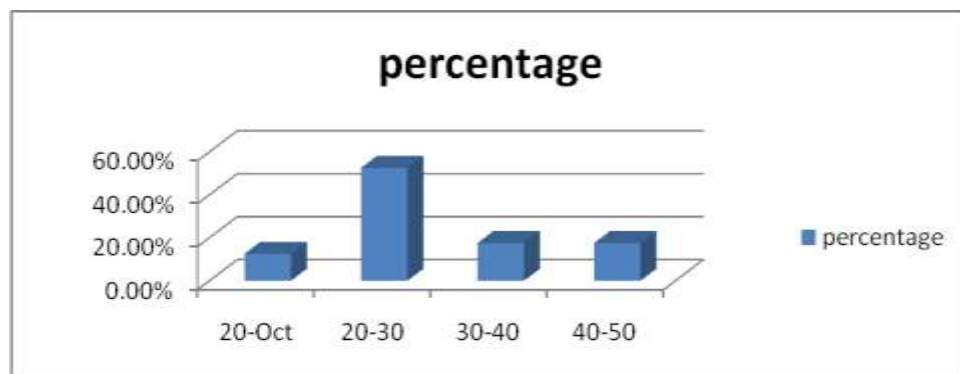


Figure 2: Age limit of the Respondent

About gender, most of them were male. They were 65% and female 35%. To analyze their marital status, we got most of the floating male and female were married. They were 47.5%, unmarried 20% those who were in 10-20 years age limit, abandoned 17.5% and divorced 15%.

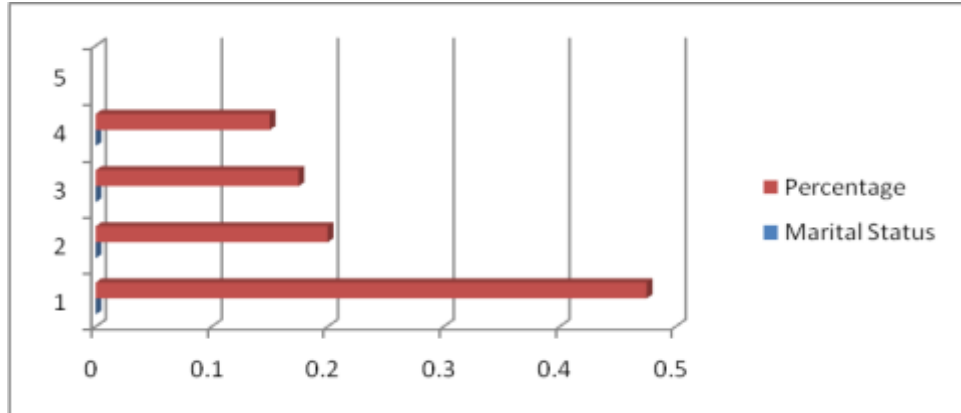


Figure 3: Marital Status of the Respondents

In perspective of their education, we saw most of them illiterate, they were 62.5%, and they didn't get any scope to be educated because of acute poverty. Literate 32.5% and primary completed only 5%. The literate and primary completed floating people facilitated to get little education during their own village residing period.

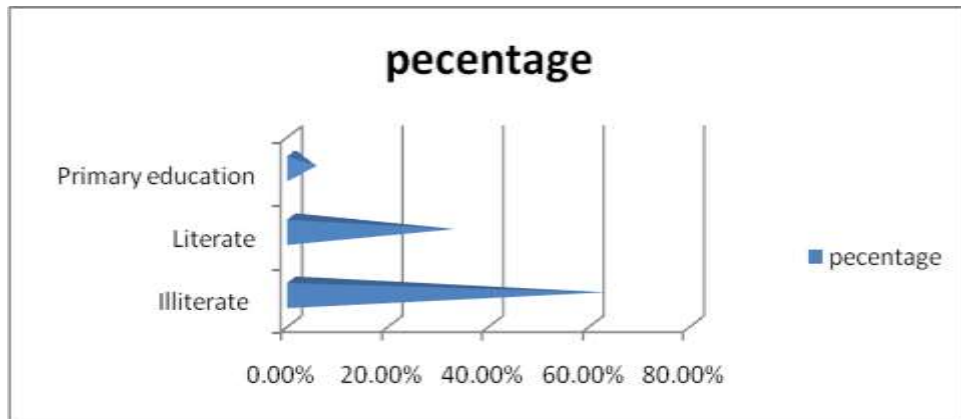


Figure 4: Educational Status of the Respondents

Their income related table indicated that most of them would receive very low income. Their 50% would earn only 500-1000 taka monthly, 25% only 1000-2000 taka, those who were mostly rickshaw puller and prostitutes, 15% would earn only 100-500 taka, 2.5% only 2000+ and 7.5% had no any income.

