

VISUALISING INVISIBLE

A Baseline Study on Situation of Home-Based Workers

Conducted by:

**CENTRE FOR SERVICES AND
INFORMATION ON DISABILITY (CSID)**

In consultation with

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Supported by:

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Acknowledgement:

Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) in partnership with HomeNet South Asia (HVSA) initiated to implement a project titled “Strengthening the Organization of Urban Poor Home-based Worker's for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance” since January 2013 in Dhaka city. As the Home-Based Workers are invisible and their voice is never heard the project planned to conduct a Baseline Study to analyse the situation of Urban Home-Based Workers of Dhaka City in order to learn and gather data/information for designing the project appropriately.

CSID like to express its hearty gratitude to HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) for providing financial support to conduct this baseline study.

The management of CSID and The Study Team would like to express sincere thanks and gratitude to all the respondents who contributed their time and provided information and recommendation to make the study a success.

The Study Team also appreciates contribution of the data collectors and those worked for data entry and processing.

Thanks and appreciation is also due to the all project associates and staff of CSID for their sincere support and cooperation in process of the Study.

Survey Team

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In partnership with HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) initiated implementing a project titled “Strengthening the Organization of Urban Poor Home-based Worker's for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance” since January 2013. One of the activities of the project was to conduct a baseline survey in order to identify the Home Based Workers within the target area and analyse the existing situation of HBWs. Due to time constraints the project could not conduct in depth survey and it has been done like an Identification and Need Assessment survey.

Methodology and Approaches: A combination of methodology was used to collect information/data for the survey which are: Interview with a set of open and closed ended questionnaire and Group exercise.

Area Coverage: The survey covered Adabor, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, New Market, Hazaribag, Lalbag Thana area of Dhaka city.

Time frame: From 3rd week of April to 3rd week of May 2013 (one month) for data collection and 2 weeks of June for data analysis and Report writing.

Number of HBWs identified and interviewed: The survey identified and interviewed a total of 377 HBWs and among them 91 were Own account workers and 286 were Piece rate workers.

Key findings:

A. INTERVIEW WITH OWN ACCOUNT HOME-BASED WORKERS

The study interviewed 91 Own Account HBWs using a set of questionnaire. According to the focussed issues the findings and its interpretation given below:

01. GENERAL INFORMATION:

01.1. Age range of respondents:

The survey found highest number (57.14%) own account HBWs engaged in works is within the age range of 26 – 40 years and then age 17 – 25 is 23.08%, age 41 – 55 is 19.78%.

01.2. Information on Residence they live in:

The bigger portion 70% of own account HBWs are living in rented house. 23% living in own house and 7% is living in hostels.

02. Education status:

Most of the own account HBWs have a certain level of education. Only Seven (7.69%) are illiterate. Grade 6 – 10 is the highest 19.78% then HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) 17.58% and SSC (secondary School Certificate) 16.48%. Rest 24.17% is higher educated (Bachelor, Honors and Masters).

03. Types of Work:

Among the 91 Own Account HBWs Maximum 93.41% are engaged in multiple works i.e. one person doing 2/3 even 4 types of work. It is because the income from any one type of work is not enough to maintain their families. Four persons have their own business shop adjacent to their home where they sell products, which they produce at home.

04. Skill regarding their work they do:

Among 91 respondents 55 (60.44%) informed they received some sort of training and rest did not. While asked about need of training about 50% informed they need advanced training on the work they are doing.

05. Market facilities:

50 (54.95%) Among 91 respondents informed that they have some sorts of marketing facilities, others do not have. 45.05% Own Account HBWs are suffering from marketing problem.

Major portion 32% informed they have got space in a Shopping Mall at Joyta, which is a facility provided by the Government to Home-Based workers for helping them to sell products. 24% has their own shops adjacent to their homes. 28% are supplying to different whole sellers, Retail shops, Shopping malls, Boutique Houses etc. 12% are selling the products direct from home and 4% informed that they are using middle men for selling products.

06. Availability of Raw materials:

The major portion 71.43% informed that the Raw materials are available but since they are purchasing small amount of materials it cost high. 28.57% respondents informed the raw materials they need are not easily available nearby, they need to go to some special market, which are far from their home and it is difficult for them to visit those market as women and on the other hand including travel cost the price of raw materials become high.

07. Awareness and access to GO/NGO services:

Among 91 respondents 52.75% informed they are aware of the Government and NGO services and 47.25% are unaware. However, those respondents are aware of the existence of services do not have access to those service. The major portion 68.23% respondents do not have access to services. It can be assume that though many of them are aware of the availability of services, most of them excluded from those service provisions.

The causes of exclusion: 67.74% answered as causes of exclusion that they are not informed how to access and 19.35% answered nobody came to them to inform service provisions and provide services

08. Awareness on Civic Amenities and status of access:

The major portion 74.73% of the respondents is aware of Civic Amenities and 25.27% unaware. Concerning the facilities since they are living in slums and low cost houses in congested areas these families are neglected excluded from having facilities of Civic Amenities.

09. Status of access to basic facilities from Govt. & City Corporation:

Concerning the access to basic essential services on average 86% HBWs informed that they are receiving Electricity, Gas, Water, Sanitation and Health service facilities.

10. Involvement with any Group/Organisation/Association:

The survey found that almost 88% among 91 respondents are not involved in any group or organisation. Only 11 HBWs are associated with different groups and duration of involvement is 2 months – 12 years.

B. INTERVIEW WITH PIECE RATE HOME-BASED WORKERS

01. General Information:

01.1. Age range of respondents:

Among the identified and interviewed 286 Piece rate HBWs the major portion (36.71%) was within the age range of 19 – 25 years. Second large group is within age range 9 – 18 years (33.92%); then within age range 26 – 40 years (27.27%) and a very few are within the age range 41 – 55 years (2.10%).

A significant number of Piece rate HBWs (33.92%) is children up to 18 years. The biggest number (36.71%) is youth group. The children are engaged in work since the families are from poor segment of population living in the city.

01.2. Information on Residence they live in:

The major portion (60.80%) of the identified and interviewed Piece rate HBWs are Non-Bengali and residing in Repatriation Camp, which is like slum. Second bigger portion (35%) residing in rented houses in Slums and low rent small space houses. A very few only 6 workers have their own house and others are living in abandoned houses and one in hostel. The living places are congested and environment is unhealthy.

02. Education Status:

The survey found the major portion 37.06% among 286 identified Piece rate HBWs acquired education up to grade 1–5; 35.66% is grade 6 -10; 9.44% completed Secondary level; 3.50% completed Higher Secondary level and only 1.40% acquired Graduation and higher-level education. Among 286 respondents, 12.94% are illiterate.

03. Type of Work

The major portion 49.65% among 268 Piece rate WHBs are involved with Karchupi work. The second largest group 15.30% engaged with Multiple works like- Sewing & Sewing with Applic, Block-Boutique, karchupi, Chumki, Cross Kata etc.. 12.24% are engaged with Dressmaking and others are engaged in different other types of hand works.

04. Workplace

Among 286 respondents 263 (92%) are working in own homes, 7.7% working in factories located at owners house and only one is working in a Boutique house located in owners home.

05. Work place environment

76.90% Piece rate HBWs are not having proper health service. They do not have access to mainstream health services. Those are working in the factories; the owners are not providing any health services/facilities for them.

05 B. Sanitation facilities

Among 286 respondents 60% informed that they do not have healthy sanitation facilities where they live and work. Those working in factories also reported that they are not having proper sanitation facilities at work places.

05 C. Adequacy of Light & Air

About 70% identified Piece rate HBWs informed that in their working places there is not enough light and air, which creating problem with their eyes and health status. Almost every one opined that they got to

work in a very congested space sitting long time and they are getting pain in the neck, waist, and legs and suffer from headache.

05 D. Behaviour of employers/contractors

Answering this question the Piece rate HBWs were reluctant. The major portion 55% didn't make any comments. 39% informed they are satisfied with the behavior of employers and only 6% expressed no satisfaction. This reluctant is due to fear that if they commented about negative behavior of employers/contractors they might lose work.

