

Economic Life of Bangladesh Border Dwellers: A Case Study in Two Border Villages in Katla Union, Birampur, Dinajpur^[1]Md. Sayedur Rahman, and ^[2]Kana Rani^[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, Bangladesh^[2]M.phil Research Fellow, Dr. Wazed Research and Training Institute, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, Bangladesh

Abstract. Economic life, also known as average life, effective life, service life or useful life, refers to the expected period of time during which an asset is useful to the average owner. To examine the economic life of Bangladesh border dwellers is a strategical work that helps to investigate the overall economic life of Bangladeshi people. Estimating the economic life of an asset is important for border dwellers. This study examines and analyzes the major causes of economic backwardness of border dwellers. The study is based on survey of two villages where 100 respondents were selected randomly from Katla Union under Birampur Upazila, Dinajpur district through multistage sampling technique. Mainly this study is qualitative but to make the research more explicit the quantitative method also used. And the interview was taken through open-ended and close-ended question. In this regard some assumptions have been taken on the basis of research objectives. The result shows that the economic life of border dwellers of Bangladesh is a form of the nightmare, life of human as non-human being, and the final deprivation from fundamentals constitutional and economic rights. They face many problem and they lead very miserable life. Their living condition is not suitable for general people. Moreover, their economic condition is very painful, and they live under the poverty line. The place where they live is not perfect. Their lifestyle is like a barrier to modern urban development, a sound environment, a strong and happy nation. The findings suggest taking necessary initiatives to increase the knowledge of economic life of the border dwellers.

Key words: Economic life, Border, Border dwellers, Katla Union

Introduction

Bangladesh is a middle power and a major developing nation in south Asia. It is also known to be one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries in the world. About 80 percent of total population of the country lives in rural villages and agriculture is their main occupation. Although Bangladesh's predominantly agricultural economy depends heavily on an erratic monsoon cycle with periodic flooding and drought. But agriculture forms the backbone of the country's economy. The agricultural sector contributes to a large portion of the country's GDP. Economy and economic development plays a significant role in where an economy is an area of production and distribution. It is also called a social domain that emphasizes the practices, discourses and material expression, associated with the production, use and management of resources. Economic life is the expected period of time during which an asset is useful to the average owner. The economic life of an asset could be different from its actual physical life. In spite of paramount importance of economic life, the border dwellers of Bangladesh face many problems where borders separate countries, states, provinces, cities, and towns. It is a geographical boundary of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other subnational entities. But to strengthen the economy of Bangladesh, the importance of economic development and economic life of border dwellers can hardly be denied. Unless these problems are solved, the whole economic development of Bangladesh will remain weak. Many studies have been conducted on economic life, Economic condition but specifically economic life of Bangladesh

Border dwellers has not yet studied properly, particularly in the context of Bangladesh. This study explored the real picture of economic life of Bangladesh Border dwellers. The main objectives of the study are to investigate the major causes of economic backwardness of border dwellers; to examine the impact of Border on economic life of Bangladeshi border dwellers; and to find out the strategies (Recommendations) fit for the development of economic life of border dwellers; including that of the border dwellers of Choughoriya and Madhobpur villages at Katla Union under Birmipur Upazila in Dinajpur District.

Literature Review

Many studies on rural economy, the nature of border, Geometric border, political border, the meaning and significance of state borders, India–Bangladesh border, and man-made borders have already been conducted on regional, national and global perspectives. But studies on the economic life of Bangladesh border dwellers have not been figured out properly. This study plans to investigate the major causes of economic backwardness of border dwellers. However, some relevant and remarkable works regarding this study have been reviewed very concisely.

Shaikat (2015) discussed the contribution to our GDP, industrial contribution to our economy, condition of stock market of Bangladesh, flow of remittances of Bangladesh, potentiality of the economy of Bangladesh, and major problems for economy of Bangladesh. But he did not consider the problems and importance of the border economy, economic life which has a great effect on the rural economic condition and overall condition of Bangladesh economy.

Mondol (2015) tried to examine the rural economy in India, its meaning and features of rural economy. She said that India is known as an agricultural country, most of the population of villages depends on agriculture. The agricultural sector contributes most to the overall economic development of the country. She also tried to examine the various sectors which have various contributions to the overall economic development of the country. She also discussed the features of rural economy but not in border economy.

Romer (2016) explained that economic development is a process of targeted activities and programs that work to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of a community by building local wealth, diversifying the economy, creating and retaining jobs and building the local tax base. He also described importance of economic development.

Ray (2015) focused on the survey of economic and political condition of North East India. This work focuses on an integrated approach towards inter-related issues in the entire region with “Development as the pivotal and over-reaching factors.” This is a collection of 17 Articles categorized into 5 broad sub-sections, extending from political dynamism to economic intricacies, social conflicts and role of institutions which gives us an opportunity to come across the thoughts of scholars to trace the roots of and connections between the problems that plague this region and eventually to forge a common strategy to address the issues of backwardness of this region.

