

Assessing Livelihood Capitals on Vashantek Slum and its Impact on Adjacent Communities

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Abstract: Livelihoods are people's pattern of living or practices that involve the use of resources to support the essential needs of the household. According to the Sustainable Livelihood Framework provided by UK's Department for International Development (DFID), there are five capitals of livelihood defined as the 'livelihood assets' which influences people in every aspect of life from their household level. The five capitals of livelihood include- human capital, physical capital, financial capital, social capital and natural capital. The livelihood practices of the low income people who live in the slums are immensely influenced by these 5 capitals; and such livelihood condition also impacts its adjacent communities as well. This study especially focuses on the case of Vashantek slum of Dhaka city in order to provide a precise understanding of the livelihood capitals possessed by the slum households. This research tries to find out the availability and accessibility of the five livelihood capitals on Vashantek slum. This study also tries to demonstrate how the livelihood activities of slum people are affecting the surrounding high-class and middle-class communities. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been obtained from field survey to conduct the research. The collected data and information are analyzed through statistical, narrative and descriptive analysis methods and finally an assessment has been represented through grounded-theory approach. This study shows a very vulnerable condition of the slum livelihood; and the availability and accessibility of livelihood capitals are not sufficient among the slum neighborhoods. Sustainable livelihood framework (SLF) can broadly be applied and experimented here for the improvement of the livelihood capitals of Vashantek slum and its surroundings. Based on the findings, this research recommends some short-term and long-term strategies along-with every stakeholder's role to improve the condition of this slum-livelihood.

Keywords: Livelihood capitals, Sustainable livelihood framework, Vulnerability, Urban slum.

Introduction

Bangladesh, a country in South Asia on the coast of Bay of Bengal is now one of the fastest expanding economies today. Slum areas are spreading randomly in Bangladesh's megacities like Dhaka as the urban population is growing rapidly (General Economics Division, 2018). Although Bangladesh has made some progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the "Sustainable Development Report 2020" (Sachs et al., 2020), making urban areas and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (as stated under the SDG 11) continues to be a significant challenge for Bangladesh. With about 531,000 people per square mile, these slums remarkably occupy

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almost 40% of the city's total population although taking up only 5.1 percent of the city's total territory (CUS NIPORT & Measure Evaluation, 2006). Due to this overpopulation issue and the growth of the slums, the basic livelihood needs are hard to meet for the people of Dhaka city; especially for the people living in slums. The slum-dwellers generally lead a miserable life to cope with Dhaka city's high living cost. Sustainable Livelihood Framework provided by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) which is mostly prioritized by human geographers and urban researchers, identified 5 capitals of livelihood as 'livelihood assets'. Livelihood assets refer to the various resources and capabilities that individuals, households, and communities possess, including human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital, and financial capital (Ellis, 2000). These assets influence people in every aspect of life from their household level. The livelihood capital's accumulation and improvement of the livelihood assets of the poor helps transitions of coming out of poverty and upward mobility (Caroline et al, 2006). One of the biggest challenges for poor households to start livelihood activities is a lack of these capitals. Improved livelihood outcomes are a result of improved livelihood assets, and vice versa (Nair, 2007). The livelihood capitals have a major impact on the livelihood activities of low-income households and its surrounding communities. Higher capitals for their means of subsistence also increase the stability of their livelihood activities. The more access people have towards livelihood capitals on a community, the more developed the community is. From this ground the 5 livelihood capitals are considered as the prime factor or most influential element for the development of a community.

For poor households, the availability and accessibility of livelihood capitals support in the progression of their livelihood activities. The condition of these capitals of livelihood will determine how developed the outcomes of livelihood will be (Nusrat et al, 2023). The slum households' ability to manage their livelihood activities effectively and efficiently will be supported by their access to formal credit, information, roads, common resources, endowments and subsidies, markets, skills, and social networks. This study tries to uncover the role that livelihood capitals play in the development of low-income households. The primary goal of this research is to investigate the livelihood status of the slum residents and how it affects its surrounding communities. All the investigations are based on the five basic capitals or assets of livelihood. The outcome might help to improve the current vulnerable situation of the slum people.

Aim and Objectives

To overcome the livelihood problems faced by the slum households of Dhaka city, proper researches and strong initiatives should be taken under consideration. The specific aim of this study is to analyze the conditions of livelihood capitals and how these capitals are affecting the livelihood situations of slum dwellers as well as their surrounding areas; which can be useful for planning proper livelihood programs on such low income community and similar communities like that. Specifically, the study has been conducted over Vashantek slum area of Dhaka city as a huge number of low income households reside there who are deprived of basic livelihood facilities. The specific objectives of this research are-

- a) To assess the availability and accessibility of five livelihood capitals among the households in a low-income settlement area;
- b) To evaluate the impacts of a low-income community on its adjacent high and middle-income areas;

c) To recommend some ways of improving the livelihood capitals on the slum area.