05 E. Security

Concerning security large number of respondents 63% informed they feel insecure and 37% opined they feel secure with their work and environment. This insecurity they meant in terms of regular work, wages, security of children at home and verbal and sexual abuse.

06. Working Hour

Major portion (67.50%) of the respondents work 5 – 8 hours a day. Then 24.50% work 2 – 4 hours. To meet family needs 8.00% of total 286 Piece rate HBWs got to work 9 – 14 hours in a day.

07. Income and Mode of payment

The income varied in accordance with working hour and type of work. Some employers/contractors are paying daily basis, some in weekly and some in monthly basis. Those are receiving daily basis payment their income is BD Taka 25.00 – 80.00. Weekly basis payment recipients earning BD Taka 200.00 – 3000.00 and monthly basis payment recipients are earning BD Taka 500.00 – 8000.00. In each basis of payment, this variation depends upon working hour, skill, types and quality of work.

08. Satisfaction with the wages

The major portion 188 (65.73%) Piece rate BWs informed that they are not satisfied with the wages they receiving. 88 respondents (30.77%) opined that they are satisfied and 10 (3.50%) didn't make any opinion on the question. It may be due to fear of employer and losing work.

09. Causes of dissatisfaction

Among 188 respondents 150 (79.80%) expressed their dissatisfaction pointing the wages are below expectation, which is low in comparison to the work they do. 2 workers (1.1%) opined the middle man cutting their commission from the actual wage so they are getting less, since they are having order through middle man. 36 respondent was reluctant to express their opinion and didn't answer the question.

10. Awareness about Labour Rights and Labour law

It has been found that all most all the Piece rate/wage employed HBWs are not aware of Labour Rights and Labour law. Only 3% answered they are aware of but could not mention any thing about the rights and provisions of law.

11. Status of Receiving Government & City Corporation Services

Among 286 respondents only 36% informed they are receiving some sorts of basic services from Government and City Corporation. Those are Electricity, Water Supply and Health & Sanitation. The majority 63.64% respondents said they are not receiving Government and City Corporation Services adequately. Among those receiving services 51.75% informed they receiving Water Supply, 35.31% receiving Electricity supply and lowest 30.42% receiving Health & Sanitation service.

12. Opportunities to complaints and demand service

The majority 79.37% respondents informed that they are unable to make any complaints and/or demand services from the respective authority since they are not united and powerless and nobody is ready to listen to them, while they approach individually. Only 20% said they have some sorts of opportunities such as via media, who is connected or have influence on the authorities they can reach/communicate with the concerned authorities.

13. Involvement with Group/Organisation

Among 286 respondents almost all 97% informed that they are not involved with any group or organization. Only 10 (3%) said they are involved with different organizations. Among them 4 in Shakty Somity, 1 in SDI, 1 in BRAC & ASHA and 3 newly joined and cannot even tell the name of the Somity.

14. Recommendation from the Piece rate HBWs:

Majority 91.26% could not make any comments or recommendations. It is due to their unawareness and lack of knowledge regarding the situation since they are isolated, scattered and never thought of the issues. Only 25 persons (8.74%) responded. The recommendations are given at the end of the report.

CHAPTER- I

Introduction

Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) is a non-government organization, registered with the Department of Social Services and NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh working for the development of deprived and marinalised population including Persons with Disabilities since December 1997.

HomeNets South Asia (HNSA) is a leading organisation in building regional solidarity among Home Based Workers, especially women workers and empowering them to lead a life of dignity, free of poverty through obtaining decent work and social protection. It aims to function more as a network rather than an implementing organization. The functions of this network are to benefit the network members by information sharing and learning; creating solidarity, removing isolation and facilitating networking; and advocacy by enhancing voice and visibility. In addition to these 3 classical functions of a network, HNSA also has a role in raising resources for itself and its members. HNSA itself do not implement projects. Its aim is to play networking functions more effectively.

HNSA found CSID as one of the potential partner to implement project in Dhaka City and jointly a project titled "Strengthening the Organization of Urban Poor Home-based Worker's for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance" has been designed to implement in Dhaka City within the period of January – December 2013. In this initial phase of the project both the partner felt a Baseline Study is needed to be conduct within the target area to find out and analyse the existing situation of HBWs and learn from them the needs and their opinions to address the needs. In the above circumstances this Baseline Study has been conducted.

CHAPTER- II

1. Study Design:

1.1. The objectives of the Study were:

- Explore overall poverty and socio–cultural condition of the Home-based Workers (HBWs).
- Explore the overall rights situation of HBWs.
- Explore the overall situation of the access to Civic, Health and Social Protection Services of the HBWs.
- Assess the degree of awareness on the rights and Labour law.
- Assess the need of HBWs and their expectation from the project.

1.2. Time frame:

The stipulated time frame of the Study was 1st January to 31 March 2013 in the original project plan. But delay in signing contract and receiving fund due to unavoidable circumstances the project conducted the study within 3rd week of April to 3rd week of May 2013. So, the actual time the Study Team got to collect information/data from the field, analysing data and writing report is only one month.

1.3. Geographical area coverage:

The study covered Adabor, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, New Market, Hazaribag, Lalbag Thana area of Dhaka city.

1.4. Methodology used:

A combination of methods has been used for gathering data/information e.g.

- *Individual Interview/Interaction.*
- *Group discussion.*

A set of questionnaire had been developed for collection of information considering different issues. The questionnaire was combination of closed and open-ended questions.

1.5. Selection of respondents

The respondent had been selected as random basis in considering the two types of HBWs (Own account and Piece rate). They have been identified by following Key informant and door to door visit method.

1.6. Interview and individual interaction:

The numbers of interviews conducted with the two types of HBWs by the Survey Team are as follows:

Sl. #	Category of HBWs	# of Respondent						TOTAL
		Adabor	Md. pur	Dhanmondi	Hazaribag	New market	Lalbag	
01.	Own Account HBWs	11	19	27	03	19	12	91
02.	Piece rate HBWs	17	204	29	17	06	13	286
	TOTAL:	28	223	56	20	25	25	377

1.7. Group Discussions (GD):

The study conducted two group discussions (one with Own account and one with piece rate HBWs) to gather information. The category wise number of participants attended the discussions given in the following table:

Sl. #	Category of HBWs	TOTAL
01.	Own Account HBWs	30
02.	Piece rate HBWs	40
	TOTAL:	70

1.8. Limitations:

The major limitations to conduct the study were- Time frame; since it was delay in starting the project activities due to unavoidable circumstances the team had to complete the study within one month instead of 3 months. It was sometimes difficult to interview HBWs as they become busy with their work. Many of them didn't give enough time to answer the questions and some were reluctant to answering questions related with their employers/contractors. Again Political unrest sometimes was a barrier in moving to the field.

CHAPTER – III

FINDINGS OF THE BASELINE AND INTERPRETATION

This section reflects the findings that the Study Team learned through different method used in gathering information throughout the study process:

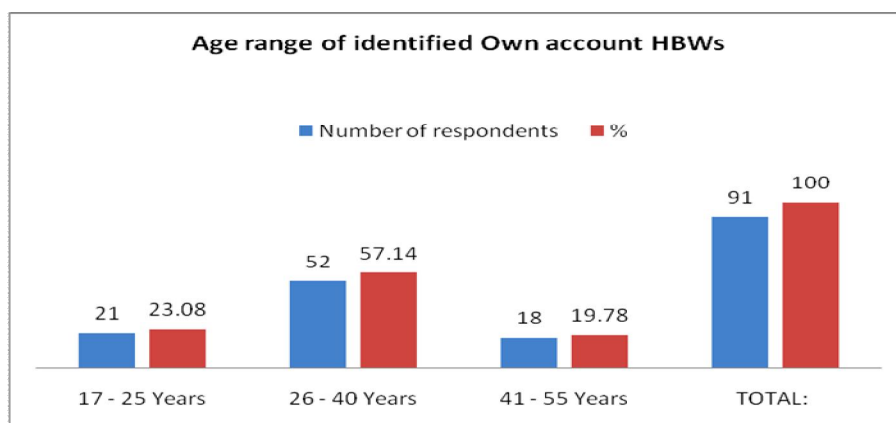
A. FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEW WITH OWN ACCOUNT HOME-BASED WORKERS