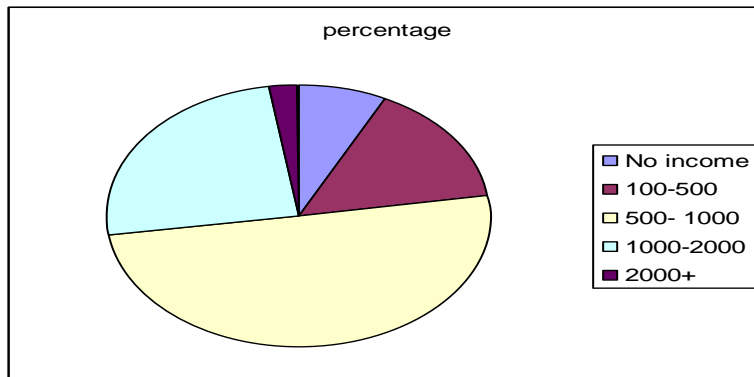


Figure 5: Monthly Income Limit of the Respondents

In regard of food receiving, we got that, their whole day food receiving number was very deplorable. 57.5% would receive their foods two times in a day, only 37.5% would receive foods three times in a day and 5% would receive their foods one time in whole day. Most of them would collect their drinking water from water supplying tap situated beside the road. They were 52.5%. 37.5% would collect from public toilet, 2.5% from different hotels and 7.5% would collect their drinking water from other sources.

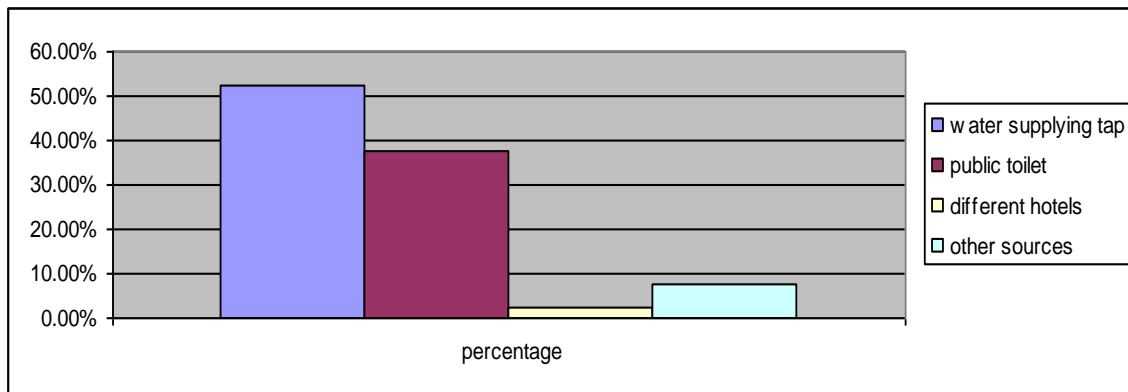


Figure 6: Drinking Water Collecting Source of the Respondents

Their bath related table indicated, most of the floating people would execute their bath from public toilet. They were 55%, 20% would execute from the ‘tap’ of street, 15% from the ponds of different gardens and 10% would execute their bath from other sources. It was seen the floating people face acute water and bath problems. Their 45% would get bath every day, 50% one time after 2-3 days and 5% would get bath one time only in a week. Their 47.5% would use public toilet as latrine, 22.5% would use drain, 12.5% garden, 10% different convenient roads and 7.5% floating people would use other places as their latrine.