The fundamental material and intangible assets that people own, determine the beginning of livelihoods and the capacity to pursue various livelihood approaches. The condition of the livelihoods and the ability to run different livelihood strategies depend on the basic assets that people have. The access and availability to the five livelihood capitals in the livelihood would help to run the livelihood activities successfully. The first and foremost objective of this research is to explore the availability and accessibility of five livelihood capitals on the households of Vashantek slum area which can further be applicable for similar low-income households like that. The next objective is to evaluate the impact of such livelihood activities on surrounding high-class and middle-class communities. Every Stakeholder has some specific roles to improve the condition of such low-income community's livelihood. This objective will try to identify the ways of improving the livelihood conditions of people living in urban slums and low-income communities like that.

Study Area

Vashantek slum has been selected as the study site of this research. The absolute Location of this area is $23^{\circ}48'20.0''\text{N}$ $90^{\circ}23'20.3''\text{E}$. The relative location of vashantek slum is it is located under Vashantek thana of Dhaka district, beside Vashantek Govt. college and surrounded by Mirpur 13, Mirpur 14, Kochukhet and Mirpur Cantonment. Beside this slum an internationally standard high-income residential community has been developed recently, named 'Bijoy Rakeen City'. This slum is under ward number 15 of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). The Total population of the slum is around 31 000 or about 5500 households (According to BMJ Journals), though there are some different opinions from different journals or researches. The entire Vashantek slum is geographically divided into four subdivisions.

The living conditions in that slum neighborhood are unhealthy. There are little opportunities for natural light and air in the area's packed homes, narrow streets, and small dwellings. There are no basic amenities like playgrounds, open communal areas, or road access. There, a house of one or two bedrooms is formed, and a cluster is

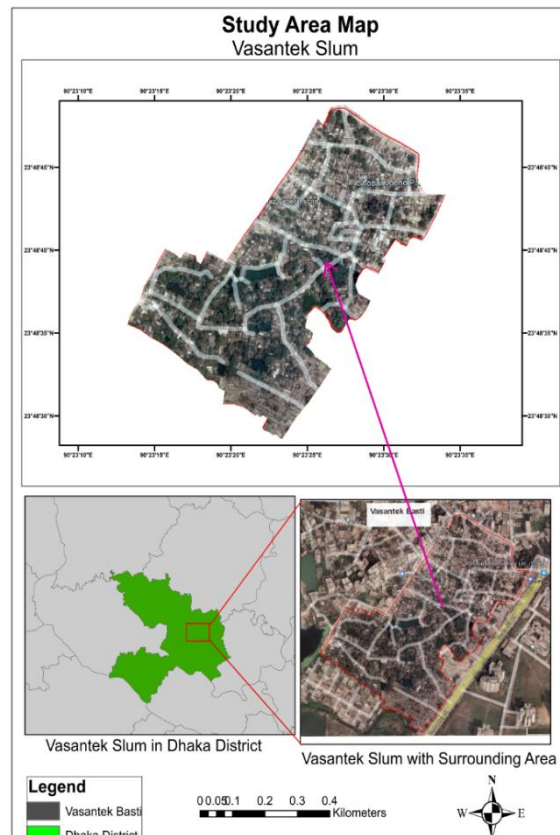


Figure: Study Area Map of Vashantek Slum (by author)

made up of these houses. Each cluster has a shared kitchen and bathroom that function as a common service facility. The majority of the houses are one stories, although there are also some two stories. Brick and other building materials like bamboo and C.I. sheet have been used to construct the majority of homes. As part of the community and sanitation development program, the NGOs donated certain elementary schools and public toilets. Although they offer a variety of service supports to the residents of Dhaka city, the Vashantek slum residents are currently leading an unhealthy and inferior lifestyle. The overpopulation rate and haphazard settlements creates the poor livelihood conditions among the slum dwellers of Vashantek area which puts adverse environmental, social and other adverse impacts on the neighborhood communities. The unplanned government interventions and other Non-Governmental Organization activities are not sufficient to improve the livelihood quality of people. Eventually this area has been selected as study site due to the diverse (most people live in a miserable way) livelihood conditions of this slum dwellers; and the area surrounding it has an immense impact due to the poor livelihood situation of the slum.

