

Post-COVID-19 Challenges and Survival Strategies of Slum Dwellers: A Survey Study in Dhaka, Bangladesh



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INTRODUCTION

According to Worldometer's COVID-19 data as at 13/11/2022

The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 228 countries and territories. Total Cases 640.67 Millions;
Deaths: 6.61 Millions ; Recovered: 620.45 Millions

Highest case in USA: Total cases 99.89 Millions Total death 1.10 Millions

Bangladesh

Total Cases 2.03 Millions

Total Death 0.029 Millions

Total recovered 1.98 Millions

As this virus has hit 10 Downing Street is the official residence and the office of the British Prime Minister, the poorest slum in the third world.

BACKGROUND

The first corona virus disease (COVID-19) case was identified in Bangladesh on 8th March 2020. To prevent the possible spread of this virus pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends some measures, including hand washing, **sanitation**, **physical distancing** and **home quarantine**. Preventing the spread of this pandemic is **unfeasible** in slums in Bangladesh because of some major challenges such as **congestion**, **inadequate** water supply, **poor sanitation facilities**, poverty and lack of awareness.

Physical distancing, keeping at least 3 feet away from the nearest person while coughing, sneezing and even speaking, is an important measure to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

About 37% of slum households in city corporations have 26–50 square feet per person. Because of this congestion, slum dwellers cannot maintain physical distancing properly. Home quarantine for those who may have been exposed to corona virus is crucial to prevent community transmission. As recommended by the WHO, people must stay in a separate room during quarantine. But three-fourths of slum households live in a single room. This prevents most of the slum dwellers from practicing home quarantine in slums.

This pandemic situation is no longer limited within health crisis rather it's extending **unprecedented devastating** impact on social, economic sector and it seems to be **dispersing** scars in the long run. During this corona outbreak economic sector has faced a tremendous change and in this recent time its implications and impacts are studied as "**Coronanomics**" also some call it "**Black Swan**". Due to this outbreak world experienced an evolving "de-globalization" **constraining** inter-national lock-down, **forestalling** typical progressions of products, temporary shut-down of business and production.

OBJECTIVES:

To find out the challenges of the slum-dwellers

To delve out the survival determinants of post COVID life of the slum-dwellers

METHODOLOGY

This study is a cross sectional design with **mixed method approach** (qualitative and quantitative).

The Qualitative population of the slum owner and their employee who maintain whole slum environment and quantitative population are slum dwellers as household head main income person .

The survey was conducted in **Dhaka North City** Corporation(DNCC)North CC in Dhaka, Bangladesh namely Fulbari (**Uttara**) slum and Kalshi (**Mirpur**) Slum during the period July 2022 to October 2022.

The recommendation of **Krejcie and Morgan (1970)** was followed in selecting a representative sample size for this research.

A pilot survey was conducted on 50 households within the sampling frame. Finally, a full scale survey using the pilot-tested questionnaire was undertaken with a sample of 450 (excluded 50 pilot sample) slum dwellers . The survey data collected was tested using **univariate** and **multivariate** estimations (**log linear regressions, and chi-square and gamma tests**).

Questions were pre-coded during the survey questionnaire, data processing and analysis. The data were subsequently entered into SPSS version 26.0 for analysis.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The verbal consent was also taken when required. In consent form, the title, aim of the study, data collection procedures, required time for data collection, confidentiality and anticipated use of the result of the study was written in plain and simple **Bangla** language and it was briefed to each respondent before data collection. All respondents were informed that they were free to leave or to refuse to take part in this study at any time. The personal information of the respondents were kept totally confidential. The information given by the respondents were analyzed using code number so that nobody can identify them.

Findings

TABLE 1.1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Description		N=450	
		Number	%
Age			
	20 BELOW	6	1.3
	20-29	190	42.2
	30-39	146	32.4
	40-49	60	13.3
	50 - Above	48	10.7
Gender			
	Male	240	53.3
	Female	210	46.7
Marital Status			
	Unmarried	13	2.9
	Married	394	87.6
	Divorces	12	2.7
	Widow	31	6.9
Profession			
	Pretty business	46	10.2
	House worker	206	45.8
	Hawker	81	18.0
	Rickshaw puller	102	22.7
	Others	15	3.3
Household Size			
	2 Members	3	.7
	3 Members	10	2.2
	4 Members	168	37.3
	5 Members	135	30.0
	More than 5 Members	134	29.8

TABLE 1.2: KEY CHALLENGES: DURING AND AFTER COVID-19

Description		N=450			
		Number			
		Yes	%	No	%
During COVID-19					
	Handwashing	169	37.6	281	62.4
	Sanitation	26	5.8	424	94.2
	Physical distancing	113	25.1	337	74.9
	Home quarantine	76	16.9	374	83.1
	Face mask	109	24.2	341	75.8
Post-COVID-19					
	Congestion	408	90.7	42	9.3
	Inadequate water supply and poor sanitation facilities	267	59.3	183	40.7
	Vaccine aversion	371	82.4	79	17.6
	Poverty	360	80.0	90	20.0
	Lack of awareness	360	80.0	90	20.0
	Unhealthy living Environment	369	82.0	81	18.0

TABLE 1.3: SURVIVAL STRATEGIES ON SOCIAL IMPACTS

Strategies	Frequency	Percent
Increase working hour	43	9.6
Increase child labor	99	22.0
Early marriage	77	17.1
Changing profession	164	36.4
Cost cutting on food and others needs	67	14.9
Total	450	100.0