Ghosh (2011) focused on the multiple forms and layers of porosity that give borderlands, such as the Bengal borderland, their distinctive nature as zones of contestation. She critically examined the rationales and practices of informal ‘illegal’ cross-border interactions and problematizes the territorial logic of the postcolonial nation-state as it is contested in the realities of the borderland.

Geenhuizen et al. (2007) explored the disappearance of man-made borders and the need for increased international cooperation seems to prelude a removal of unnecessary obstacles between actors in different countries. Their study is concerned with the relationship between political borders, economic development of border regions and networking of companies located there. It presents a ‘state of the art’ of research on border region development and

trans- border networking by companies. This study concludes with a discussion on conditions that influence the emergence of new corporate networking in border regions, including effective policy action.

Das (2008) suggested that the India–Bangladesh border has been described as the “problem area of tomorrow.” The problems include illegal migration, smuggling, and trans-border movement of insurgents, which are serious threats to the security of the country. She said that India shares its longest border with Bangladesh, but this border is not attentively managed.

Porter (2000) said that economic geography during an era of global competition involves a paradox. It is widely recognized that changes in technology and competition have diminished many of the traditional roles of location. He also said that yet clusters, or geographic concentrations of interconnected companies, are a striking feature of virtually every national, regional, state, and even metropolitan economy, especially, in more advanced nations. The prevalence of clusters reveals important insights about the microeconomics of competition and the role of location in competitive advantage.

Cons (2013) explored the politics of community making at the India–Bangladesh border by examining the public and private narratives of history and belonging in a Bangladeshi enclave a sovereign piece of Bangladesh completely territorially surrounded by India. He also highlighted the narratives of marginalization at borders which are best understood as political projects.

Anderson & O'Dowd (2010) said that the meaning and significance of state borders, as well as their geographical location, can change drastically over space and time. Along with their associated regions, they have competing and contradictory meanings, both material and symbolic. Their particularities require localized study but also wider contextualization. As a general response to peripherality, borders tend to generate questionable arbitrage activities, and their significance ultimately derives from territoriality as a general organizing principle of political and social life, one which changes over time. They also said that Social and communal boundaries are seen to be increasingly de-linked from territorial borders. They also sketched this changing context for studies and comparisons of particular borders and border regions.

The above mentioned literatures do not give specific focus on the economic life of Bangladesh border dwellers. Thus, there remains a research gap in this particular field of study. Hence, the present study seeks to investigate the major causes of economic backwardness of border dwellers, the impact of border on economic life of Bangladeshi border dwellers and finally, the strategies (recommendations) that fit for the development of economic life of border dwellers.

Methodology

The study is based on both primary and secondary data sources of information. The sources of primary data for this research have been collected through questionnaire survey, interview, and personal observation. The sources of secondary data include books, journals, survey report, internet, relevant thesis, articles and newspapers, Katla union parishad office, different organizations. The researchers used survey method as a tool of a quantitative method and the researchers also conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) for in depth study as a tool of qualitative method.

Study Area

The Katla union in Birampur upazila is one of the border areas of Bangladesh, so to know the economic life; the Katla union was selected as a sample area of Birampur upazila, Dinajpur district. Geo-physically, this union is located in northern part of Bangladesh. The total area of Katla union is 38.80 square kilometer which indicates that the union is big in size. The union

consists of nine wards and 29 villages. The kheamamudpur Sagor Dhighi and Jamuna River at the eastern side of Union Parishad are the ecological heritage in Katla union. It is bounded by Mukondopur union on the north side, Jotbani union and Binail Union of Birampur Upazila on the west side, Khottamadhobpara union of Birampur Upazila on the east side and India on the south side. This union has an international border with India. The Union is located about 10 kilometers away from Birampur Sadar. The total population of the union is about 17246 (according to the information service center of Katla union parishad, 2017) which includes both male (9741) and female (9505). Male-female ratio of the population is 56.48 and 55.11 respectively. Among them the number of male voters is 6743 and female voter 6873. Most of the inhabitants are Muslim and rests are the Hindu and Tribal. For this study, two villages named Choughoriya and Madhobpur were selected in Katla union under Birampur upazila, Dinajpur district. These villages are the most typical villages in Katla union in terms of location, population, economy, infrastructure, socio-demographic characteristics of the population and so on.



Figure 1: Location of the study area (Source: Banglapedia)

Data Collection and Sample Size

The study is descriptive analytical in nature. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected by using questionnaire survey, focus group discussion, interview, etc. and data are analyzed by MS Excel program. Total sample for the study was 100. For relevant data collection, the respondents were chose purposively from those who were 18+ aged. The researchers were to avoid asking the questions which might hurt them and make an embarrassed situation for the respondents. All ethical issues were maintained by protecting information because the sensitive information was found in this research finding.

Limitations of the Study

There are some limitations in this study because a proper study requires enough time and funding facilities. The researchers of this study faced different types of crisis in collecting data

and documents. Time for collecting data was not enough. Time constraints always put constraints and limits on the researchers. And other limitations are; the researchers had to shorten their sample size and study area. Some of the dwellers take this survey as a report of an organization to give them relief. Hence, they were not willing to give the researchers their actual status, which create a difficult situation. Besides this, there have a lack of information that could have been obtained from the Union Parishad. Another challenge is the difficulty in having documented information from officials. Finally, the study is based on specific two villages in Katla union under Birampur upazila, Dinajpur district. In case of this study it is found that, getting data from the public office is quite tough.