Methodology:

Data Collection Methods

In the overall methodology of this research, data collection is the first phase and the result or outcome is the final phase. Among the procedures; observation, in-depth interview, questionnaire survey and focus group discussion (FGD) has been selected as the data collection tools for obtaining primary data. For secondary data; several reports, journals, articles and literatures has been reviewed to get secondary information. Some survey based information of previous times has also been used for analysis purpose. Considering the theoretical stance, snowball sampling procedure has been chosen for this study because this process would best be able to supply the necessary data and information to achieve the research goal. In this sampling procedure, the purpose was to ensure the inclusion of different groups of slum dwellers including gender balance along with different age, sex, social status and disability.

The quantitative data were collected through a questionnaire survey among around 100 respondents, where the information of their socio-demographic data was included along with several variables and parameters of five livelihood capitals. 5 FGDs and 15 key informant interviews were conducted to assess livelihood activity as well as the stakeholders' role and the contribution and strategies taken by them.

Data Analysis Methods:

Statistical Analysis: In this research, statistical analysis has been used to assess quantitative data and produce graphs on different socio-economic condition as well as some basic information about livelihood capitals of Vashantek slum household.

Descriptive Analysis: Descriptive analysis has been used in this research to assist in quantitative data acquisition and to measure how vulnerable and lag behind the Vashantek slum residents are from the aspect of availability and accessibility of five livelihood capitals on the Slum area.

Narrative Analysis: The livelihood activities and the conditions of livelihood capitals along with their impact has been analyzed here through analyzing narratives of different stakeholders such as the slum dwellers, people of surrounding communities and the development workers.

Grounded Theory Approach: Grounded theory approach is basically a bottom-up approach

where a theory is provided by the author himself based on the ground reality. Grounded theory was used to analyze the field data in this research, particularly the data from the FGD and in-depth interviews.

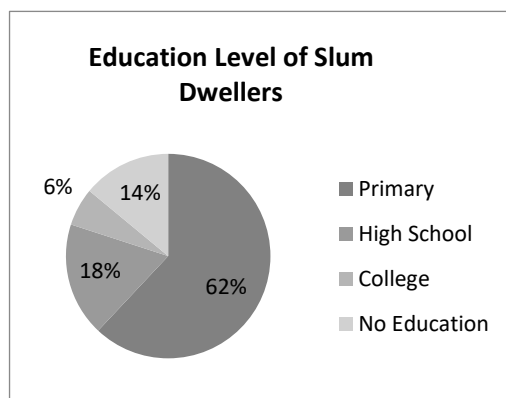
Findings on Livelihood Capitals

Human capital

Human capital is the term used to describe the kind and quantity of labor a household has access to. Human qualities and properties, such as excellent health, skills, talent, knowledge, abilities, and household members' education, are the assets that make this labor possible (Ellis, 1999, 2000). By making investments in education and training, one can develop the human capital necessary to pursue one or many careers and earn money. Being healthy and free of illnesses or other serious health issues increases the effectiveness of labor as a human resource (Ellis, 2000).

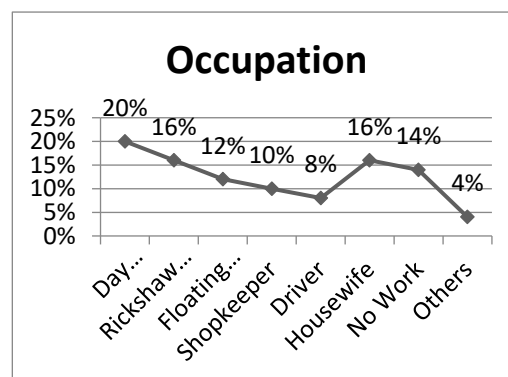
Human capitals state on Vashantek slum area is not satisfactory because most of the people are not getting the opportunity of education, employment and other skill development scopes. This is the main reason why they are still not able to pursue a better livelihood quality. Based on the data from field survey; a picture on human capital of the study area can be visualized though using some parameters of measurement. Education level of respondents, occupation, total working hour (which includes a main job as well as any other optional job if the respondent is involved with), technical skills or any other skills that help to earn money or other means of livelihood. This capital also includes any kind of health problem, any injuries or diseases due to work, ability to work, common hazards or disaster of that area and includes people with disabilities too. Household or land ownership status, number of employed member in any family- these were also considered as the criteria to determine human capital of the study area. From the survey it has been found that; only 6% people got the opportunity to study in the college level. 18% people went to high school and then left education, and 62% people left education just on the primary level.

They left school because they had to engage themselves in work to contribute in family income. 14% people among the respondents didn't even have the opportunity to go to school in their lifetime. The education level percentage of the respondents has been shown



on the represented graph. On the basis of educational quality, diverse occupational people

Graph 1: Percentage of Education level of Vashantek slum People



Graph 2: Occupation of Slum Dwellers of Vashantek Area

are found among the respondents on the study area. There were 20% day-laborer, 16% rickshaw-puller, 12% floating seller, 10% shopkeepers, 8% drivers (who drives cars of the adjacent high-income communities), 16% respondents were housewife. 4% people were engaged in other works and 14% people are found who works nothing and just roams around the slum; sometimes searches for work.