The study interviewed 91 Own Account HBWs using a set of questionnaire. According to the focussed issues the findings and its interpretation given below:

01. GENERAL INFORMATION:

01.1. Age range of respondents:

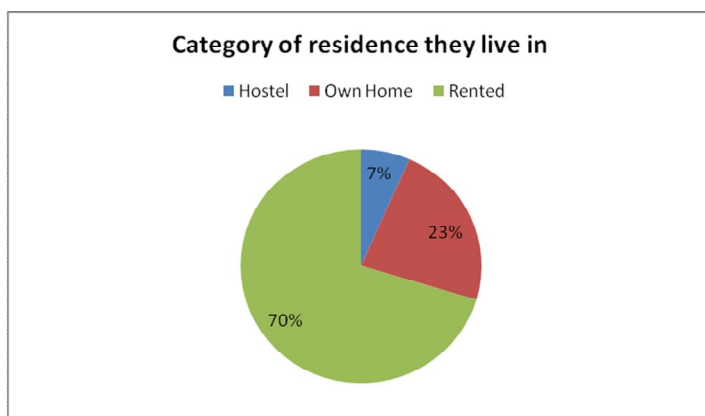
Graph – A 01:



The survey found highest number (57.14%) own account HBWs engaged in works is within the age range of 26 – 40 years. The second highest is workers within age range of 17 – 25 (23.08%). But still a significant number of workers (19.78%) are within the age range of 41 – 55 years.

01.2. Information on Residence they live in:

Graph – A 02:



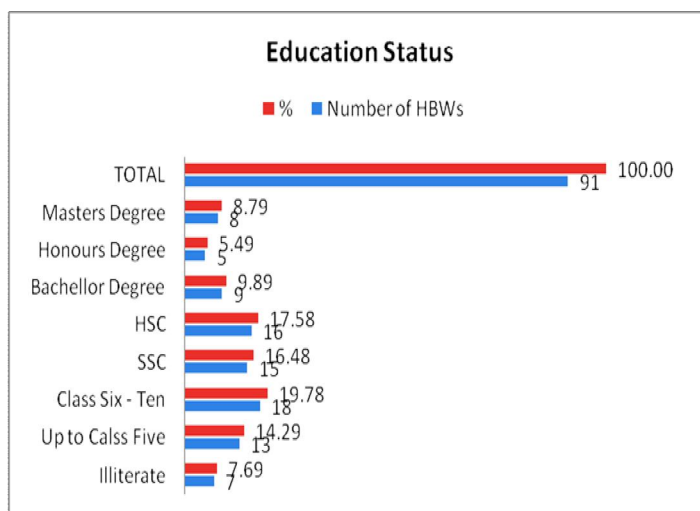
The graph shows bigger portion (70%) of own account HBWs are living in rented house. 23% living in own house and 7% is living in hostels as they do not have own house in Dhaka city and nor have ability to rent a house, which is costly.

02. Education status:

Most of the own account HBWs have a certain level of education. Only Seven (7.69%) are illiterate. Grade 6 – 10 is the highest 19.78% then HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) 17.58% and SSC (secondary School Certificate) 16.48%. Rest 24.17% is higher educated (Bachelor, Honors and Masters).

This data indicates the less opportunity of formal employment for women in the country. So, they become involved with self-employment activities.

**Graph – A 03:
Education status of own account HBWs**



03. Types of Work:

**Table – A 04:
Type of work the own account HBWs engaged in**

Work type	# of HBW	%
10 Types of Gujrati Cross-stitch	1	1.10
Embroidery, Block-boutique, Dress making, Shopping bag making, Handicrafts, Flower making, Karchupi etc.	85	93.41
Small Business (Grocery Shop, Laundry and other handicrafts)	4	4.40
Stitching Katha	1	1.10
TOTAL	91	100

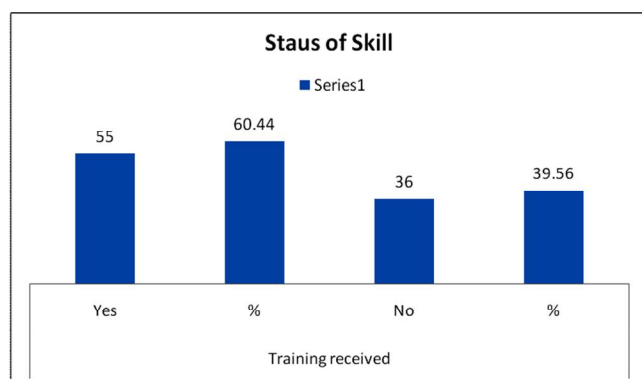
Among the 91 Own Account HBWs Maximum 93.41% are engaged in multiple works i.e. one person doing 2/3 even 4 types of work listed in row -2 in the above table to earn income to meet their family needs. It is because the income from any one type of work is not enough to maintain their families.

Four persons have their own business shop adjacent to their home where they sell products, which they produce at home. The HBWs engaged in Gujrati Cross-stitch and Katha Stitching engaged in single work because they are not fully dependant on the income from Home-Based work; their income partly contributed in meeting family needs.

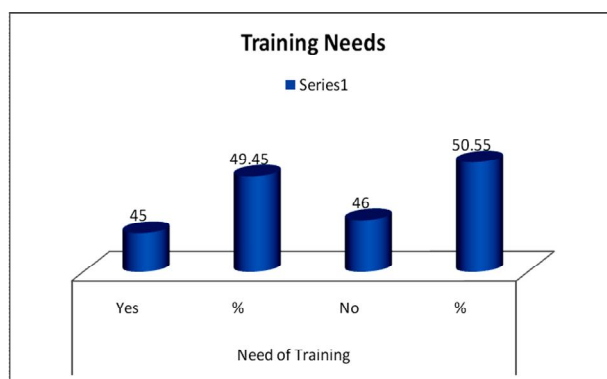
04. Skill regarding their work they do:

The survey tried to find out whether the Own Account HBWs have required skills or received any vocational skill training prior to engaging in the work. Among 91 respondents 55 (60.44%) informed they received some sort of training and rest did not. While asked about need of training about 50% informed they need advanced training on the work they are doing.

Graph – A 05a:



Graph – A 05b:



The tables above shows that there is lack of skills among about 50% Own Account HBWs to produce quality goods for sell, which is a barrier to receive appropriate price of the products they made.

05. Market facilities:

The survey investigated about the market facilities of Own Account HBWs for selling their products.

**Table – A 06:
Market Facilities**

Marketing facilities	# of respondents	Percentage
Have marketing facilities	50	54.95%
Do not have marketing facilities	41	45.05%
TOTAL:	91	100%

Among 91 respondents 50 (54.95%) informed that they have some sorts of marketing facilities, others do not have. 45.05% Own Account HBWs are suffering from marketing problem. The following table shows the types of facilities they are availing in marketing their products:

**Table – A 07:
Marketing Facilities**

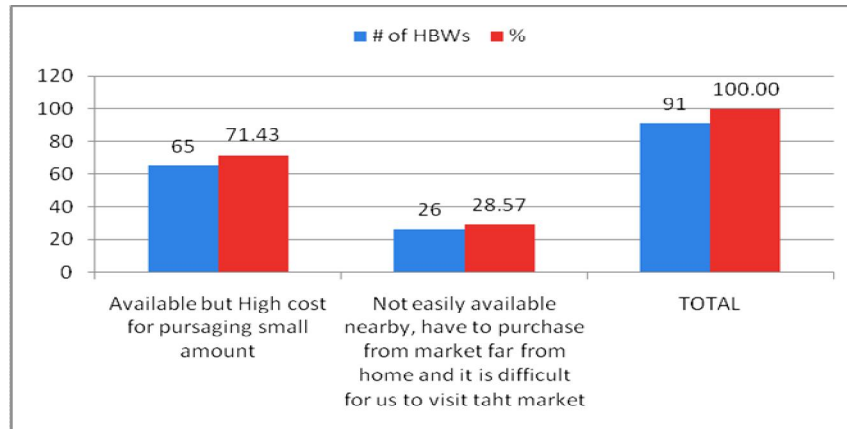
Mode of marketing	# of HBW	%
Middle man	2	4%
Shop in Joyta	16	32%
Different Shopping Mall, Boutique house,	4	8%
Own Shops	12	24%
Own Shop & supply out of Dhaka	2	4%
Selling from Home	6	12%
Supply to Different Whole Sell, Retail shops, Shopping Mall & Out of Dhaka	8	16%
TOTAL:	50	100%

Among the 50 respondents who have marketing facilities informed about diverse mode of marketing. Major portion 32% informed they have got space in a Shopping Mall at Joyta, which is a facility provided by the Government to Home-Based workers for helping them to sell products. The next bigger portion

24% has their own shops adjacent to their homes. Others are supplying to different whole sellers, Retail shops, Shopping malls, Boutique Houses etc. 12% are selling the products direct from home and 4% informed that they are using middle men for selling products.

