

Report on

**Situation Analysis to understand the needs and challenges of the urban migrant women at
Gazipur of P.A.C.E at Community Project**

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Executive Summary

CARE Bangladesh has been implementing Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E) at Community Project since April 2014 to till now funded by Gap Inc. The overall objective of the project is to have a positive impact in the lives of marginalized urban female migrant workers.

As a part of the activity, P.A.C.E at Community Project is working to test/pilot three core P.A.C.E modules in a community setting, thus improving living and working conditions of women in urban areas of Gazipur. Through the 20 learning centers urban migrant women are receiving the P.A.C.E session. P.A.C.E at Community project also set its activities for create an enabling environment for improving living and working conditions of urban migrant women.

The aim of this report provides the overall situation of the six working areas in Gazipur city corporation and Tongi. The report also provides the underlying issues which are the influencing factors for improving living and working condition of urban migrant worker. The report also provides information on the condition of services provided by the different government agencies, non government organization. The report also shed light on the socio economic condition of the population of the working area.

Introduction

Bangladesh's urban population has been growing at a yearly average rate of 6 percent since independence. (World Bank 2007) Urbanization worldwide has been found to be an effective engine of economic growth and socio-cultural development. In pure economic terms, urbanization contributes significantly to the national economy. Even in Bangladesh (at 28 percent urban), this sector contributes to more than 60 percent of the GDP. This has grown from as low as 25 percent in 1972-73 and 45 percent in 1995-96. (Prof Nazrul Islam). Dhaka is growing rapidly --between 1995 and 2000, the city grew at an average rate of 4.24 percent per year. Much of its growth stems from migration, with 46 percent of its 1991 population born outside the metro area (World Bank 2007). The inadequate services and worsening environmental conditions disproportionately affect the poor, many of whom live in slums.

Urbanization and migration

Research shows that migration is one of the major contributors to urban growth in Bangladesh (Afsar 2003). According to BBS report lifetime internal migration has increased significantly (BBS 2000). Frequent exposure to natural disasters makes coastal people often bound to migrate in search of secure lives and livelihoods. (Akhter) . It has attracted substantial industrial investments, particularly in the Readymade Garment (RMG) industry, which has created demand for workers and services. Mahmud and Kabeer (2004) cited in their study that the urban manufacturing sector was a major factor behind the changing labour force participation. Between 1974 and 1985-86 the percentage of working women in manufacturing rose from 4 to 55 percent, while urban female labour force participation rose from around 12 percent in 1983-84 to 20.5 percent in 1995-96. In the Bangladesh context Mahmud and Kabeer (2004) argue that not only was women pushed into employment by worsening economic conditions, they also responded to new economic opportunities and were able to express their pent up demand for paid work. Researchers also shown that among these women migrants are adolescent girls and young adults(Afsar 2003,Rashid 2013).

Increased slum settlements in western and eastern periphery of Dhaka city indicate physical manifestation of growing urban poverty. (Akhter) This fast urbanization is putting pressure on the city's limited land, an already fragile environment, and weak urban services. Many migrants coming to Dhaka end up in slums where living conditions are particularly grim. The dramatic growth of Dhaka has generated a number of problems including providing adequate water-supply, sanitation and basic services, the management of garbage, the increasing risk of criminality and violence, and the deterioration of environmental conditions.

Inadequate infrastructural facilities

The main problems that migrants face lack of low cost housing, physical insecurity, skewed distribution of the delivery of basic services and subsequent health problems. Also, poor physical environment with non-existent solid waste disposal system is very common phenomenon in slum areas. (Akhter)

Poor water and sanitation systems

The health and environmental risks associated with poor access to water and sanitation services, which determine health and environmental safety, are also major concerns for slum dwellers.

Nearly three-quarters of slum dwellers depend largely on outside water taps, which are shared by 5-6 families. To fetch water for drinking and cooking, a female slum resident must travel an average distance of 69 m daily, adding to her workload and affecting her health and productivity. Nearly 90% of the slum dwellers use hanging and other types of non-sanitary toilets in Dhaka city. (World Bank 2007).