Findings of the Study

The Findings of the Study describe the major causes of economic backwardness of border dwellers, the impact of Border on economic life of Bangladeshi border dwellers and the strategies (Recommendations) fit for the development of economic life of border dwellers.

Education System: Education is a determinant factor of economic development and recognized as one of the basic human needs. In the study area, there are sixteen government primary schools and three registered primary schools. There are three secondary schools, one higher secondary school and Degree College, four abtedayee, dakhil, alim, kamil madrasas.

School type: According to the data survey, a few of children (46%) attend school. Parents are reluctant to send their children to school due to their poverty. Besides this, educational facilities are not available here. Maximum children are going to government primary school (64%) and only 6% children are going to private school and 30% children are going to NGOs' school. The level of education in border area is very low, ranges from primary to higher secondary levels. That's why the economic backwardness exists in the study area.

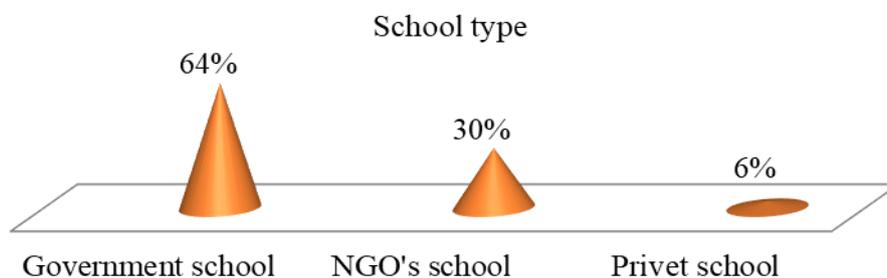


Figure 1.1: School type in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Status of education facilities: In the study area, the educational status indicates that most of the people are literate where most of them have primary education. But this education level is not sufficient for understanding the economic development and its functioning. That's why the dwellers in this area face many problems and cannot overcome them in proper way. Education may be the single most important factor to influence economic services. But study area shows that 40% people were illiterate. The percentages of higher educated persons were not good at all in the border area. Some were educated up to primary school (30%) and some had no formal education.

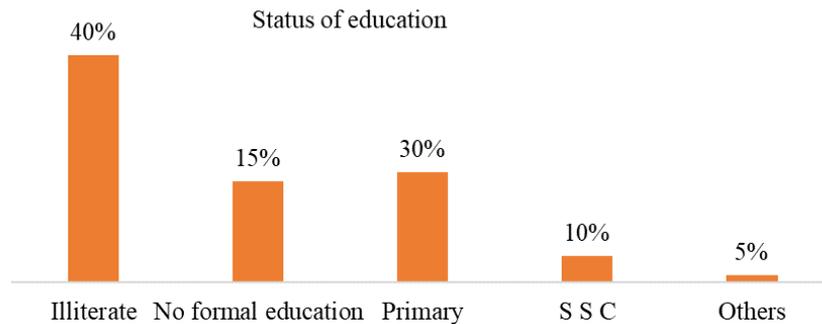


Figure 1.2: Status of education in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Water supply

Sources of drinking water

Figure 2.1 shows that 95% dwellers' source of drinking water is tube well and 5% is river. In the study area, there are some problems with tube well water. Sometimes the water uplift with sand and at that time the villagers are to filter the water. As the Jamuna river flows beside this union, many dwellers use river water for different purposes including washing, bathing, drinking, transporting, fishing, etc. The dwellers who use river water for drinking (mainly riparian inhabitants) have faced many problems including skin and waterborne diseases. The results find that these are the causes of economic backwardness for the study area.

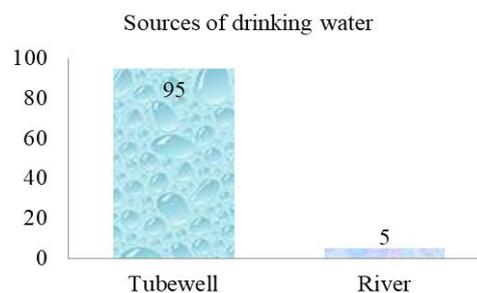


Figure 2.1: Sources of drinking water in study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Quality of Water

On the basis of this survey in the study area, it can be said that the quality of water is not so good. 55% respondents answered that the quality of water is good. Only 36% answered that the quality of water is bad, 9% respondents said that they found smelly water and they cannot drink these water so they take water from other sources. This picture of quality of water in the study area is not good picture for healthy life as well as economic life.

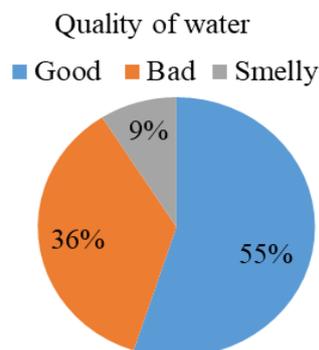


Figure 2.2: Quality of water in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Sanitation system: Sanitation system is very important for human being. But sanitation system in study area is very unhygienic. Most of the dwellers use kacha toilet which is very dirty and unhealthy. The living environment of the border dwellers is dangerous for health. 68% dwellers use kacha latrine, only 14% dwellers use pacca latrine which are safe for dwellers and 18% dwellers use latrine which are connected to sewerage system (Fig.3.2).

