

Child Criminalization at Slum Areas in Dhaka City

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh taking 65.7% boys and 34.3% girls using simple random sampling method. There were observed to have 77.8% daily conflicting between their parents tends themselves into various illicit deeds like (42.6%) drug abuse, (10.2%) hijacking and (32.4%) theft. Some 34.3% respondents were involved with different crime influenced by bad peer groups and 26.9% by dint of poverty coming from joint (59.3%) as well as nuclear families (40.7%). About 43.5% respondents get frustrated due to insufficient basic needs with 66.7% stopping study for poverty while 49.1% were illiterate fellows involved in criminalities keeping company with (64.8%) bad peers, (14.8%) hijackers and (10.2%) with the drug dealers and terrorists.

Keywords

Child Criminalization, Slum Areas, Dhaka City

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1. Background

Child is a kid between the stages of birth and puberty and generally refers to a minor, otherwise known as a person younger than the age of majority [1]. Child is a young up to 18 year's age according to the section 4 of in vogue Bangladeshi Child Act 2013. According to the ILO Child Labor Conventions and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989) Child means a person belongs to less than 18 Years of age [2]. In criminology, criminalization is the process in which behaviors and individuals are transformed into crime to form one a criminal [3]. Child criminalization is the process of doing illicit activities by a kid off up to 18 years of age. According to Penal Code of Bangladesh nothing will be considered as an offence which is committed by a child below 7 years, if the child no realizes the committing it will be considered unto 12 years [4]. Slum is a densely populated locality usually in urban areas marked by crowding, dirty run-down housing, poverty and social

disorganization [5]. According to United Nations agency UN-HABITAT, slum is a run-down area of a city characterized by substandard housing and squalor and lacking in tenure security [6]. Around 33% of the urban population in the developing world in 2012 lived in slums [7] and the world's largest slum city is in Mexico City [8-10].

Dhaka City of Bangladesh has emerged as a fast growing megacity in recent times. It began with a manageable population of 2.2 million in 1975 which reached 12.3 million in 2000. The growth rate of the population during 1974-2000 was 6.9% [11]. As this rapid growth of Dhaka City is not commensurate with its industrial development, about one-third of the city's population is living in slums. Although the phenomenon of slums in Dhaka is as old as the city itself, about 90% of slums have developed in the last 3 decades [12].

The slum areas are commonly seen as "breeding grounds" for social problems e. g., crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, high rates of mental illness and suicide. In many poor countries,

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they exhibit high rates of disease due to unsanitary conditions, malnutrition and lack of basic health care, access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding and insecure residential status [13]. For these reason, many slum dwellers employ themselves in the informal economy including street vending, theft, drug dealing and prostitution etc. [14, 15]. Children with childhood onset of conduct disorder, attention deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity (ADHD) and antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) are more predisposed to a life of criminal activity [16]. During the childhood years of 8 to 13, children begin to bond with certain friends, sees different imbalance and face discrimination, cannot adopt themselves in the society and they feel rejected, hurt and get angry [17]. Social outcasts tend to reach out themselves to another social outcast off typically displaying the characteristics of social disobedience, criminal activity, and violence. Children and adolescents who do not have bonds with socially acceptable kids feel they must act out for attention. Criminal activity, violence and other socially unacceptable behaviors make children feel somewhat accepted with the attention that they received [18, 19]. A wide range of responses to serious crimes committed by children are found around the world [20, 21]. In the slum areas, the children are in a serious risk to involve with crime by their peer groups and environmental condition which led them to be adult criminal [22]. Despite constitutional recognition of the right to shelter for all citizens, 41% of all children are deprived of adequate shelter [23]. States parties should ensure the child rights to benefit from social security including social insurance and should take the necessary measures to achieve the total realization of their rights in accordance with their national law [2]. Therefore the current study was conducted to assess the socio-economic status, nature and causes of child criminalization in the slum areas at Dhaka city of Bangladesh.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Design

The study was a cross-sectional study.

2.2. Population Selection

There were taken a total of 108 children from different slums (Mohakhali, Kawranbazar, Mogbazar and Kamlapur bostee) in Dhaka City of Bangladesh during 6 months (March 2015 to August 2015).

2.3. Sampling Method

The widespread simple random sampling method was applied

to sort the boys and girls for the study continuation.

2.4. Data Collecting Assay

A planned questionnaire was developed containing both the closed and open ended query to collect data through face-to-face interview with the respondents. The questionnaire was pretested in areas far away from the sample areas and revised according to the feedback gained in the field level. The questionnaire was formed to obtain the relevant information considering characters, behaviors, honesty, attitudes and company with the perception of the respondents.