Socio-cultural changes

While economic imperatives have indeed made many women transcend traditional roles, the social norms and ideologies governing the gender-based division of labour and space and the subordinate position of women as gender have generally remained intact. (Murayama, M) However Sultan (2006) in her report suggested that the women are challenging socio-cultural norms about what is acceptable for women, their role in the family and their subordinate role as income earners (with men being considered the main bread winners) and also proving that they can take decisions for example to migrate or to join a factory, with or without the support of their family members. As a result migrant female workers are faced with different challenges regarding their roles, responsibilities and even with their newly found identity both at their home and in the public place as well.

To overcome the existing negative attitudes about independent female labourers, and lack of low-cost housing or hostel facilities in Dhaka city, women workers live with members of the immediate or extended family. In the absence of any institutional support, the role of family members in providing childcare facilitates female employment outside the home (Afsar)

Violence against Women

In a report prepared for CPD Siddiqui (2003) begins the report by suggesting that women's workplace imbues both the public and the private places they inhabit thus exposing them to all sorts of different vulnerabilities leading to sexual harassment. Moreover she also suggests that women especially who belong to the working class have to negotiate with the culturally embedded and highly gendered codes of spatial use and respectability. In Bangladesh, all indicators point to a close relationship between increased sexual harassment, women's work participation and increased mobility/visibility. Siddiqui further noted that Industrial workers in Bangladesh are harassed on the streets because of the conditions of their work, even if when incidents of harassment occur outside the workplace. This notion is corroborated by Afsar (2003) that women are the major victims of deteriorating law and order and the resulting human rights violations. Lack of safe, affordable transportation, inexpensive one-stop treatment and medical facilities increases women's vulnerability.

Improving opportunities for the female migrant workers

A World Bank report (2007) argues that investments in education and training can raise productivity and increase the income earning potential of the poor. This report cited that vocational-technical training also remains very low relative to labor market needs. Chowdhury and Ullah (2010) in their study cited that increase in the level of workers' education contributes to a reduction in male-female wage differences and to the visible decline in the sexual harassments faced by the female workers in the work place (Kabir and Mahmud 2005). A report prepared for CEDAW conforms that education is crucial for workers especially possible migrants, to be informed, taking appropriate decisions and protect themselves.

Rationale

To facilitate improvements in the living and working conditions of Migrant worker's families, and to improve their positions both in the work and family context, CARE aims to create opportunities of development for migrant women. As part of the programme CARE Bangladesh has been implementing Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E) at Community Project since April 2014 to till now funded by Gap Inc.

With the support gained from this initiative, women will be better able to address their stress, negotiate their needs and demands with various stakeholders, gain access to knowledge and skills, and form important relationships. Women will be able to help their families improve their health, hygiene, and water and sanitation. In addition, women will employ more effective and positive coping strategies to support their families.

As a part of the activity, P.A.C.E at Community Project is working to test/pilot three core P.A.C.E modules in a community setting, thus improving living and working conditions of women in urban areas of Gazipur. Through the 20 learning centers urban migrant women are receiving the P.A.C.E session. P.A.C.E at Community project also set its activities for create an enabling environment for improving living and working conditions of urban migrant women.

Objective of the study

The purpose of this situation analysis is to identify the underlying issues which are the influencing factors for improving living and working condition of urban migrant worker.

Specific objectives:

1. Status of the public and private service providers of project area
2. Context analysis of project area
3. Socio economic status of the urban poor people specially women
4. Socio economic status of female migrant worker
5. Power dynamics of the respective community
6. The status of social capital within the community

Study Approach

CARE Bangladesh has conducted a situation analysis by Climate Changes Project working in the same area at Gazipur. Module review, area selection and activities have designed on the basis of that analysis.

Methodology

A triangulation of methods was applied for data collection. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources.

Site Selection

Informal settlements within the Gazipur City Corporation vary substantially within the periphery of the locality. A number of slums are housed on private land, while others are located on state-owned land (known as khasland). Six slums in two areas were selected for this situation analysis.

Data collection method

The survey team conducted door to door survey to collect information of the families residing in all six slums. Series of group discussion were held with civil society members, local elite bodies and also with the community people. To collect data from secondary sources formal meetings were held with relevant government officials.

Following the collection from six slums of the selected two areas, the assigned CARE team selected 650 women for piloting three core P.A.C.E modules. The CARE team selected the women based on the criteria mentioned below:

- Urban migrant women who are employed in the formal/informal sector
- Urban migrant women who are not currently employed but either have interest to work or are unable to work due to family responsibilities.