Use of privet toilet: From the study area it is seen that 80% respondents answered 'yes' that means they use privet toilet and 20% respondents answered 'no' that means they cannot use privet toilet.

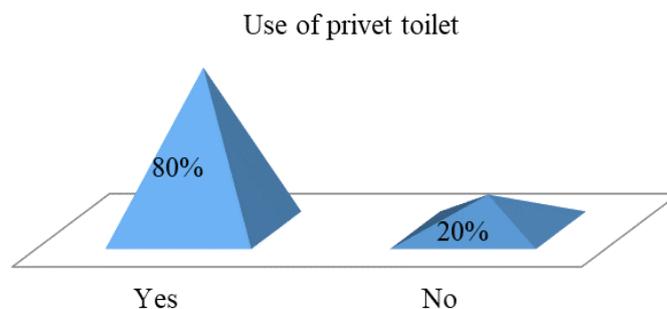


Figure 3.1: The use of privet toilet in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Types of toilet: The respondents which answered 'yes' they use three type of toilet like kacha, pacca and connected to sewerage system. 68% dwellers use kacha latrine, only 14% dwellers use pacca latrine which are safe for dwellers and 18% dwellers use latrine which are connected to sewerage system.

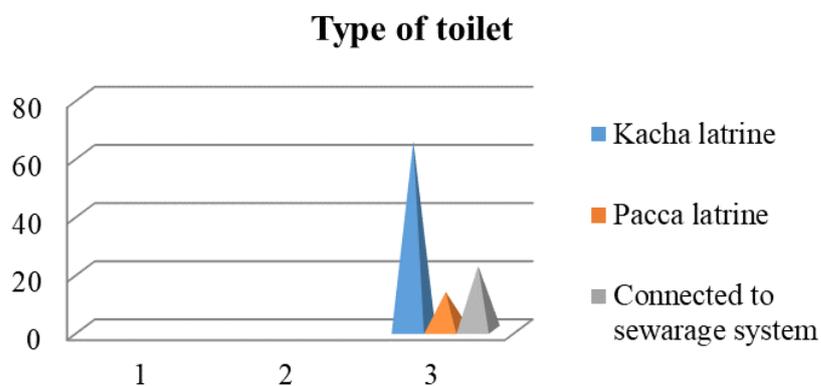


Figure 3.2: Types of toilet in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Dwellers' Knowledge about Health

Health and healthcare condition of the dwellers in the study area is not good enough to compare with other unions in Bangladesh. Nutritional deficiency is common problem faced by most of the dwellers. Particularly, the condition of the children and women in poor households is alarming. Poverty and food shortage is common to most of the poor families. Katla union has 2 community clinics, 1 Union Health Complex and 3 non-governmental health care programmes as sources of primary health care service. The dwellers in this area also get health services from Upazila level Health Care Service Centre.

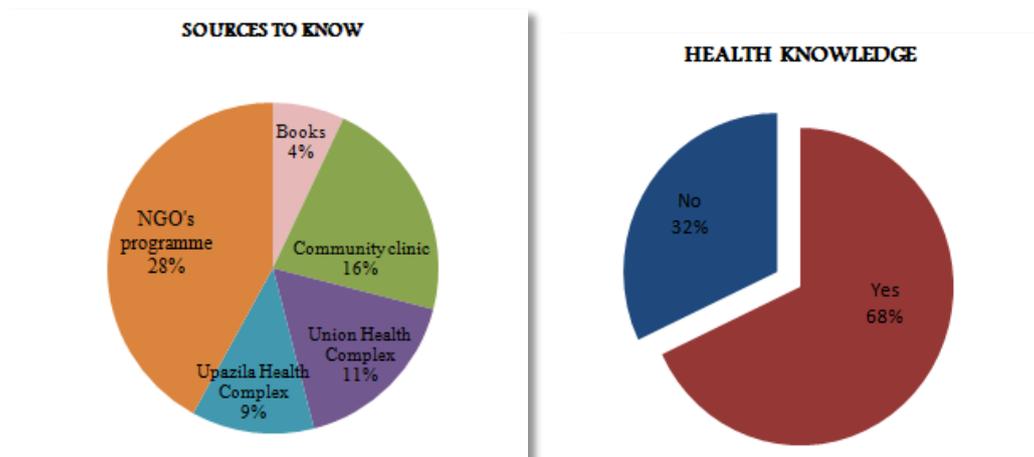


Figure 4: Dwellers' knowledge about health [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Figure 4 reveals that 68% dwellers have knowledge about health and 32% have not. Among the 68% dwellers who have health knowledge, maximum of them getting health related training from different NGOs programme in the study area. These NGOs organize different training (including health) program for the border dwellers who have lower level of income and education with financial help. Besides this, Community clinic, Upazila and Union Health Complex and different books have made them understand. Other 32% who have no knowledge about health are not even interested to know. These 32% make challenges of health care activities and economic development in the study area.