Another parameter of human capital was working hour. Some variety is found in response of working hours, only a few people works 12 hours daily, others work 8 or 9 hours generally, along with some other people who work 10 hours daily. While asking about other skills including technical or anything that helps to earn, the response was quite negative. The reason behind this mainly is there are no training centers on the slum area and people are not getting the opportunity to make themselves skilled. Only 6% persons know how to operate computer and 22% people know sewing among the participants of the questionnaire survey. Another parameter of human capital was number of employed household member

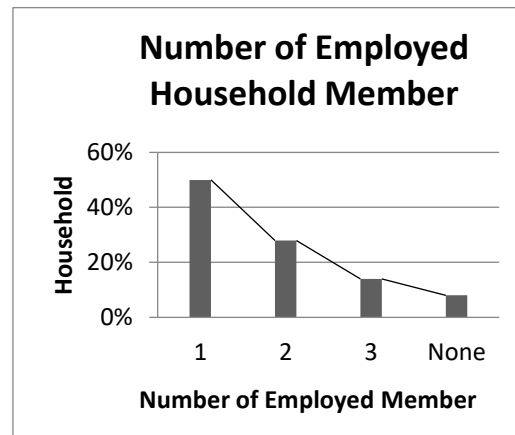
which is shown on the graph. Through the survey, it has been found that there are 50% families with only 1 earning member, 28% families with 2 earning members and 14% families with 3 earning members. It was also found that there were 8% families where no member is earning due to several reasons and they are leading their livelihood from previous savings or from the help and support from other households of the slum.

It is evident that vashantek slum area is vulnerable from the aspect of human capital and the condition of this capital need to be improved by several measures and strategies so that they can get the opportunity to educate themselves, make themselves skilled and get the proper opportunity of employment.

Physical capital

Physical capital is made up of material and physical assets that are produced through economic production processes (Ellis, 2000). In other words, physical capital is a product of human activity. Infrastructure at the local level comprises things like roads, water supply, power, clinics, and hospitals. It also includes things like schools and irrigation canals. Physical assets that can be converted into individual resources at the household level include housing, livestock, basic production technologies (such as machinery, equipment, and tools), and other personal or household property (Scoones, 1998; Ellis, 2000). Physical assets can be thought of as productive items that will provide production in the future (Ellis, 2000).

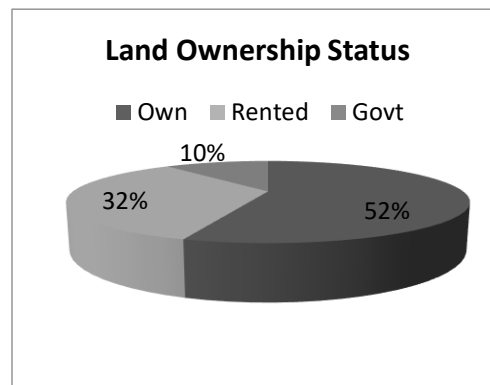
Availability and accessibility of physical capital is determined by the materialistic facilities available on the household or on the community. In this research some parameters have



Graph 3: Employed Member in Households of Vashantek Slum

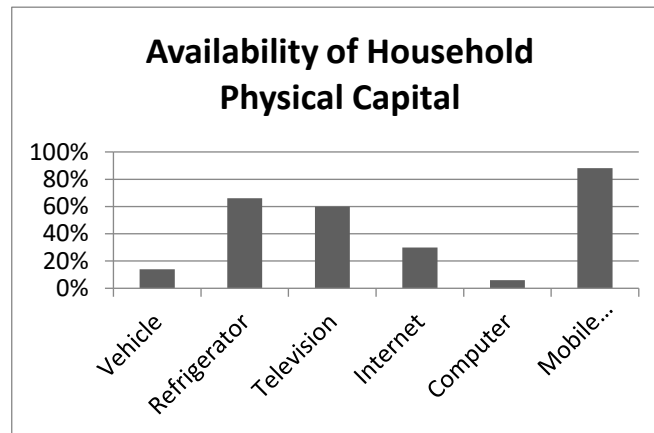
been taken to investigate the physical capitals of Vashantek slum area. The main parameters were electricity availability, freshwater supply, use of solar panel, house construction materials, number of storey of houses, livestock availability of households and other issues related to this. Some other kinds of components were also considered such as access to sanitation system, access to drainage system, kitchen facility along with the source of energy for cooking. Household materials are also considered as household physical capitals. Such capitals include vehicle, refrigerator, television, internet, computer, radio, telephone or mobile phone and own stove for cooking. Community facilities for slum residents are also included as physical capital parameter. Among them, number of educational institutions, number of religious institutions, facility of hospital and clinics, access to markets, availability of grocery shops, condition of roads and number of training centers for slum dwellers are mention worthy.