Findings

Context analysis of the project area

The Gazipur City Corporation was created in January 2013 and is composed of 57 wards drawn from most of the previous Gazipur Sadar Union and the entire former Tongi Municipality. 6 slums from Gazipur and Tongi area were selected for this study. They are Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par), Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par), Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti) In Tongi and Ershadnagar, Kalabagan, and Kunia, Borobari in Gazipur area.

Population of the communities (approximately)

Table 1: Areas Covered in the Survey

Sl.	Name of the area	Ward number	Number of family in the area (approximately)	area
1.	Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	13	1000	Gazipur
2.	Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)	12	5000	Gazipur
3.	Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	8	2600	Gazipur
4.	Ershadnagar	49	32000	Tongi
5.	Kalabagan	55	13000	Tongi
6.	Kunia, Borobari	36 and 37	10000	Tongi

The table below shows the approximate number of people living in the six working area.

Table 2- Male and female population of the working area

Sl.	Name of the slum	Male	Female	Children	Total
1.	Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	5100	4100	2350	11550
2.	Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)	4500	6800	3200	14500
3.	Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	6500	8000	3400	17900
4.	Ershadnagar	80000	100000	20000	200000
5.	Kalabagan	17000	14000	12000	43000
6.	Kunia, Borobari	8000	5200	3000	16200

Land ownership and types of household

In the working areas (6 slums in two areas) a large number of people live in a very small place. The houses are built in two different types of lands. One is the government lands (which are known as khas land) and other is privately own land where the land owner has built small rooms for renting. However Ershadnagar slum has different arrangement. It was initially built by the government to accommodate landless, homeless people. Initially people were given a piece of land with a hut built on it. Nowadays some land owners have sold their land to others. In some areas the initial owners have moved to other places and rented the houses.

Three types of houses are built in all these areas. One is brick building where the roof is made of CI sheet. Some houses are made of CI sheet only. Another type of rooms is built with CI sheet roof and walls made of thatched hay sheet.

Water and sanitation and waste disposal system

The data here shows that in all the working the community people do not have access to water from City Corporation. The people in community have arranged submersible pump for water supply. The situation of sanitation system is no better. In some areas there is no sanitation system. Even though in some areas there are sanitation systems however the drainage system is poor. All the pipes for sanitation are connected to open drains which pose health risks for the people living in these areas.

Table 3- Information on water supply, sanitation system and water disposal of the working area

Name of the area	Water supply	Sanitation system	Waste disposal
Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	No supply from city corporation	Open and hanging toilets. Drainage system	
Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)		No adequate drainage system sanitation system	No waste management system
Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	Not enough water supply	Sanitation and drainage system is not adequate	No waste management system
Ershadnagar	Water supply from submersible pump.	Toilet facilities is good but some of the lines go to the drain directly	There are some dustbins for waste disposal but people throw wastes near their house.
Kalabagan	Water supply from submersible pump	Toilet facilities is good but some of the lines go to the drain directly,	No waste management system, people throw wastes in the ponds. There is a drainage system but most of the time it logged due to wastes.
Kunia, Borobari	Have water supply		They have drainage system and waste management system

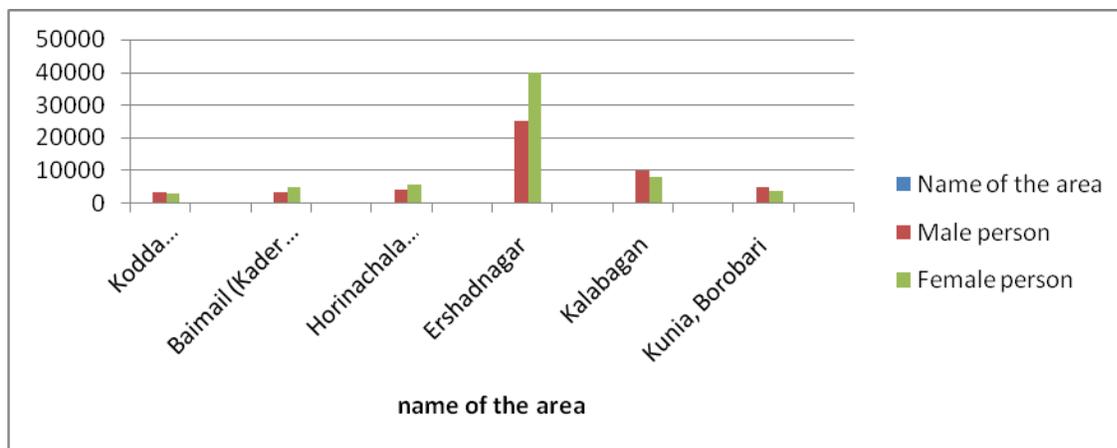
Socio economic status of the urban poor people specially women