2.5. Data Verification

The questionnaire was checked per day taking the interview and gain these were carefully rechecked after collecting all the data and coded prior the entrancing into computer technology. The data was edited in case of sighting any discrepancy (doubt entry, wrong entry etc.).

2.6. Data Analysis

The data were processed to undergo statistical analysis using SPSS 16 windows program. Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel were used to represent the tabular and chart icon.

3. Results

Among the total respondents, 65.7% boys while 41.7% belong to the age group of 13 to 15years. It is also observed that 49.1% were illiterate and most of them (66.7%) stopped their study in order to their pauperism on their dwelling areas in Dhaka city (Table 1).

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Boys	71	65.7%
Girls	37	34.3%
Age (years)		
7 – 9	15	13.9%
10 – 12	40	37.0%
13 – 15	45	41.7%
16 – 18	8	7.4%
Educational qualification		
Illiterate	53	49.1%
Class1- class 5	35	32.4%
Class 6- class 10	17	15.7%
Up to the SSC	2	1.9%
Up to the HSC	1	0.9%
Reasons of stopping study		
Poverty	72	66.7%
Willingly	26	24.1%
Inspired by someone	10	9.3%

According to table 2 statement, 59.3% respondents lived in joint family while 39.8% fathers of the respondents were rickshaw pullers. It is also found that 77.8% respondents

observed conflicts between their parents daily while 71.3% felt disobedient after that and 54.6% children were beaten by their parents (29.6%) for disobedient.

Table 2. Heredity of the respondents.

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Family types		
Joint family	64	59.3%
Nuclear family	44	40.7%
Father's occupation		
Garment workers	24	22.2%
Day labors	41	38.0%
Rickshaw pullers	43	39.8%
Conflicting frequency between parents		
Daily	84	77.8%
Weekly	17	15.7%
Monthly	7	6.5%
Feelings after conflict		
Attacking	14	13.0%
Destructive	17	15.7%
Disobedient	77	71.3%
Beaten by parents		
Sometimes	20	18.5%
Always	21	19.4%
Daily	59	54.6%
Never	8	7.4%
Causes of beating		
Disobedient	32	29.6%
Playing	22	20.4%
Reading	5	4.6%
Smoking	19	17.6%
Watching TV	30	27.8%

Table 3. Working dimensions and habitual abode.

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Working places		
Hotel	46	42.6%
Workshop	13	12.0%
Factory	8	7.4%
Garage	24	22.2%
Hospital	5	4.6%
Nothing	12	11.1%
Duration of working		
8-10 hours	72	66.7%
11-12 hours	17	15.7%
13-16 hours	14	13.0%
whole day	5	4.6%
Impulsiveness		
Medium	29	26.9%
More	73	67.6%
No	6	5.6%
Doings being passionate		
Quarrel	25	23.1%
Involve with crime	31	28.7%
Hit the parents	29	26.9%
Company with criminal	23	21.3%
Type of watching movie		
Not fixed	6	5.6%
Porn movie	62	57.4%
Fighting	40	37.0%
Number of watching movies		
Hardly	6	5.6%
Once in a day	38	35.2%
Twice in a day	54	50.0%
Weekly	10	9.3%

There were found 42.6% respondents worked in hotel while 66.7% worked 8 to 10 hours daily, 67.6% respondents felt more impulsiveness (main factor doing any illegal activities) while being passionate 28.7% involved with crime and 57.4% watched porn movies while 50.0% watch twice in a day (Table 3).

Table 4 presented that, most of the respondents (64.8%) had bad peers while 38.9% took 11 to 15 cigarettes daily and 43.5% felt frustrated for insufficient basic needs while 43.5% fully deprived from basic needs. It is also found 46.3% respondents got inspiration from the family while 42.6% assigned to drug abuse.

Table 4. Nature and causes of involvement with criminality.

Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Nature of peers		
Bad peers	70	64.8%
Terrorists	11	10.2%
Hijackers	16	14.8%
Drug dealers	11	10.2%
Number of taking cigarettes (daily)		
1-5	7	6.5%
6-10	17	15.7%
11-15	42	38.9%
16-20	25	23.1%
21-25	17	15.7%
Reasons of feeling frustrated		
Insufficient basic needs	47	43.5%
Insecurity feelings	44	40.7%
Anxieties	17	15.7%
Deprivation of basic needs		
Few	13	12.0%
Sometimes	48	44.4%
Fully	47	43.5%
Getting inspiration from		
Bad company	41	38.0%
Pornography	13	12.0%
Cultural disorder	4	3.7%
Family	50	46.3%
Works are assigned		
Theft	35	32.4%
Drug trafficking	16	14.8%
Drug abuse	46	42.6%
Hijacking	11	10.2%

There were found 34.3% respondents to involve with different crime by bad peer groups and 26.9% by dint of poverty (Figure 1).