06. Availability of Raw materials:

Graph – A 08:



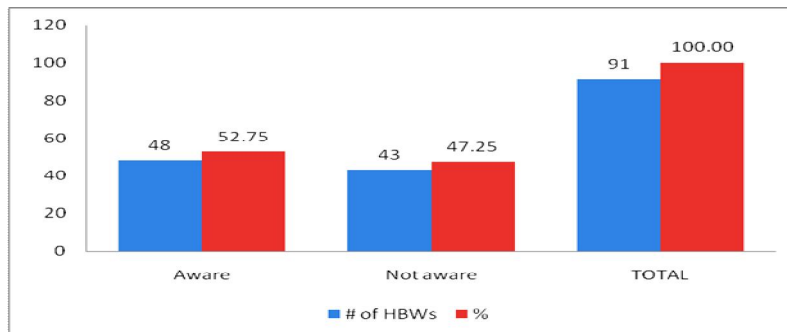
With regards to availability of Raw materials the major portion 71.43% informed that the Raw materials are available but since they are purchasing small amount of materials it cost high. Those are buying big amount are being benefitted in price. 28.57% respondents informed the raw materials they need are not easily available nearby, they need to go to some special market, which are far from their home and it is difficult for them to visit those market as women and on the other hand including travel cost the price of raw materials become high.

Due to this high cost of raw materials their production cost become high and costing of sell price become high as well. So, in competition with other producers those are producing big amount they fall in a difficult situation in selling their products.

07. Awareness and access to GO/NGO services:

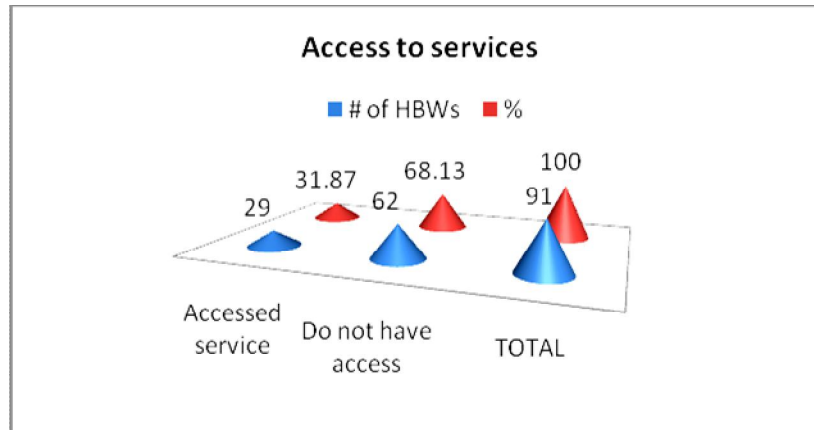
It has been found that a significant number of Own Account HBWs are not aware of Government and NGO services for the development of marginalized segment of people.

**Graph – A 09:
Status of Awareness**



Among 91 respondents 52.75% informed they are aware of the Government and NGO services and 47.25% are unaware. However, those respondents are aware of the existence of services do not have access to those service.

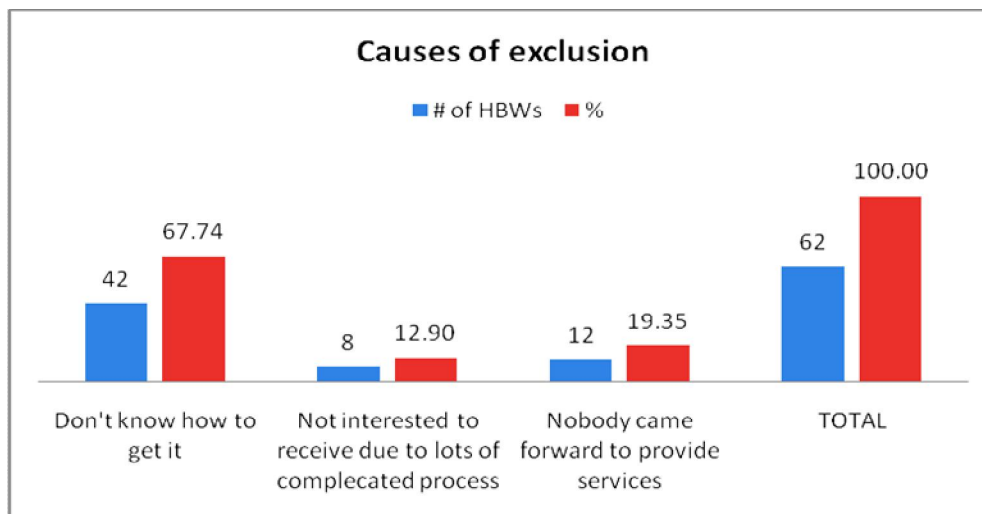
**Graph – A 10:
Status of access to services**



The table above indicates the major portion 68.23% respondents do not have access to services. It can be assumed that though many of them are aware of the availability of services, most of them are excluded from those service provisions.

The causes of exclusion are given in the following table:

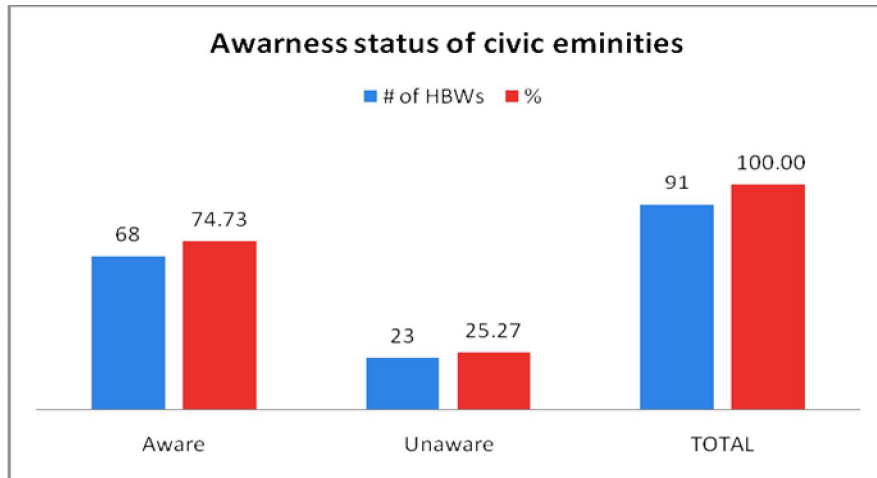
Graph – A 11:



The table shows that among 62 respondents those excluded from services 67.74% are not informed how to access and 19.35% answered nobody came to them to inform service provisions and provide services. The Home-Based workers are working inside the home and alongside production, they need to do the domestic work as well like- Cooking, Looking after Children/elder members etc. So, they are out of touch and contact with outside world and being unaware of many things. It's worth mentioning that because of the invisibility of Home-Based Workers the service providers also cannot identify and reach to them.