The three categories of physical capital data were collected mainly from questionnaire survey and interview session. From the survey it has been evident that though electricity is available on the slum but water scarcity is a big concern. Most of the households of the slum are facing this problem because water supply from DWASA (Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) is only supplying water on night. That is why people store water on the night and uses it on day time. House construction material is generally tin with cemented floor in most of the cases. 66% households are found with such type of houses. 22% houses are found which is made of tin and floor is clay made; and 12% houses are found as brick built houses. According to the observation, almost 90% households were 1 storied house and 2 storied houses are only 10%. When considering land ownership status, it has been found that most of the houses are built on own land but the number of rented houses are increasing with days. From this graph it is evident that 52% households live in their own land, 32% on rented houses. Government provided 10% houses for the people of Vashantek slum. Most of the house clusters have access to toilet and bathroom as their common facilities. Besides some NGOs have built some public toilets for general slum residents; people use it on a frequent basis. But the drainage system is found very poor of the area, due to this reason urban flood or waterlogging occurs on the monsoon when heavy rainfall takes place. The cooking material is generally a clay-made stove in most of the houses, also a good number of households use electric heater nowadays. 58% families uses clay made stove and 28% families use electric heater. There are also 14% families who use gas cylinder for cooking. Among household assets, though people doesn't have a strong internet facility or computer as an available asset, but most of the people use mobile phones on the slum. Most of the families have refrigerator and television as well. 14% families have own vehicle like rickshaw, van etc. 66% families have refrigerator and 60% families have television. Among the respondents, 88% people have mobile phones; though only 6% people have computer and it is basically for their business purpose and



Graph 4: Land Ownership Status of Vashantek Slum People

only 15% respondents have own internet connection. One significant problem is that there are no training centers found on the slum for any kind of skill development of the residents. A few schools are found which are managed by several NGOs. Madrashas and mosques were also found on the study area. Nearest hospital is of almost 15-20 minutes distant from the slum, it is because high class and middle class communities like 'Bijoy Rakeen City' (an international standard residential project) and Dhaka Cantonment area surrounds the slum. Condition of roads are not up to the marks, the roads are too much narrow and congested so as the households are. People have to go to market on Mirpur area as it is the nearest market from the slum. Some grocery shops are seen on the slum area and floating sellers are also seen to sell commodities on their vans.



Graph 5: Physical Capital Availability on the Households of Vashantek Slum

From the above discussion it is evident that, though some physical assets are seen on the study area as it is nearest to an urban center and surrounds by high-income and middle-income communities, still these are not nearly enough for the slum people. Other facilities of physical infrastructures are not actually up to the mark. These sectors of livelihood need much development on Vashantek slum area.

4.1.3 Financial capital

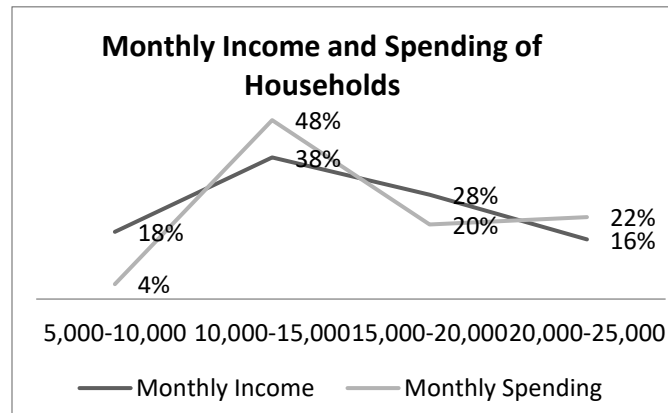
The stock of money that a household has access to, including cash, credit/debt, savings, and other economic assets, is known as financial capital (Chambers, 1989; Ellis, 2000). It is important to note that neither loans nor savings are capital sources that are directly productive. They are responsible for their place in household asset portfolios due to their liquidity and ability to be converted into other types of capital or used for immediate consumption (Ellis, 2000).