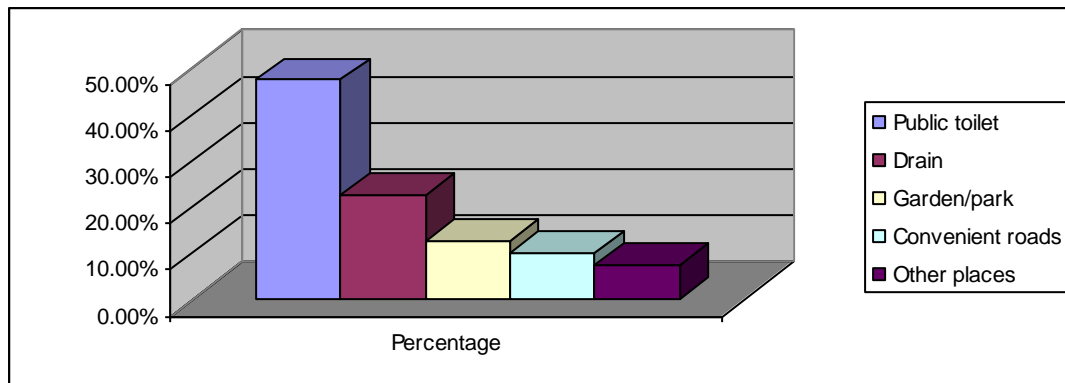


Figure 7: Toilet Using Sources of the Respondents

Most of the floating people were ignorant about their physical fitness and disease. So they carried various diseases. Their 22.5% carried asthma, 17.5% skin disease, 15% various sexual diseases, 12.5% rheumatic fever, 5% tuberculosis, 5% diarrhea, 10% cold-cough and 2.5% carried other diseases. 10% of them didn't carry any disease.

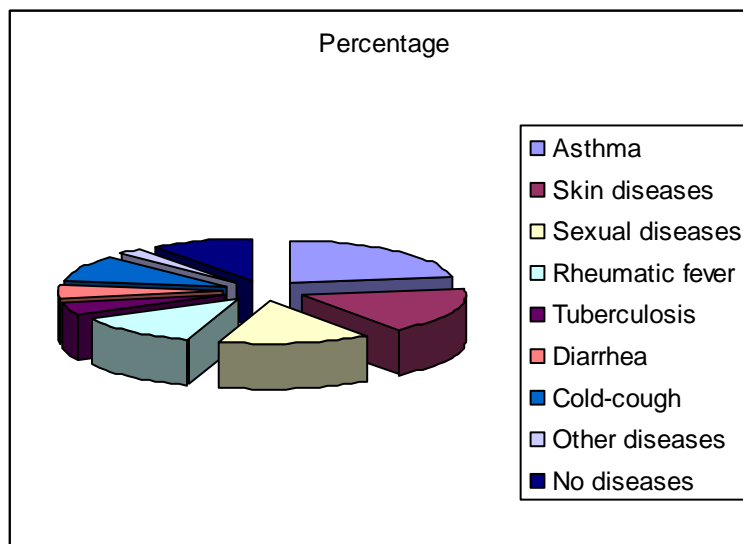


Figure 8: Diseases Carried By the Respondents

In respect of communication with relatives, it was shown, their 55% had no communication with their relatives, 20% would communicate now and then, 15% suddenly and 7.5% floating people would communicate regularly with their relatives. Most of them were Muslims. They were 97.5% and only 2.5% Hindu. 57.5% floating would not get any help from relatives, 30% would get social help, 10% financial help and 2.5% floating people would get other helps from their relatives.

The table related their 'health facilities' presented that most of the floating people would suffer from various diseases almost whole year. 22.5% of them would avail treatment

facilities from govt. hospitals, 17.5% from NGOs, 7.5% would buy medicine individually, 2.5% would take help from relatives and 50% floating people wouldn't avail any treatment facility.

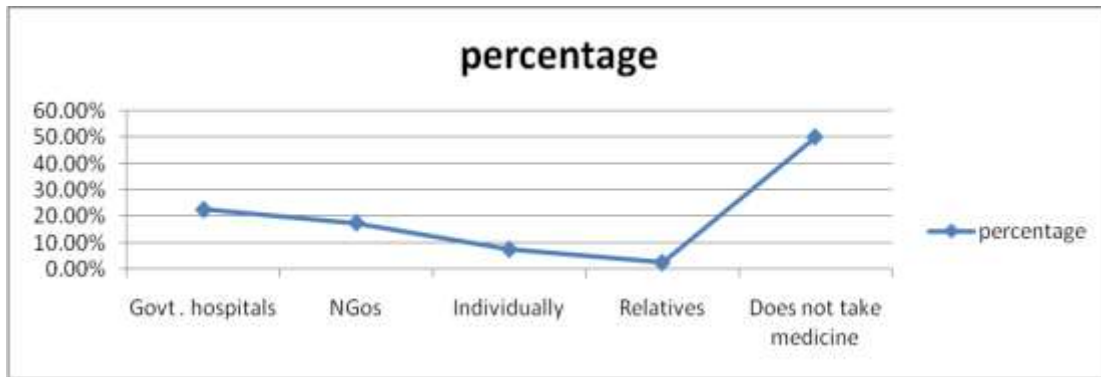


Figure 9: Treatment Sources of the Respondents

Their 75% wouldn't cook and only 25% cook their foods. So, most of them had option to collect foods from different sources. 15% would collect from hotel, 47.5% from footpath and 12.5% would collect their foods from other sources.