08. Awareness on Civic Amenities and status of access:

Graph – A 12:

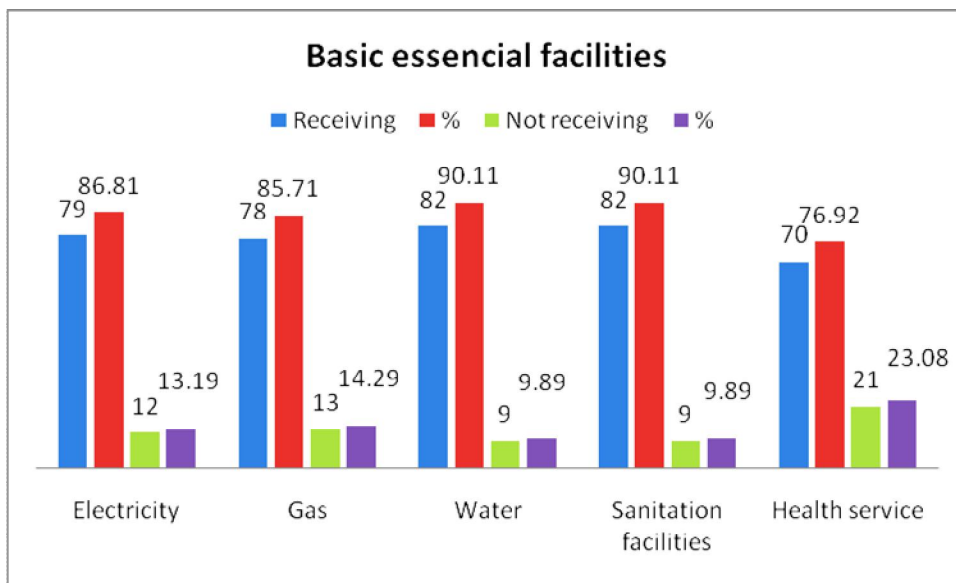


The major portion 74.73% of the respondent is aware of Civic Amenities and 25.27% unaware. Concerning the facilities since they are living in slums and low cost houses in congested areas these families are excluded from having facilities of Civic Amenities.

09. Status of access to basic facilities from Govt. & City Corporation:

Concerning the access to basic essential services on average 86% HBWs informed that they are receiving Electricity, Gas, Water, Sanitation and Health service facilities.

Graph – A 13:

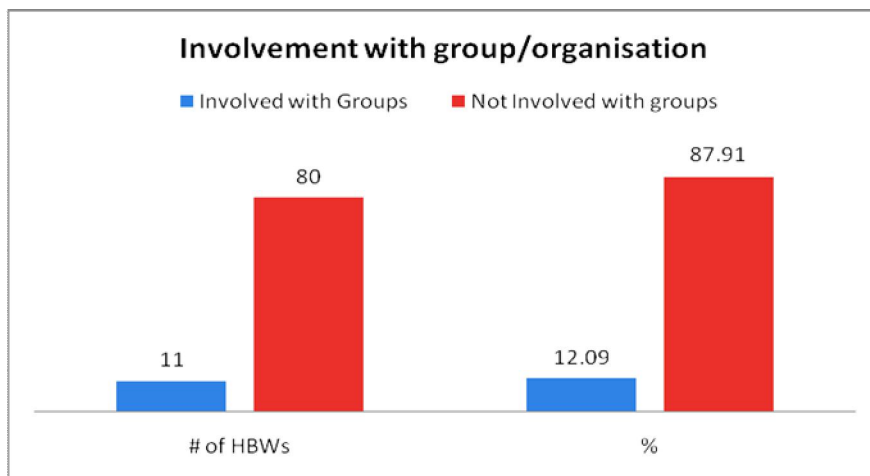


The table indicates that the recipient of Health Service is less than the other services. So, the health service is need to be increased for them.

10. Involvement with any Group/Organisation/Association:

The survey found that almost 88% among 91 respondents are not involved in any group or organisation.

Graph – A 14:



Only 11 HBWs are associated with different groups and duration of involvement is 2 months – 12 years. Group wise number of HBWs given in the table below:

Table – A 15:

Name of groups	# of HBWs
Asha	1
Dolonchapa Mohila Somity	1
Juee Mohila Unnayan Songstha	1
Mydas	1
Shanti Songho Nari Unnayan Songstha	7
TOTAL:	11

Since the Home-Based Workers are isolated inside the home, invisible to the society thus unable to share concerning issues relating to their work and life. They are being untouched and excluded from development initiatives undertaken by Government and NGO sectors. Even the Own Account Home-Based Workers are unknown to each other since they do not have opportunity to meet and interact with each other regularly. So, they cannot share their problems and issues and think of organising themselves to create unity in order to raise to collective voice in favour of bringing positive changes in their lifestyle.

It is to be mentioned that at the time of survey and interview, the Own Account HBWs could not give enough time to answer the questions specially those questions, which need to think for answering like comments/recommendations etc. Therefore, the project organised two sharing meetings (one with Own Account HBWs and one with Piece rate HBWs) where they have shared many problems and formulated a set of recommendations for each group. The information on that meeting is given in another chapter of this report.

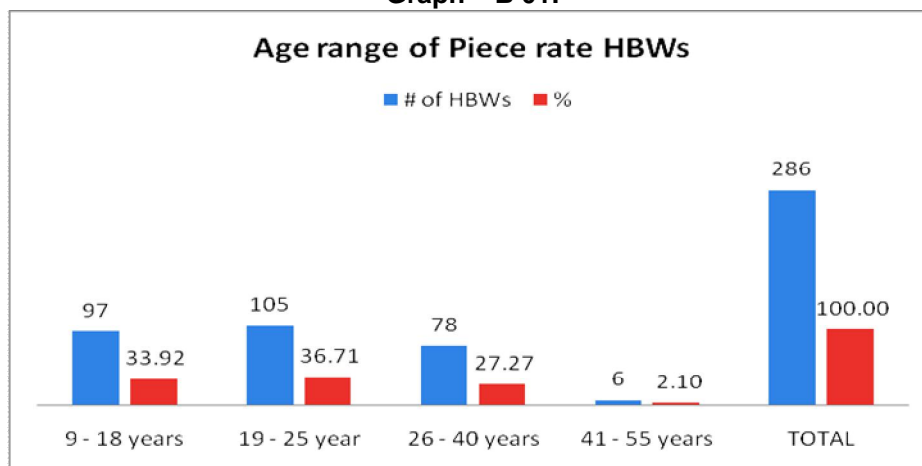
B. INTERVIEW WITH PIECE RATE HOME-BASED WORKERS

The survey identified and interviewed 286 Piece rate HBWs using a set of questionnaire. The issue based findings and its interpretation is given below.

14. General Information:

01.1. Age range of respondents:

Graph – B 01:

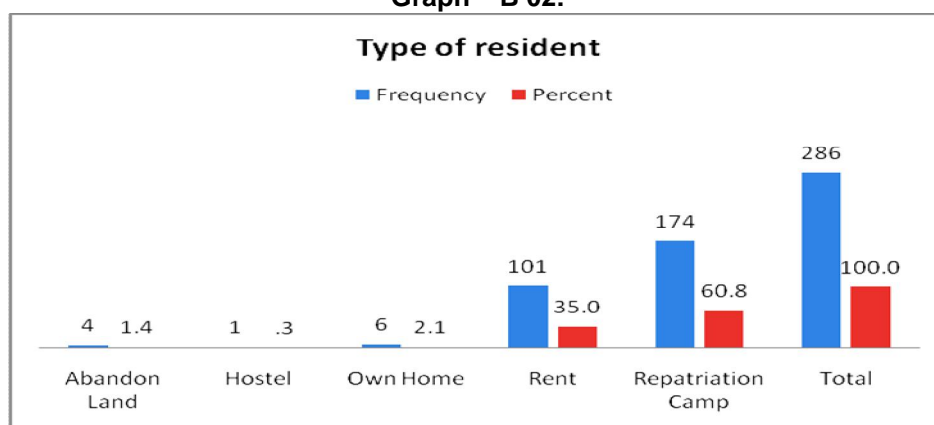


Among the identified and interviewed 286 Piece rate HBWs the major portion (36.71%) was within the age range of 19 – 25 years. Second large group is within age range 9 – 18 years (33.92%); then within age range 26 – 40 years (27.27%) and a very few are within the age range 41 – 55 years (2.10%).

It has been found that a significant number of Piece rate HBWs (33.92%) is children up to 18 years. The biggest number (36.71%) is youth group. The children are engaged in work since the families are from poor segment of population living in the city.