From the field survey on Vashantek slum, an unsatisfying state of financial capital have been found among the slum residents. Generally, their expenditure gets higher than their earning; due to this reason most of them have entered into the cycle of loans and now unable to drag themselves out of the cycle. Financial capital is determined based on people's access to credit and finance and their income and savings rate. In this research, some criteria has been considered to determine financial capital which are- bank account, monthly income and monthly spending, loans, saving group system, investments and facility of mobile banking. Any remittances received in a family are also counted as financial capital parameters. From the survey data, the remarkable finding is most of the people's monthly spending is higher than their monthly income. Because of this, people have to take loans and eventually cannot pay them off timely. Thus the loans increase,

eventually the slum dwellers cannot get themselves out of this loan cycle and constantly push themselves on the vicious cycle of poverty. As the spending is higher than income, that is why they cannot make any savings, rather they have to take loans every month and cannot pay these off. The graph shows that most of the people's monthly income rate is less than their monthly spending rate. Among the participants, the range of income is 5,000-

10,000 for 18% people, 11,000- 15,000 for 38% people; so most of the respondents are in this range. 28% people have the range of income of 15,000-20,000 and 16% people have the range of 20,000-25,000. But the range of spending is more for the same respondents. 22% respondents are found with monthly spending nearly 25,000 taka; 52% people are with nearly 20,000 taka and 20% people are found who can lead their life within 15,000 taka range. Due to this

dissimilarities between income and spending, the loan system is increasing and people are bound to take loans. Almost 50% participants are on a loan but does not have the ability to pay this. From the survey it is also found that only 40% people have bank account, where 30% people use mobile banking. People generally don't practice saving group system. Only 4% respondents are found investing in other sectors beside their main income and 15% families get remittances as their family members are working abroad and sending expenses for the family. Previously male workers were seen to go abroad as labor but now-a-days women also tend to go to work as maids. From the situation of financial capital, it is visible that people are not earning enough amount of money to meet their household expenses and cannot cope themselves up with the market. This can be considered to be the main reason why their livelihood condition is deteriorating with days. To develop the financial capital of this slum, it is a huge necessity to work on proper financial planning and strategy for the residents of Vashantek slum.



Graph 6: Monthly Income and Spending of Vashantek slum Households

Social capital

The relationships between people, such as social networks and groups that people belong to, are examples of how social capital is embodied (Coleman, 1988; Ellis, 2000). Social networks, social claims, interpersonal connections, affiliations, and alliances all play a role in social capital. Being a part of a social group really makes cooperation simpler, which raises economic efficiency above what could be achieved by players operating alone. The majority of formulations include social networks, social support or reciprocity standards, and social trust as the three components of social capital (Coleman, 1988; Putnam, 1995; Portes, 1998; Ferlander, 2007).

Social capital is another concerning issue on the livelihood of Vashantek slum dwellers. The field data on Vashantek slum shows that though people are engaged in conflicts or clashes on a frequent basis, they also maintain reciprocity and social bonding among the neighbours. In this study the condition of social capital has been shown based on some parameters. The parameters include- bonding, bridging and linking condition; people's relation with neighbours, any clash or conflict with others of the community, influence of internet and women involvement in politics. The number of relatives of a respondent live outside the slum area- has also been considered as a parameter. Another important parameter was people's participation or affiliation with any social organization. Reciprocity and their feeling of security and trust on living in this area are also considered as social capital parameter, because a good number of people lives in the slums for many years. Most of the people said they feel safe living in this place for years, this is one important reason why they do not leave this slum. But the fear of eviction is one of the most concerning issue of living in the slum. Generally they are seen to maintain a good bonding with neighbours and other people of the community, but social conflicts and clashes are also a frequent incident among them. Societal crime, thievery, pickpockets are also frequent occurrence. Influence of internet is also increasing with days among slum residents because the rate of internet user is developing. Many women are seen to be involved with politics in recent times, which creates woman empowerment on this community. One mention worthy information was they do not maintain any social organization, peoples affiliation with such organizations are not seen on this slum. From the above data it can be said that people's affiliation with social organizations and proper strategy to engage people in sound cultural practice should be established.

Natural capital

Land, water, and biological assets are the resources offered by the natural environment. These resources can be used as sources of income to support people and communities (Ellis, 2000). Natural capital is a significant source of generating income, particularly for agricultural communities, and ensuring food security. As a resource, nature offers tangible means for housing, energy, and agricultural production. This viewpoint portrays nature primarily as a tool of production, a good for consumption, and a requirement for human health (Van Koppen, 2000).