Monthly income: From the field survey, it is shown that monthly income of 55% households are between Tk 1,000 - 4,000 and 29% between Tk 5,000 - 8,000 of the study area while 12% and 4% household income are Tk 9,000 - 14,000 and Tk 15,000 - 17,000, respectively in study area.

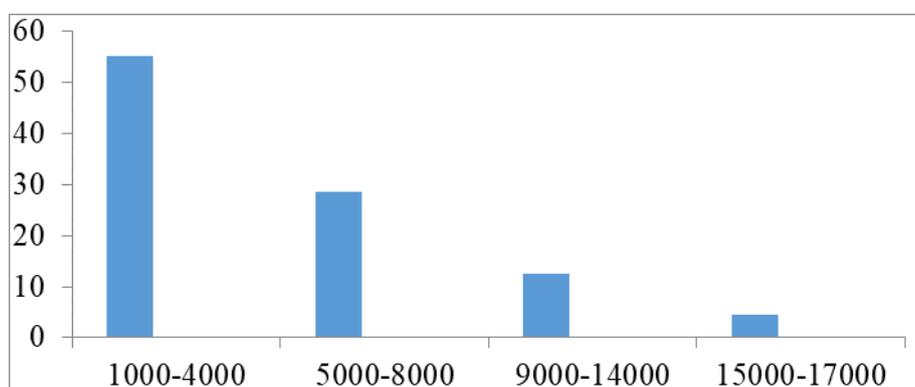


Figure 5: Monthly income in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Monthly expenditure

From the study area it is revealed that a major share of border dwellers income is spent on food (62%), health (7%), education (8%) and 14% is also spent on clothing and housing, they spent 3% for transportation facilities and 6% is spent for other demand for family members.

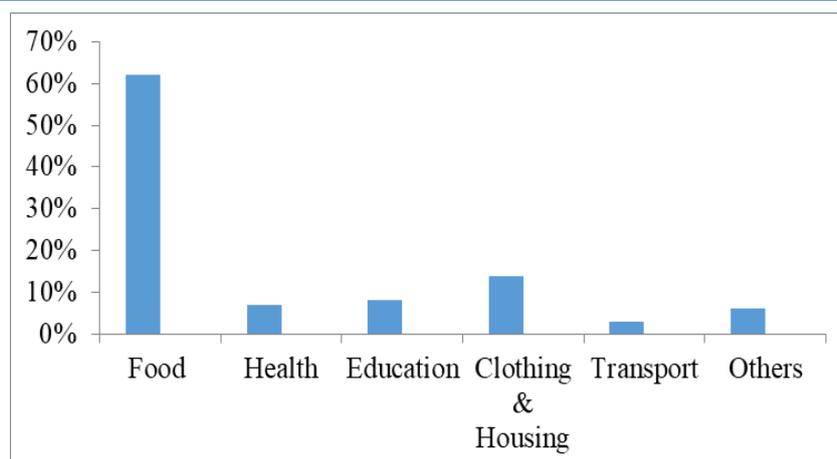


Figure 6: Monthly expenditure in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Access to Electricity, Mobile phone and Computer

Infrastructure is crucial to promote socio-economic progress of a region. The backward border areas face lack of an adequate and efficient infrastructure like electricity, mobile phone, computer, a well-organized and developed banking system and adequate facilities for technical education. Without these any border area in Bangladesh can develop economically. Lack of adequate infrastructure is a big obstacle to economic growth as well as economic life of border dwellers. Figure 7 shows that access to electricity, mobile phone and computer system in the study area represents that these are not available for all. According to the Information services centre of Katla Union Parishad, in 2016, 40 % households reported to have access to electricity at the union level, 75% access to mobile phone and 2 % access to computer. This availability of electricity, mobile phone and computer system is not good enough for developmental economic system.

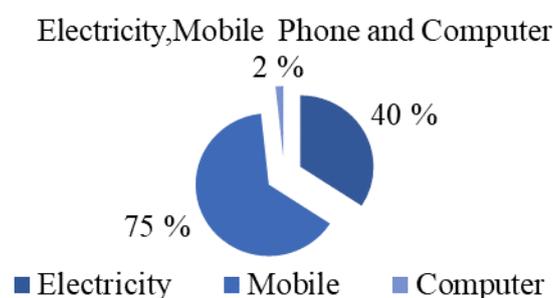


Figure 7: Access to Electricity, Mobile phone and Computer in the study area [Source-Field survey, 2017]

Working type: In the study area 42% dwellers are involved in permanent work. Another 53% dwellers are involved in temporary work. Temporary worker changes their works in different time. Sometimes they remain without work. This is very painful time for poor dwellers. They lead miserable life. Family members stay without food. Sometimes they cannot take food for 2-3 days. Rests 5% are in different works. This distribution is presented in Figure: 8.1.