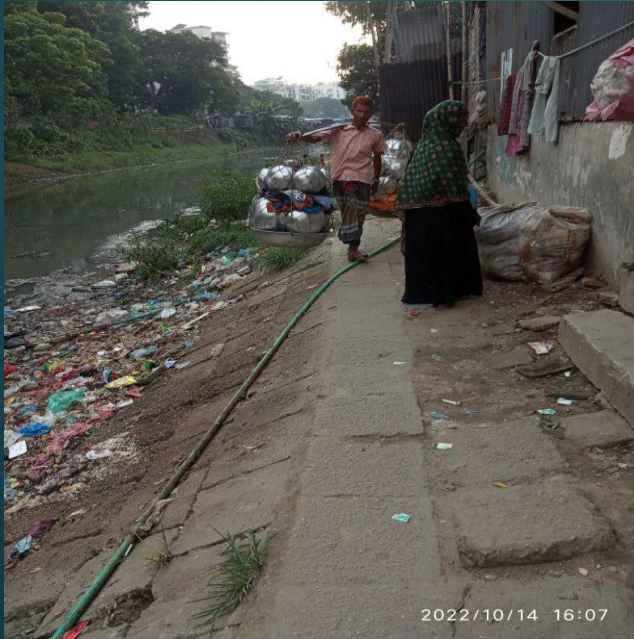
TABLE 1.4: SURVIVAL STRATEGIES ON POVERTY DETERMINANT

Strategies	Frequency	Percent
Household Member back to origin	22	4.9
Engaged agriculture in origin	11	2.4
Back to same profession	22	4.9
Change profession	66	14.7
Financial grants / loan from government	22	4.9
Financial grants / Loan from NGO	66	14.7
Financial grants from employer	11	2.4
Financial loan from employer	11	2.4
Financial grants from relative	33	7.3
Financial loan from relative	55	12.2
Loan from others Samity or groups	131	29.1
Total	450	100.0

CONCLUSION

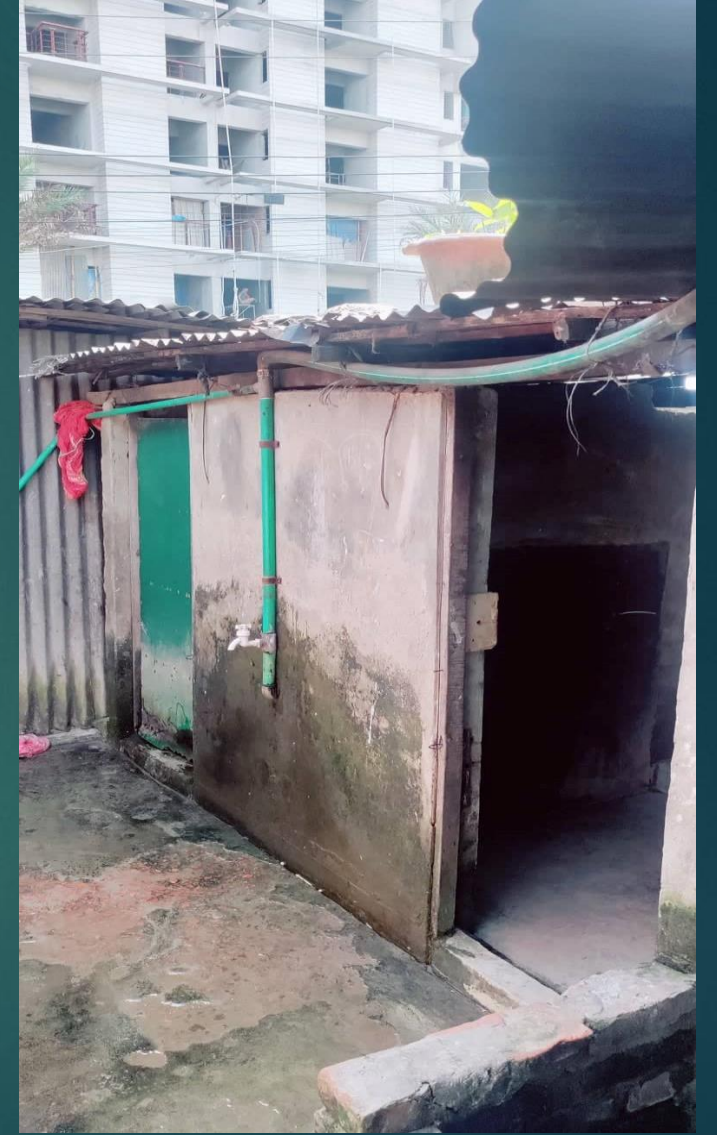
In the post-COVID situation, there is an opportunity to rebuild the economy in a new way. It is very important at this time to have an idea and preparation for how to rebuild the economy. The COVID situation demands a departure from our **conventional** notions. In the post-COVID situation, a new action plan is also needed for the drivers of Bangladesh's economy in the new reality. At the same time, it is time to make reforms and action plans that could not be made in the pre-COVID situation, but which are urgently needed for inclusive development.

History says that crisis creates an opportunity to think new. One of the positive aspects of this ongoing crisis is that it gives an opportunity to rethink the development philosophy, economic philosophy and action plan of the days ahead. The focus of that new thinking should be to move away from growth-centric narrow thinking and move towards a multi-dimensional development plan. If this discussion with partners, policymakers and those involved in development planning and implementation can begin now, and if the right policies and action plans can be set, **undoubtedly** the country will be in a much better position in economic and social construction in the post-COVID situation.



Picture of Slum dweller in Fulbary , Uttara

2022/10/14 16:18





Thank you