The scarcity of natural capital is immensely found on the slums of urban area. The applicability of natural capital on Vashantek slum area is showing a shocking state of this capital because the field data demonstrates it very visible that people are not getting any natural resources to use in their livelihood practices. Mineral and natural resources are almost absent due to high population density and congestion of settlements. In the field survey, some parameters are taken based on the availability and accessibility of natural capital. The parameters for assessing natural capitals are- clean water resources, fallow land, wood and timber resources, bio-fuel resources, air and soil fertility, solar energy use and availability of any mineral resources. Availability of open recreational space is another parameter for determining natural capitals. According to these parameters the current situation of natural capital on Vashantek slum shows a negative state in almost every parameter. No clean water resources have been observed on the Vashantek slum area. Fallow land is also not seen through observation, and people's feedback regarding to this

was negative as well. Wood and timber resources and bio-fuel resources are also not available on Vashantek slum area. People generally buy fuel for their cooking purpose. Use of solar energy is also not found as no solar panel was seen on the slum and people narrated that they do not use solar panels. Eventually no mineral resources were found on the study site and it shows the devastating situation of the slums environment. Air quality and soil fertility are also not up to the mark due to the congestion and gathering of so many people in one place and also because of the excessive use of these resources. Though some NGOs have made some recreational spaces for children, they are seen as of no use now and are not enough to meet the needs as well.

The above situation of natural capital indicates the devastation and scarcity of natural resources on Vashantek slum area. The situation is getting worse day by day. The time is not so far when this slum will turn into an unworthy place to live. Due to this very reason, every stakeholder should come forward to make proper use of resources and to develop an eligible strategy planning on the improvement of natural capital resources.

Impact of Vashantek Slum on Adjacent Areas:

High Income Community: Rakeen City and Mirpur Cantonment

Rakeen city is a newly developed internationally standard residential project situated just beside the Vashantek slum area and has been partially influenced by Vashantek slum and its residents. The effects might be both positive and negative, but the positive effect seems to be very little compared to the negative ones. Generally, the adverse effect appears to be noticeable for high income communities and positive effect is mostly seen for the slum community. This high-class areas are adversely affected by the drainage system as the drains are connected among Vashantek slum and Rakeen city. A small water body divides the area and the slum which is used as drainage dumping system for both the area. Besides, Mirpur Cantonment is another high class area situated beside vashanteek slum. This area is mostly clean and with sound environmental condition. But this area is affected by the slum because of the clumsy environmental condition created by slum dwellers, and the congestion of settlements also affect the good environment of Mirpur Cantonment. Basically, this two high-income areas are affected broadly in a negative way from the perspective of social and natural capital. As drainage system is connected, it makes some evidence of affecting from the physical capital aspects too. As this two high-class areas are surrounded by the slum and low-income settlements, that's why they are not getting any fallow land surrounding their community or any natural or mineral resource for their use. On the other side, slum dwellers are getting benefitted from a few aspect, such as- female members of the slum households generally work as maids on the houses of cantonment quarters and Bijoy Rakeen city. This creates a means of earning for the poor people and increases their scope for accessing financial capital. People of the slum are also getting the opportunity to work as the commodity seller for high class community and a good number of people work on the markets and shops that have grown to facilitate the people of Rakeen city and Mirpur Cantonment. That creates the employment opportunity for people and increases the level of financial capital. This is how both the communities are being affected by the other community. Somewhat the affect is positive for the slum residents and adverse for the high-income residents, though they have a little range of positive impact as well.

Middle Income Community: Kochukhet and Mirpur 14

Surrounding middle income community and Vashantek slum has some influential connection among each other; most of the people are middle class in the surrounding area such as Mirpur 14, Mirpur 13 and Kochukhet area. Generally a person who does not have a very high income range, comes to this area as the rent of houses beside the slum areas is not too high. This is the reason why a lot of middle income people reside here. Middle income communities are also getting impacted through the slum from several aspects which can be both adverse and beneficial. Sometimes it gets evident that slum people get engaged in conflict or clashing with the local people. Social crime activities are also seen among the slum dwellers which affects the surrounding middle income community. A huge number of thieves and pickpockets roam around the middle income community due to the areas low security system as it is not so highly facilitated as Bijoy Rakeen city and Mirpur Cantonment. Such incidents create hampering on the livelihood activities of the middle-class community. These areas also get benefitted from some aspects such as floating sellers or other commodity sellers who live in the slum area come to sell their goods in this area at a low range of price. Female worker as household maid is also available from slum residents. Day labourers for any kind of work are also available, as the slum people agrees to work at a cheaper rate. Though having benefits, middle income communities are getting negatively affected through this slum on the issues of social security and other aspects of livelihood capitals.

The slum has an immense affect on the adjacent high-income areas like Bijoy Rakeen city and Mirpur cantonment as well as middle-income communities like Kochukhet and Mirpur 14. Though they have a reciprocal relationship with the slum and its dwellers, still the adverse effects of this slum are dominating.