01.2. Information on Residence they live in:

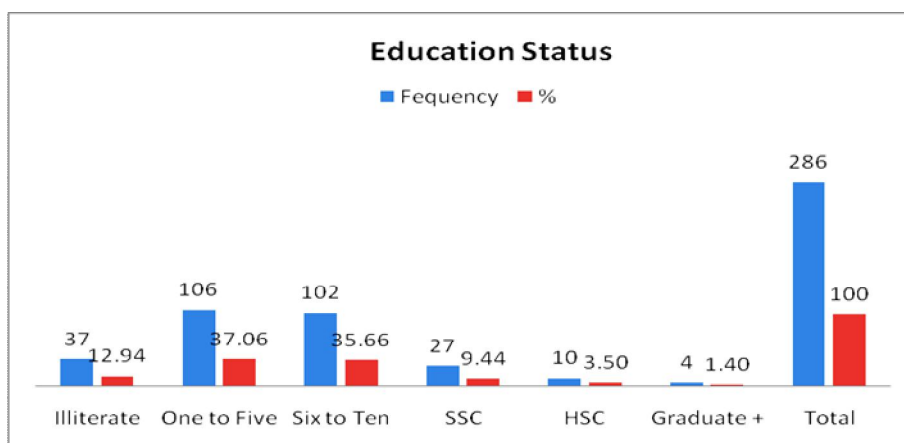
Graph – B 02:



The major portion (60.80%) of the identified and interviewed Piece rate HBWs are Non-Bengali and residing in Repatriation Camp, which is like slum. Second bigger portion (35%) residing in rented houses in Slums and low rent small space houses. A very few only 6 workers have their own house and others are living in abandoned houses and one in hostel. The living places are congested and environment is unhealthy.

15. Education Status:

Graph – B 03



The survey found that the major portion (37.06%) among 286 identified Piece rate HBWs acquired education up to grade 1–5. Education of the second highest (35.66%) group is grade 6 -10. 9.44% completed Secondary level, 3.50% completed Higher Secondary level and only 1.40% acquired Graduation and higher-level education. Among 286 respondents, 12.94% are illiterate.

16. Type of Work

The Piece rate/wage employed HBWs are involved in diverse occupation even one person is engaged in different types of works. The data is given in the following table:

Table – B 04

Type of work	Frequency	Percent
Applic with other Handwork & sewing	9	3.15
Block with Boutique, Sewing, Karchupi, Embroderly etc.	8	2.80
Chocolate Packing	1	.35
Chumki with Stone, Puthi settings	10	3.50
Dress making	35	12.24
Embroidery	2	.70
Flower & shopping bag making	1	.35
Handicrafts & Chumki, Karchupi	11	3.85
Karchupi	142	49.65
Karchupi with Block, Dressmaking, Jori, Boutique, Dollar Setting, Embroidary, Moti setting, Toy making etc.	10	3.50
Making Shopping Bag	2	.70
Moti Settings, Puti & Chumki settings	5	1.75
Sewing & Sewing with Applic, Block-Boutique, karchupi, Chumki, Cross Kata etc.	43	15.03
Stitching Shoes	6	2.10
Stone Settings	1	.35
Total	286	100.00

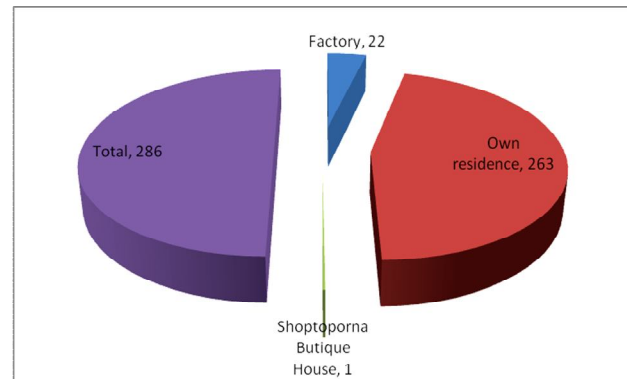
The major portion 49.65% among 268 Piece rate WHBs are involved with Karchupi work. The second largest group 15.30% engaged with Multiple works like- Sewing & Sewing with Applic, Block-Boutique, karchupi, Chumki, Cross Kata etc.. 12.24% are engaged with Dressmaking and others are engaged in different other types of hand works.

17. Workplace

The Piece rate HBWs are working in different places. Some are working at own home and some in factory located in owners/employers home and/or adjacent to the home.

Graph – B 05

Among 286 respondents 263 (92%) are working in own homes, 7.7% working in factories located at owners house and only one is working in a Boutique house located in owners home.

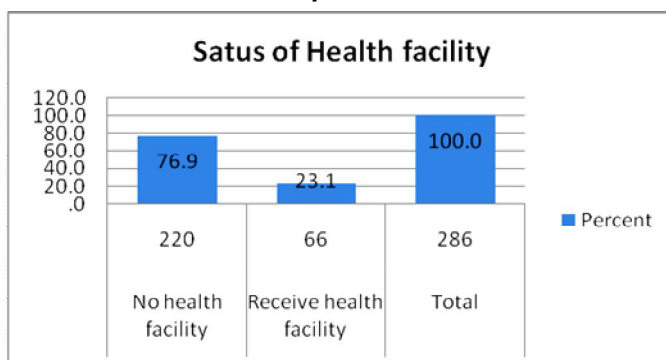


18. Work place environment

The survey tried to find out the environment of the workplaces of Piece rate HBWs. The issues looked at are- Health and Sanitation facilities, Light & Air, Owners' behaviour and Security.

05 A. Health facilities:

Graph – B 06

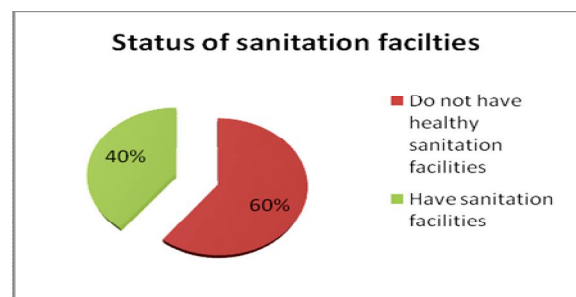


It has been found that, 76.90% Piece rate HBWs are not having proper health service. They do not have access to mainstream health services. Those are working in the factories; the owners are not providing any health services/facilities for them.

05 B. Sanitation facilities

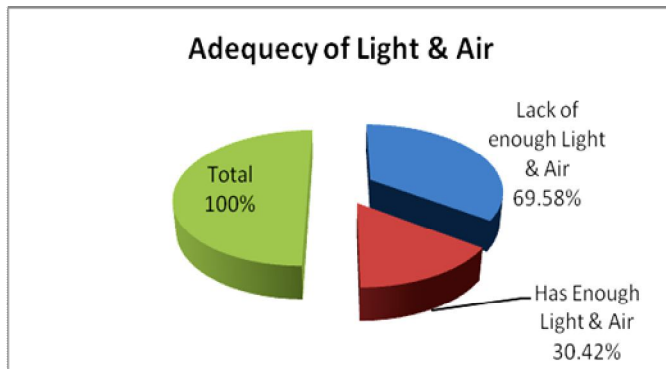
Among 286 respondents 60% informed that they do not have healthy sanitation facilities where they live and work. Those working in factories also reported that they are not having proper sanitation facilities at work places.

Graph – B 07



05 C. Adequacy of Light & Air

Graph - B08

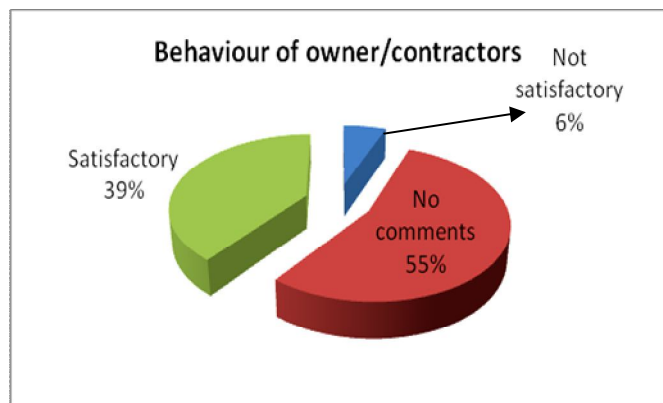


About 70% identified Piece rate HBWs informed that in their working places there is not enough light and air, which creating problem with their eyes and health status. Almost every one opined that they got to work in a very congested space sitting long time and they are getting pain in the neck, waist, and legs and suffer from headache.