Most of them had bitter experience to face many problems to survive as the floating. 32.5% of them were affected by police harassment, 5% by different leaders, 7.5% by thief, 2.5% by natural calamities and 52.5% floating people became affected by almost all above problems.

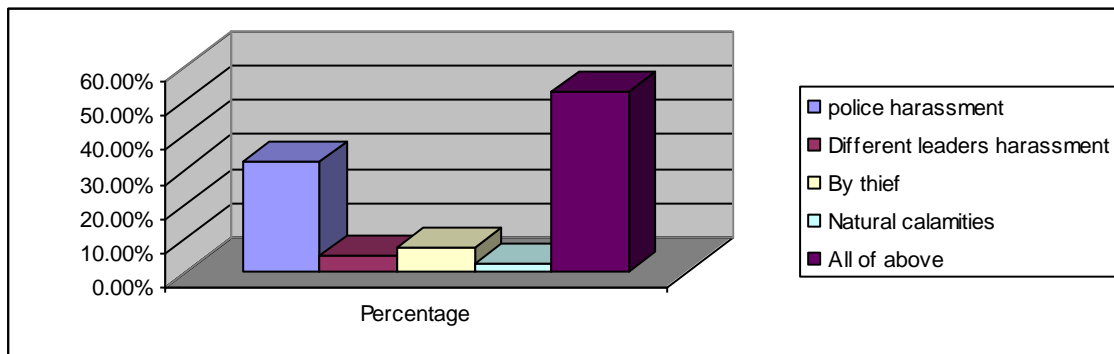


Figure 10: Types of Harassment Faced by the Respondents

They had no any mentionable resource. Normally they would live with hand to mouth. So 75% couldn't save anything and only 25% saved very little amount of money. 7.5% floating saved 1000-2000 taka and 17.5% saved 2000+ taka monthly.

In respect of recreation, it had been got that, 50% floating people would enjoy cinema now and then, 20% would enjoy radio and television programs, 5% meeting and

processions, 10% religious programs, 2.5% different fairs, 10% other recreational activities and 2.5% floating people wouldn't enjoy any recreational program.

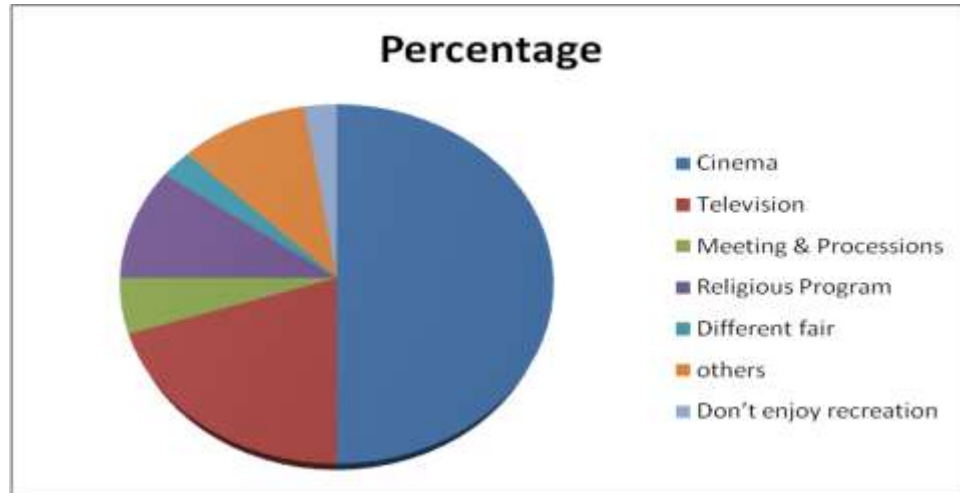


Figure 11: Sources of Recreation of the Respondents

Conclusion

Accommodation is a basic human need for the people. But it is true with regret that a huge number of people of the world are deprived from this right. According to the opinion of United Nations, 10 crore people of the world are now homeless. This problem has been regarded as more acute and complex in developing and populated countries like Bangladesh. The rural people become gathered in urban area because of various natural calamities. As a result, a new trend of population as 'floating people' has been introduced. This problem is more severe in Dhaka city than other cities in Bangladesh. As they lead themselves an inhuman and vulnerable lives, as create different problems for others. They live at several areas in Dhaka city with many problems. It is impossible to secure whole development to keep them in this circumstance. The permanent and safe accommodations for these floating people will have to be arranged first. It is true; this problem will not be fully solved overnight. But huge development activities should be expedited in rural area to decrease this trend. The floating people should be occupationally trained up and rehabilitated in local area. The govt. & non-govt. organizations and rich people will have to be involved in this regard. Then the national development will be achieved.

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