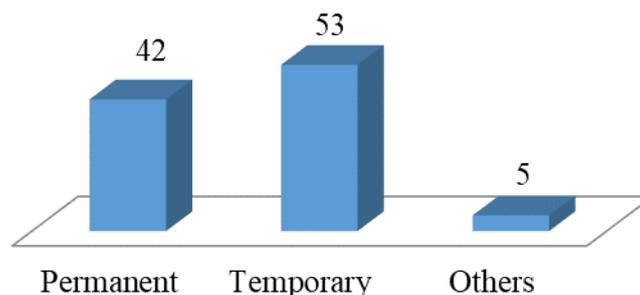


Figure 8.1: Working type in the study area [Source: Field Survey, 2017]

Occupation: Main occupation of the dwellers of the study area is agriculture. In the study area most of the dwellers are labors at about 64%. Labors are categorized in day labor, household worker, rickshaw puller, cleaner, masons, street hawker etc. 13% dwellers are involve in small business (shopkeeper, street vendor, hawker, sub conductor etc). 17% dwellers are involved in different jobs where most of them are involved in private job. Rest 6% are involve in different works.

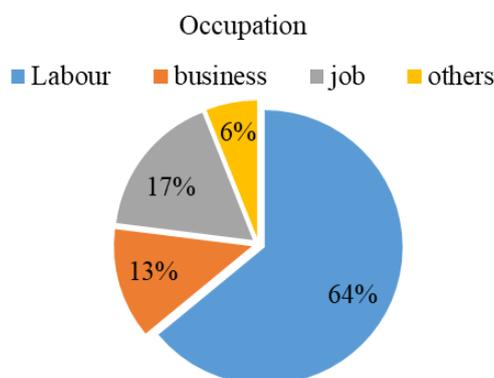


Figure 8.2: Occupation in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Housing status: Generally, the housing structure of border dwellers is very poor. From study area, it is seen that three categories of housing were found in the study area: kacha (76%), pacca (16%), Tent (8%).

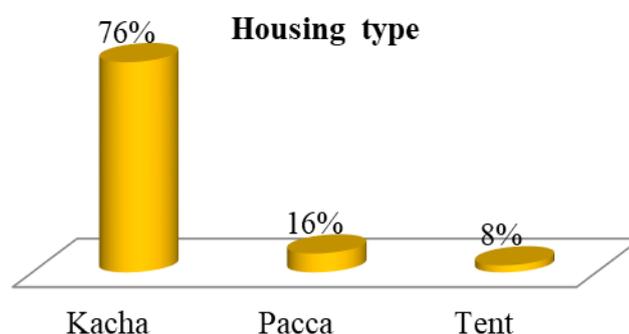


Figure 9.1: Housing type in the study area [Source: Field survey, 2017]

Inequalities of logistic services: Logistic service is about getting the right service or product, to the right person, in the right quantity, in the right condition, at the right place, at the right time, and at the right cost. In the study area, 59% respondents stated that there are inequalities in getting logistic services from food, education, dress, houses, as well as public

health care service centre's in case of primary health care service. Besides this the inequalities also arise on the basis of income level. 25% respondents have experienced inequalities in getting economic services. Visit to doctors and education sectors are included in these inequalities and 16% respondents stated no response. To ensure the economic services accessible and reliable, the inequalities of logistic services have to eradicate, otherwise the economic activities can't reach to its ultimate goals.

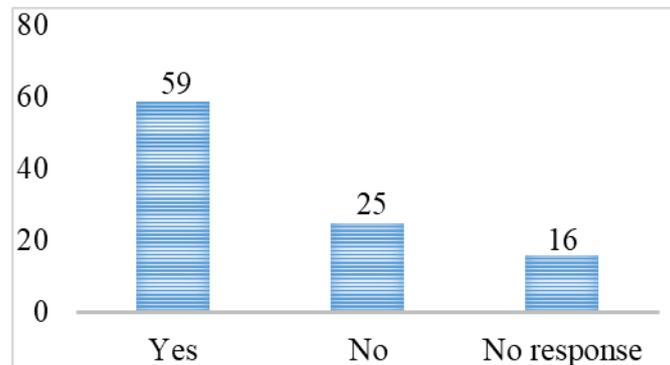


Figure 10: Inequalities of logistic services [Source: Field Survey, 2017]

Income: In study area, it is found that low income is one of the barriers used as a measure of socio-economic status and it create an overwhelming financial burden for economic life. The samples of households maintain a higher concentration in lower income. Most of the dwellers in this area also have lost their household and agricultural land and become landless for riverbank erosion. This victim group is forced to live from hand to mouth. Their lower income is not sufficient for their daily expenditure. As a result they lead a poor life. The lower contribution of women to household income due to their primary responsibilities in family e.g. preparing food, raising children, gathering firewood, taking care of house etc. But a small number of women are engaged in different sector e.g. service, business, labor etc. Border area contributes to change their income structures which worsen their living condition.