Working population of the working areas

It is important to have an account of the working people of the working area. The data below shows the approximate numbers of working people. The data shows that the percentage of women involved in income generating work is higher than their male counterparts.

Table 4- Working population of the working areas

Sl.	Name of the area	Number of Working Population (approximately)			
		Male	Percentage of the total male population	Female	Percentage of the total female population
1.	Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	3500	68.2%	3250	79.26%
2.	Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)	3600	80%	5200	76.47%
3.	Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	4200	64.61%	5700	71.25%
4.	Ershadnagar	25000	31.25%	40000	40%
5.	Kalabagan	10000	58.82%	8000	57.14%
6.	Kunia, Borobari	5000	62.5%	4000	76.92%



Pic 1- The ration of male and female workers in the communities

Types of Occupation of the male and female members of the working areas

Even though data shows that women are involved more in income generating activities, however men who are working are involved in more diverse field of works than the women. Data shows that men are involved in both formal and informal sector. In the formal sector men are working in factory, hospital, telephone Company etc holding private jobs. Some are running their own businesses such as *jhut*(left over factory materials), fruits. Some are involved in more skilled profession such as driver, cobbler, barber, and blacksmith etc. others are earning as rickshaw puller, construction labourer and day labourer.

Table 5- Types of occupation of the male members of the community

Sl.	Name of the working area	Types of the occupation of the male members
1.	Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	Business (Left over of Factory materials, Brick field, Transportation), Private Job(Factory staff, Hospital staff, Telephone Company etc), Day Labnorer, Driver, Shopkeeper (grocery, Raw Materials), Barber, Cobbler, Fisherman, Blacksmith, Potter, Farmer, RMG worker
2.	Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)	Private Job, Shopkeeper, Cake seller (Pitha), tailors, Day Laborer, Driver, Barber, Cobbler, Blacksmith, Potter, RMG worker, Construction Worker, Teacher, Tea-stall etc.
3.	Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	Rickshaw Puller, Business, Shopkeeper, Cobbler, Garments Worker, Sweater Worker, Plastic Factory Workers
4.	Ershadnagar	Rickshaw Puller, Day laborer, Barber, Driver, Business, Shopkeeper, Cobbler, Garments Worker,

5.	Kalabagan	Rickshaw Puller, Day laborer, Barber, Small Business, Jute – Cotton Business, Shopkeeper, Cobbler, Garments Worker, Tailors
6.	Kunia, Borobari	Rickshaw Puller, Van Puller, Driver, Auto Driver, Day laborer, Barber, Small Business, Jute – Cotton Business, Shopkeeper, Garments Worker

On the other hand women are working in limited fields. Mostly women are involved as RMG workers. Others are selling *pithas*, working as construction labourer or are working from home. Women who are working from home are involved as boutique worker-doing embroideries, and tailors.