05 D. Behaviour of employers/contractors

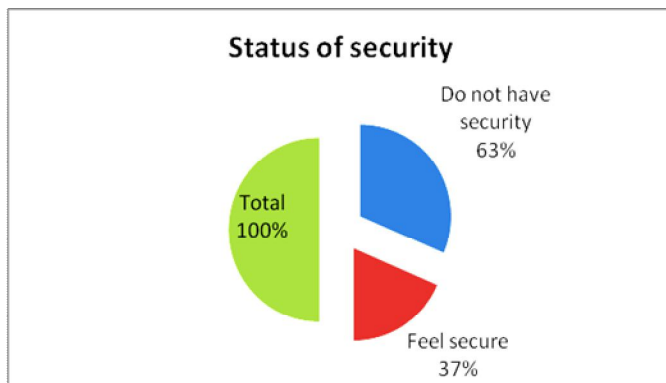
Graph -B 09

Answering this question the Piece rate HBWs were reluctant. The major portion 55% didn't make any comments. 39% informed they are satisfied with the behavior of employers and only 6% expressed no satisfaction. This reluctant is due to fear that if they commented about negative behavior of employers/contractors they might lose work.



06 E. Security

Graph – B 10



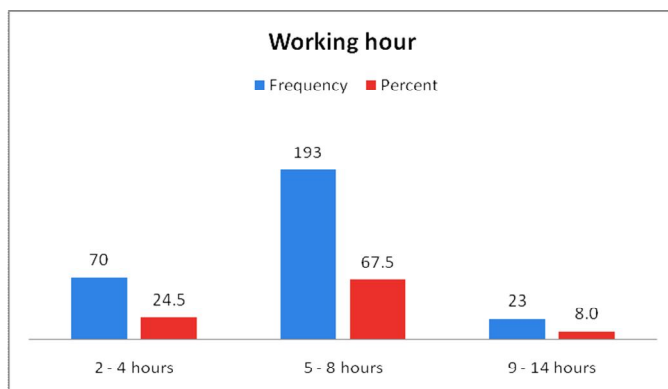
Concerning security large number of respondents 63% informed they feel insecure and 37% opined they feel secure with their work and environment.

This insecurity they meant in terms of regular work, wages, security of children at home and verbal and sexual abuse.

19. Working Hour

Concerning working hour of Piece rate HBWs it has been found that there is no fixed/routine working time for them. The table below shows how long of the day they work.

Graph – B 11



The table shows that the major portion (67.50%) of the respondents work 5 – 8 hours a day. Then 24.50% work 2 – 4 hours. To meet family needs 8.00% of total 286 Piece rate HBWs got to work 9 – 14 hours in a day.

20. Income and Mode of payment

The survey learnt that the income varied in accordance with working hour and type of work. The income is higher of the workers work 8 – 14 hours in a day.

Table – B 12:

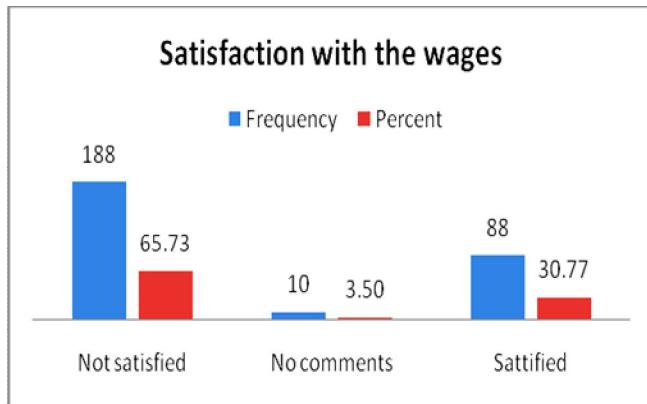
Payment Mode	# of HBWs	%	Wage (In BD Taka)
Daily	9	3.15	25 - 80
Weekly	169	59.09	200 - 3000
Monthly	108	37.76	500 - 8000
TOTAL:	286	100.00	

Some employers/contractors are paying daily basis, some in weekly and some in monthly basis. Those are receiving daily basis payment their income is BD Taka 25.00 – 80.00. Weekly basis payment recipients earning BD Taka 200.00 – 3000.00 and monthly basis payment recipients are earning BD Taka 500.00 – 8000.00. In each basis of payment, this variation depends upon working hour, skill, types and quality of work.

21. Satisfaction with the wages

Many piece rate HBWs are expressed dissatisfaction with wages they receiving. They opined the wages are not enough in accordance with their labour and time they are giving.

Graph -B 13



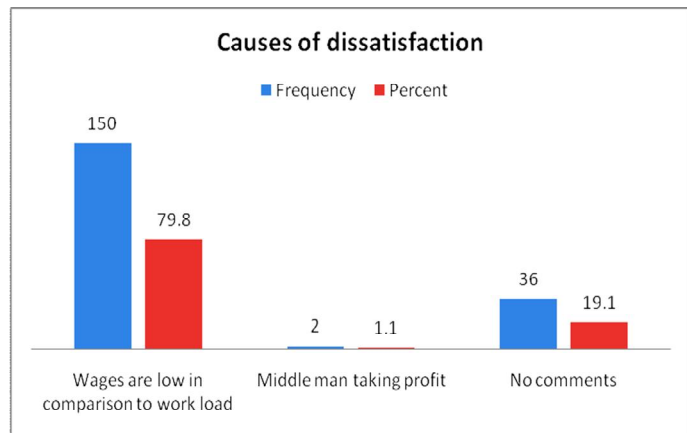
The major portion 188 (65.73%) Piece rate BWs informed that they are not satisfied with the wages they receiving. 88 respondents (30.77%) opined that they are satisfied and 10 (3.50%) didn't make any opinion on the question. It may be due to fear of employer and losing work.

22. Causes of dissatisfaction

They survey wanted to know the causes of dissatisfaction and the respondent's opinion shows in the graph below:

Graph -B 14

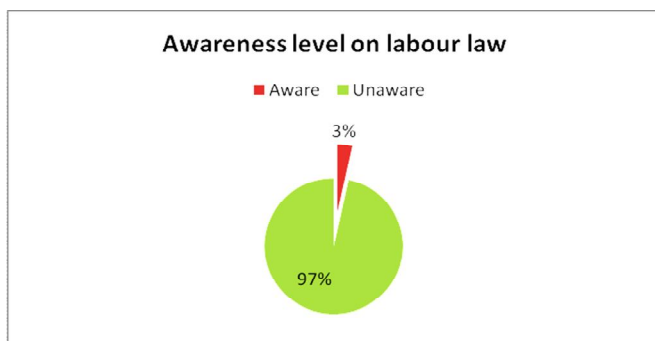
Among 188 respondents 150 (79.80%) expressed their dissatisfaction pointing the wages are below expectation, which is low in comparison to the work they do. 2 workers (1.1%) opined the middle man cutting their commission from the actual wage so they are getting less, since they are having order through middle man. 36 respondent was reluctant to express their opinion and didn't answer the question.



23. Awareness about Labour Rights and Labour law

The survey intended to know about the awareness level of Piece rate/wage employed HBWs concerning the labour rights and labour law. Only 3% informed they have heard it from TV and Newspaper.