Transportation and communication systems: Transportation and communication systems play an important role in the development of a region. It is a vital issue for access to economic service, especially, in border areas where distances from one corner to another are great. This study estimates the impacts of transportation on utilization of economic life for border dwellers. The transportation systems of Katla union are not well developed. The semi pacca and kacha road constitute 102 kilometer and pacca road constitute only 10 kilometers. So, it is clear that transportation system cannot play any role of its development. Though almost all the dwellers use auto rickshaw, battery driver but due to damage road constructions, some of them avoid to go. As Union health complex can't handle emergency cases, so emergency care visits were impacted due to poor transportation and communication systems which are the important factors for economic development of any region.

Primitive agricultural system: The economy of border area, although dominated by agriculture, is not developed as other advanced areas. It is true that this area still lag far behind in respect of crop production. Agriculture productivity could not be raised due to small investment in agricultural lands. It has not been possible to fully mechanize the same. It is also true that different scientific tools and equipment like tractors, power tillers, deep and shallow tube-wells, power pumps, chemical fertilizer, insecticides, pesticides etc. are being used, but these scientific and modern inputs could not be extensively used in the study area. Economic development cannot be brought about in the absence of rapid industrialization. So their economic life becomes backward.

Lack of savings: The levels of savings are important for determining levels of investment and hence the rate of economic growth for a region. If there is a lack of savings, it limits investment, and therefore, there is little prospect of economic development. However, sometimes the level of savings is misused on “used” in unproductive investment projects. In this area, individual savings is low because of low income. This is a factor that creates impediment for economic life of border dwellers

Lack of skilled personnel and technical know-how: Sound skilled personnel and technical know-how are of paramount importance for economic development. A very important bottleneck in the way of economic life of border dwellers is the scarcity of technical know-how and skilled personnel. These elements of productive power take long to build up and foreign technicians are very costly. Hence, the border areas of Bangladesh remain underdeveloped.

Limited size of the market: Limited size of the market is another factor that creates constraints for economic development and life in the study area. The purchasing power of the dwellers is very low on account of their proverbial poverty. Hence, the productive enterprises are handicapped in the sale of goods. Only an expanding market can provide a fruitful field for profitable investment and result in economic development of these areas. But lacking of this expanding market makes this area economically backward.

Political instability: Political instability is almost a common problem of the border area. It is the likelihood of having demonstrations, forms of violence in the study area. The instability of politics has imparted severe problems in education system, economy and poverty reduction in the border area. It can be said that in the border area of Bangladesh, political obstacles have much larger impact on economic development than economic obstacles. This is because economic policies are created and implemented by politicians.

Influences of the mahajans and the small traders: The border dwellers are influenced by the mahajans and the small traders. The loan recipient cultivators are compelled to sell their commodities to the villages “mahajans” at lower prices to repay their loan. The poor cultivators thus are deprived of fair prices of their products for want of necessary storage facilities and also pressure of repaying loan from the money lenders. It badly affects the economic development in the study area.

Impact of economic life on Bangladesh border dwellers

From the research area, it revealed that economic life of border dwellers means a sub-human life deprived with the tremendous lack of fundamental constitutional rights. Their lifestyle is like a barrier to modern urban development, a sound environment, a strong and happy nation. From the observations, opinion of the respondents, NGO workers, government workers, local and government representatives and previous data, it is clear that the border dwellers are not facilitated of important fundamental rights like housing and health facilities, job opportunities, sanitation facilities, education etc. The economic and infrastructural condition was not well in the study area. Results of the questionnaire survey conducted in the two villages, Katla union as a border area and other studies show that the communities are almost homogenous not only by socio-economic, housing, utility services and political status but also by health condition. However, low level of income, inadequate sanitation services, substandard housing and the cramped environment in the border studied, border dwellers might have impacted on the environment that led to higher morbidity among the border dwellers. They face many problems and they lead very miserable life. Their living condition is not suitable for general people. Their economic condition is very painful; they live below the poverty line. Their environment is very dangerous. Their different pollution is occurred by different pollutants. Border dwellers do not follow the rules of waste management. So these wastes polluted the environment in many different ways. Various diseases come from polluted environment. Clearly, there is a huge administrative challenge for local authorities and

community leadership to devise ways to develop and implement appropriate policies and strategies to control unabated border area and pursue sustainable environmental management in the border areas of Dinajpur. It is proved from the description of the study area that though every government committed to eradicate this crisis completely, but they did not yet take the appropriate steps to save the lives of border dwellers. It is urgent to take immense steps by government, NGOs, even an individual. Otherwise, instead of becoming a peaceful and developed nation, our country will be a hell for us.