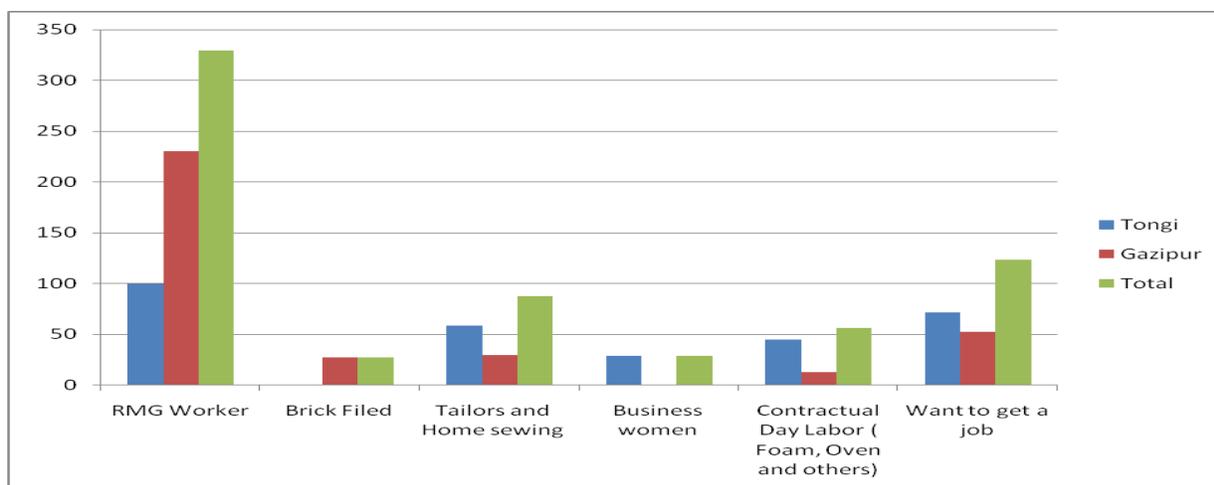
Table 6- Types of occupation of the female members of the community

Sl.	Name of the working area	Types of the occupation of the female members
1.	Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	RMG worker, Tailors, Cake Seller, Boutique worker, Home Based Firming
2.	Baimail (Kader Market, Pukur Par,)	RMG worker, Tailors, Cake Seller, Boutique worker, Teacher, Construction Worker
3.	Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	Cake Shop, Shopkeeper, Garments Worker, Sweater Worker
4.	Ershadnagar	Garment Worker, Household boutique and design, Embroidery, Day Laborer, Small business, Shopkeepers,
5.	Kalabagan	Garment Worker, Household Business, Embroidery, Day Laborer, Small business, Shopkeepers, Tailors
6.	Kunia, Borobari	Garment Worker, Small Business, Block, Boutique, Embroidery, Tailors

Among the P.A.C.E members women are mainly involved in Garments, brick field, tailoring, small business and as construction labour.

Table 7- Types of occupation of the P.A.C.E members

Occupation	Tongi	Gazipur	Total
RMG Worker	99	230	329
Brick Filed		27	27
Tailors and Home sewing	58	29	87
Business women	28		28
Contractual Day Labor (Foam, Oven and others)	44	12	56
Want to get a job	71	52	123
Total	300	350	650



Pic-2 Types of profession of P.A.C.E group members

Public and Private Service providers

The data shows that in the working areas there are services for ante natal care and immunization for children. However the community people have to go to different government and private hospitals for availing other services. The NGO health service providers also provide only ante natal checkups, post natal checkups and immunization for children.

In four of the six working areas there are government primary schools. In all areas there are schools run by NGOs. Credit programme of NGOs have operations in most area. Even though strong NGO activities are present in these areas however there is no organization who provide any sort of legal services to the community. Focus group discussion with P.A.C.E group members have shown that legal services regarding women's condition and position both in their families and in their working place is crucial.

Formal banking service is available in only one working area.

Name of the area	Health service provider	Education opportunities	NGO service provider	Legal service provider	Other
Kodda (Khoarpar, Kathalia Para, Kodda Nodir Par)	Shobuj Chata Clinic (health), City Medical College and Hospital (health),	BRAC School (Education),	Grameen Bank (credit), BRAC Bank, AASHA (Credit),		Dutch Bangla Bank
Baimail (Kader)	BRAC Satellite	Government Primary			

Name of the area	Health service provider	Education opportunities	NGO service provider	Legal service provider	Other
Market, Pukur Par,)	Clinic, Vaccination (TT)	School,			
Horinachala (Etkhola Basti, Horinachala Bosti, Shoytan Market Bosti)	BRAC Delivery Center, BRAC Clinic,		International Angel Association		
Ershadnagar	Jakat Board Shishu Hospital, , BRAC Delivery Centers, Marie Stopes	2 Govt. Primary Schools, 2 Private Schools	TDS		
Kalabagan		Primary School, UCEP School, Private Schools, BRAC	VERC,		
Kunia, Borobari	BRAC Delivery,	Government primary and high school and College	Shapla Cooperative, Jaago Foundation, Proshikkhon Sromik Shongha,		

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