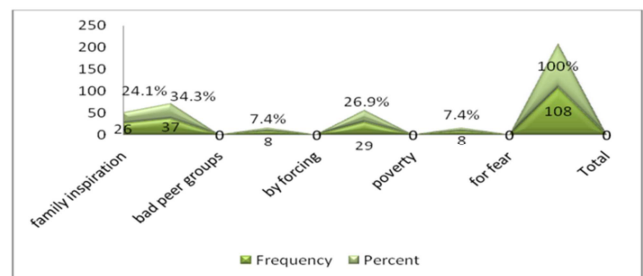


Figure 1. Opinion of the respondents about involving with crime.

4. Discussion

Slum areas are the common phenomenon in Bangladesh as well as all over the world. The children of slum areas are more affected by the various types of crime rather than other people in the society [24]. Recent years have seen a dramatic growth in the number of slums as urban populations have increased in the Third World. According to a 2006 UN-HABITAT report, 327 million people live in slums in Commonwealth countries, almost one in six Commonwealth citizens. In a quarter of Commonwealth countries (11 African, 2 Asian and 1 Pacific), more than two out of three urban dwellers live in slums and many of these countries are urbanizing rapidly. Bangladesh has the highest number of slum dwellers – 60% of the urban population – in the South Asia [25]. The study presented that, 65.7% boys while 41.7% belongs to the age group of 13 to 15 years. It is also observed that 49.1% were illiterate and most of them (66.7%) stopped studying for the sake of poverty that is supported by another study [26]. Most of the respondents (59.3%) lived in joint family while 39.8% fathers of the respondents were rickshaw pullers. It's also found that 77.8% respondents observed conflicts between their parents daily while 71.3% felt disobedient after that and 54.6% children were beaten by their parents (29.6%) for disobedient. It is found that, family conflict responsible for mental disorder of the children which leads them to criminal behavior [27]. The current study showed that, 42.6% respondents worked in hotel while 66.7% worked 8 to 10 hours daily. 67.6% respondents felt more impulsiveness (main factor doing any illegal activities) while being passionate 28.7% involved with crime and 57.4% watched porn movies while 50.0% watch twice in a day. Unfortunately, the economic circumstances of the slum dwellers are such as they do not allow them to improve their living conditions. A majority of the slum dwellers are employed in the unorganized or informal sector [28]. A large proportion of them works on a daily wage basis and therefore, has little or no job security. Poverty is the main companion of the slum dwellers and to earn livelihood the children also have to engage with various works [29]. Another study found that, pornography insists the children to sex related crime [30] and there is a complex relationship between environment and health that also responsible for mental disorder [31]. The study also observed that, 64.8% respondents had bad peers while 38.9% took 11 to 15 cigarettes daily and 43.5% felt frustrated for insufficient basic needs while 43.5% fully deprived from basic needs. It is also found 46.3% respondents got inspiration from the family while 42.6% assigned to drug abuse. Another study presented 60% teenagers of slum take cigarettes as 22.7% smoked daily 3 to 5 which is supported by this study [32]. According to study, 34.3% respondents said, they had involved with crime by bad peer groups and 26.9% by dint of poverty while the other study found the relationship between

bad peer groups association mostly responsible for child criminality [33]. Children have the rights to survival, adequate health care and a standard of living that supports their full development; they need to benefit from environmental conditions that make the fulfillment of these rights possible [34]. Considering the overall study, it felt that the life of every child should be exploitation free on the basis of the existing national and international laws to eradicate the child criminality to arrange safe childhood [35, 36].

5. Conclusion

Criminalization is a common occurring at different areas in different countries across the world but child criminalization happening now-a-days is the big headache for all the countries including Bangladesh. Various social norms, family, heredity factors are liable themselves to continue relation with bandits groups existing in various societies in the country and these relation the catalyst to engage themselves in criminality. The child rights organizations and human rights organizations should take steps before long to turn tail their devastating child criminalization and the government should make family-like child rehabilitation centers to uphold their splashing childhood for the ultimate gaining of the country.

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