Recommendations

After identifying problems and extensive evaluation for the sake of welfare of this border area the following recommendations could be implemented:

- ❖ Improvement of infrastructural facilities is one of the key interventions that can open the door of economic opportunities in the border area. Following measures are can be taken: Communication system in the border area should be improved in order to increase economic activities in the border area. Both inter border and intra border road communication system should be developed to increase economic mobility within the laggard area.
- ❖ Access to quality of education and creation of employment opportunities are needed to reduce regional inequality. Women empowerment and ensuring of girl's education are important factors to be considered in this connection. Human resources development of tertiary level educational institutions and private universities need to be encouraged in the Katla union, Birampur upazila, Dinajpur District.
- ❖ Storage facilities for agricultural and fisheries should be increased according to the demand of such facilities in border area where economic activities are mostly agriculture in nature. Such facilities should be enhanced in these areas so that farmer gets most benefit from such facilities.
- ❖ Economic development is depending on the leadership quality. A mission oriented leader need to focus the priority of development and boost the sectors of one after another. Urbanization and distribution of functional income is necessary for improvement of leadership quality.
- ❖ Government should take initial steps to improve the living condition of border dwellers, utility service facilities, education facilities, treatment facilities etc. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should take necessary initiatives to increase the knowledge of hygiene of the border dwellers. In favor of this intention various campaigns can be arranged in the border area. For an effective and successful programme, there should be intra and inter relationship of the government, NGOs and private organizations that are working for the border dwellers.
- ❖ Government should ensure the health services of poor people especially women's in the governmental hospital and should remove all obstacles to getting the services. Health worker should visit the area progressively more to make the women aware about their health care need especially reproductive health and a general healthy life.
- ❖ Local authority should improve the sanitation facility, water supply, dumping garbage facility in the border area to ensure a clean and healthy environment. Comprehensive national policies and plans should be developed to promote the benefits and Possibilities of extending basic services.
- ❖ The potential of women must be tapped for the socio-economic improvement of the families and development of the nation as a whole. Women should be organized and be made aware that they have equal right of participation.
- ❖ Logistic supports such as proper animal health care facilities, irrigation facilities, and agricultural extension services should be made available for the border dwellers by the

government as well as non- government organizations. Training and credit facilities should be offered to the border dwellers to improve and utilize their skill and efficiency.

- ❖ Local government institutions such as Union parishads or Upazila parishads should be strengthened to conduct development activities of the government through these institutions.
- ❖ Supply of electricity should be increased in the border area in priority basis since development of manufacturing sector demands access to electricity supply. Construction of gas transmission line to the border area should be expedited.
- ❖ Intensity of bank branches should be increased in the border area to increase financial services for general people as well as investors of the area.
- ❖ The farmers in the Katla union would get priority in terms of agricultural subsidy. The Government will explore the possibility of increasing the provision of agricultural loan at a lower rate in the Dinajpur District.
- ❖ Comprehensive national policies and plans should be developed to promote the benefits and Possibilities of extending basic services in border area.
- ❖ Priority should be given to improved living condition of the people beyond the present poverty level, so as to enhance better healthy living. Lifestyle of border dwellers including health and nutritional behavior, food behavior, sanitation behavior should be amended for protecting their health. Preventive programs and consciousness building programs is inevitable for this. Community leaders and the religious leaders can play active role in increasing consciousness of people. Mass media are also important agent to creating consciousness of people.
- ❖ People should be conscious about population problem and they need to be educated. If people are educated, they can understand the problems of having large families. Educated and skilled people would be more oriented towards career which would help containing population. Educating female population shall not only help them in their emancipation but also make them aware of different factors which would help to decrease population.
- ❖ The geographical location of Katla Union is the top most reason for its natural disasters. Building of dams can check and reduce the intensity of flood. Flood waters are washing away millions of tons of crops every year shall be reduced through such construction and reduce the economical stress of the national budget as to balance the destroyed or washed away crops, to meet the local demand, the government has to import the shortage amounts. Moreover, proper dredging and embankment might reduce river erosion. Building of cyclone and flood shelter could also minimize the effect of loss which can shelter people and their livestock.
- ❖ Corruption is one of the greatest obstacles to development. It hinders proper allocation of resources as well as the performance of government. But reduction of corruption cannot be done overnight. Anti corruption strategies should be formulated where broad based participation of every group must be ensured. There are some basic arenas in which action can be taken against corruption within a country: First, the basic institution of good governance needs to be strengthened. Secondly, the capacity and integrity of enforcement need to be enhanced. Third, People should be educated if they are educated they would be able to know their rights and relevant laws. If people are educated, there shall be no chance for a corrupt public servant to make them fool and ask for bribes to get work done which falls their citizenship right.
- ❖ Government alone is not capable to ensure development of economic life for all and it is perceived that expansion of private sector investment will help to bridge the gap in required resources and services. In the recent years the growth of private and not for profit. NGO sector constitute an important share in economic development .Therefore,

the Govt. should take necessary steps to promote public private partnership (PPP) and increase NGO involvement in providing primary and community based economic services. In addition, regulations should be strengthened to ensure quality, standard and accountability of both public and private and voluntary sectors in operating services.

Conclusion

In the light of the findings of this study, it can be fairly argued that Bangladesh faces a lot of challenges in its economic condition as well as economic development. These challenges must be resolved in order to improve the existing economic condition, so that the disadvantaged and vulnerable dwellers of border area can get better access to basic economic services, a modern urban development, a sound environment and a strong and happy nation. Finally, it can be said that everybody should have to pay attention towards the economy and economic life of the border dwellers. So that peace, tranquility, and prosperity can usher in the border to strengthen the country as a whole. Definitely, a strong and prosperous economic life of border dwellers means a part of strong and happy nation. And it has a great impact on the whole economic system of Bangladesh.

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