Discussion on the Research Findings

The overall findings of the research illustrate the livelihood activity of slum dwellers and the situation of livelihood capitals along with its impact on adjacent areas of Vashantek slum. This research reveals that slum households are on a very vulnerable condition from every aspect of livelihood and the availability and accessibility of livelihood capitals are not sufficient among the slum neighbourhoods. Livelihood capitals are the livelihood assets, which has been determined based on some parameters in this study. Human capital comprises health, education, nutrition, capacity to work, knowledge and skills, capacity to adapt; which are merely seen on the slum households. In terms of human capital, the status of this slum is very low. Considering education and skill or other qualifications, the residents of the slum are quite backward. By evaluating the results obtained in the sector of physical capital, it can be assumed that; although some household physical assets among the residents of Vasantek slum is increasing day by day, still the amount of resources people have, is very insufficient to take steps towards proper development and progress. On the aspects of financial capital; due to the lack of proper employment opportunities and poverty issues, the expenditure of the people is now remarkably higher than their little amount of income, as a result of that people are getting burdened with debt day by day and cannot get out of the vicious cycle of poverty. Apart from this, the situation of social capital in the research area can be said to be very fragile as incidents of violence and conflict along with various social crimes have become regular. Lastly, the natural capital situation is not good

at all, because in the slum area natural or mineral resources, recreational facilities or healthy environmental conditions readily not available. Besides, this kind of lifestyle of Vashantek slum is also affecting the surrounding upper and middle class areas. Although some positive effects are found, in most cases the effects are mainly negative. On Vashantek slum, all the above capitals are nearly unavailable and almost inaccessible. Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) can broadly be applied and experimented here for the improvement of the livelihood capitals on Vashantek slum and its surroundings.

Recommendations to Improve Livelihood Capital Situations

A comprehensive and integrated strategy is needed to address Bangladesh's challenges with sustainable urban development. This includes creating and implementing comprehensive urban plans that take into account factors like projected population growth, land use patterns, infrastructure needs, and environmental concerns.

The involvement of local government agencies, such as City Corporations and Paurashavas, in development projects appears to be inadequate in the Vashantek slum. Additionally, there is a lack of coordination and monitoring in the interventions. Various groups of stakeholders lack the coordination with one another on development-related initiatives. A number of livelihood strategies are listed in the DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework to ensure that poor households have access and availability of livelihood capitals. A few examples of livelihood strategies include migration, the employment of non-agricultural jobs, and varied patterns of subsistence. Furthermore, Davies (1993; 1996) distinguishes between two categories of livelihood strategies: adaptive strategies and coping procedures. While coping techniques deal with a crisis in the short term, adaptive strategies are thought to be more important since they enable people to deal with recurrent crises throughout time, reducing their risk of disaster. Ellis (2000) suggests numerous approaches to improve adaptive strategies, such as diversifying sources of revenue, adding assets, and adjusting the asset mix. These comprehensive, long-term strategies will ultimately result in a sustainable way of life, which is acknowledged as the livelihood outcome of a particular community. These long-term initiatives involve a number of stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, NGOs, social organizations, and the actual residents of slum areas.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are also includes in this aspect because SDG generally works on the sustainability of livelihoods. Among 17 SDG goals, 7 of them relates to this livelihood planning and strategies for slum households directly. In SDG 11, which is Sustainable Cities and Communities; has some specific targets which involve the sustainable development of slums specifically. These targets illustrate the management of proper environmental condition, safe social environment, drainage and sanitation facility and opportunities of education and employment for both men and women. Some other goals which are related to the sustainable livelihood of slum dwellers are- eliminate poverty, quality education, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth and; peace, justice and string institution. The implementation of these goals will bring a long-term sustainability of slum resident's livelihood as well as ensure the proper availability and accessibility of five livelihood capitals on both Vashantek slum households and its surrounding communities.

Conclusion:

The livelihood capitals have a major impact on the livelihood activities that low-income households engage in livelihood activities. The research states that it is essential to support slum households in expanding their livelihood status. The access that urban slum households have to formal credit, knowledge, markets, skills, social networks, common resources, endowments and subsidies, and transportation will all help them conduct their livelihood activities more effectively and efficiently. The impact that livelihood capitals have on low-income households of Vashantek slum and on the surrounding communities of the slum was revealed in this study. The findings of this research suggest that expanding these capitals for livelihood—for example, by engaging in increased sources of income or securing credit—can increase the incomes of slum households of Vashantek. The study recommends households to build relationships with their neighbors in order to get assistance, exchange resources for livelihood activities, and acquire access to shared property resources. In order to improve all five livelihood capitals and ensure their accessibility and availability, policymakers, professionals, and development workers of the government, development organizations and non-governmental organizations would gain ideas from this study on how to manage livelihood activities for poor households. This study may open doors for additional research on livelihood issues associated with development of livelihood assets of capitals, especially in regard to the slums of Dhaka city.

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