Graph -B 15

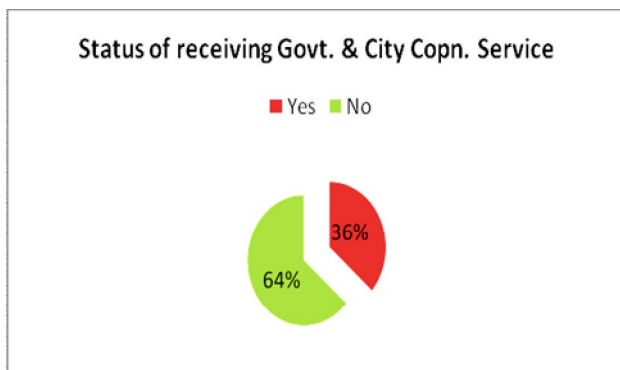


It has been found that all most all the Piece rate/wage employed HBWs are not aware of Labour Rights and Labour law. Only 3% answered they are aware of but could not mention any thing about the rights and provisions of law. Its worth mentioning that due to their invisibility and detachment from outside world they didn't get any opportunity to introduced with the Labour rights and Labour law.

24. Status of Receiving Government & City Corporation Services

The majority 63.64% respondents said they are not receiving Government and City Corporation Services adequately.

Graph – B16a:

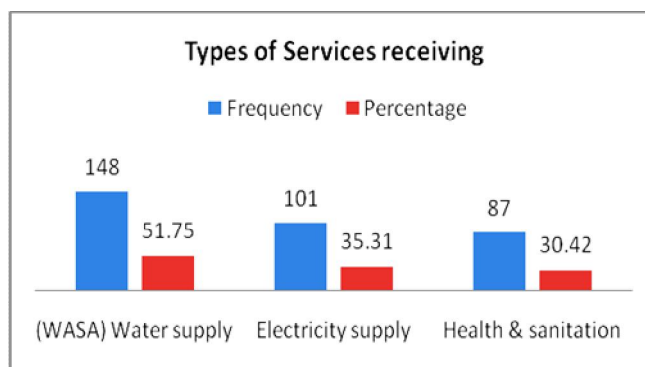


Among 286 respondents only 36% informed they are receiving some sorts of basic services from Government and City Corporation. Those are Electricity, Water Supply and Health & Sanitation.

It may be assumed that the bigger portion of identified Piece rate HBWs is living in Repatriation Camp as refugee and government do not give importance to serve them.

Graph – B16b

Among those receiving services 51.75% informed they receiving Water Supply, 35.31% receiving Electricity supply and lowest 30.42% receiving Health & Sanitation service.



25. Opportunities to complaints and demand service

Many of the Piece rate HBWs informed that they do not have opportunity to make any complaints and demand services to any authority.

Table – B 17

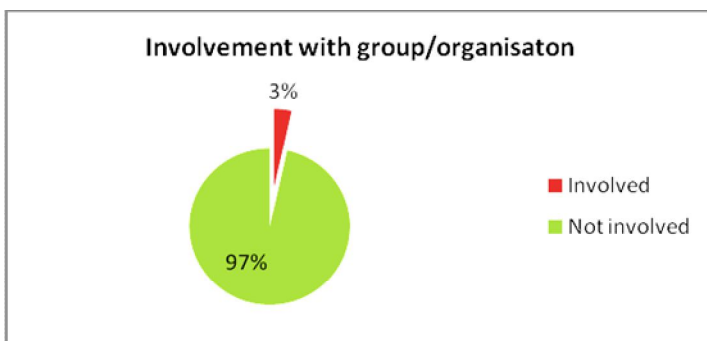
	Frequency	%
Can make complaints and demand services	59	20.63
Cannot make complaints and demand services	227	79.37
Total	286	100

The majority 79.37% respondents informed that they are unable to make any complaints and/or demand services from the respective authority since they are not united and powerless and nobody is ready to listen to them, while they approach individually. Only 20% said they have some sorts of opportunities such as via media, who is connected or have influence on the authorities they can reach/communicate with the concerned authorities.

26. Involvement with Group/Organisation

The survey tried to know whether the identified Piece rate HBWs are involved with any organisation or groups or not. The following graph showing the status:

Graph – B 18



Among 286 respondents almost all 97% informed that they are not involved with any group or organization, because nobody came to them and advised to form or join in any organization or group. Only 10 (3%) said they are involved with different organizations. Among them 4 in Shakty Somity, 1 in SDI, 1 in BRAC & ASHA and 3 newly joined and cannot even tell the name of the Somity.

14. Recommendation from the Piece rate HBWs:

The survey asked the identified Piece rate HBWs to give some recommendations about what is needed to be done to improve the situation and their lifestyle. Majority 91.26% could not make any comments or recommendations. It is due to their unawareness and lack of knowledge regarding the situation since they are isolated, scattered and never thought of the issues. Only 25 persons (8.74%) responded and the responses are given in the following table:

Table – B 19

Recommendations	Frequency	Percentage
Better work facilities is to be ensured	5	1.75
Need Govt. & other's attention to ensure facilities.	1	0.35
Need alternative work facilities/opportunities	1	0.35
Need specific policy for us	1	0.35
Need training and capacity building opportunities	3	1.05
Need to create new livelihood opportunities for women	1	0.35
Need to Disseminate information about women rights	1	0.35
Need to ensure civic amenities and Government facilities	8	2.80
Need Proper implementation of national Women Policy	2	0.70
Need Working together with unity	2	0.70
No comments	261	91.26
Total	286	100

C. Findings from Group Workshops:

The project organised 2 sharing workshops (1 with Own Account HBWs and 1 with Piece rate HBWs) to share and validate the information gathered by collecting data from field using questionnaire and supplement the information gap.

1. Workshop with Own Account HBWS

One Workshop with Own account HBWs had been organised and 30 participants attended the workshop. Through Brain Storming in small groups, the participants identified the problems and formulated a set of recommendations to solve the problems.

Identified problems:

1. While we try to sell our products in Footpath, we have to pay Bribe to the Police and Goons, otherwise they do not allow us to sell products in Footpath.
2. At the time of any Festival such as - Eid, Pohela Baishakh etc.- Police want money otherwise evacuate shops from market.
3. Working at home creates problems in families and also neighbors often make complaints that they feel disturbed.
4. Small working space in home is a problem, but due to higher rent we cannot hire big houses.
5. Selling products: Since we are women and work at home - Buyers offer low rate in comparison with others those producing in factories or produced by male workers. If demanded high rate the buyer cancel order and neglect as women.
6. Problems in traveling with products for selling in the market; carrying cost is high.
7. Banks also neglect us; and do not provide Loan though produce all the legal and required documents as we are women.
8. Problem of electricity: due to frequent load shedding production volume is lessen and sometimes fail to supply orders.
9. We do not get equal respect and dignity from families and society in comparison to Men though we do the domestic work and also work for earning income.
10. The customers offer less price in shop attached to the resident or if sold from home. They will buy from market by high price but though we fix the price less than the market the customers ask for more discount.
11. Starting with small business purchasing small amount of Raw material costs high thus production cost also become high so we face problem to sell products.
12. Due to lack of skill cannot produce quality products.
13. Rent of Space and House is higher than the size of business again owners ask for high rate of advance, so it is difficult for us to make profit.
14. Non-cooperation from family and community is problem though we have skill and capacity to earn income.
15. For Dress making Ironing is needed, but we can't afford it. If somehow we arranged iron, owner of the house do not allow to use because of high electricity bill.
16. Within very small space living and working is difficult.
17. Lack of capital
18. Do not have technical knowledge about repairing the sewing machine, so it increases cost if machine is repaired form outside mechanics.
19. People buy dresses from big shops paying high price, but from us they want to pay less than the actual price.

Recommendations:

1. Need basic & Advance Training.
2. Need Support from NGOs.
3. Desire of Non-discriminative behavior.
4. Recognition and equal respect from families and Community.
5. Increased rate of dressmaking charge
6. Large working space

7. Need unity/ organisation
8. Financial/capital support loan from Banks/MFIs etc.
9. Need training on repairing sewing machines.
10. Ensuring appropriate price of products.
11. Need to ensure personal and social security.
12. Need protection from Mastan and bribery by law enforcement agencies.
13. Need continuous electricity supply.

2. Workshop with Piece rate/wage employed HBWS

The survey team organised another Workshop with Piece rate/wage employed HBWs and 40 participants attended the workshop. Brain storming sessions were organised by forming small groups to identify the problems and formulation of recommendations.

Problem identified:

1. Less charge and irregular payment by owners/contractors.
2. We got to work at home in a tiny and dirty spaces, but contractor cut the wage if the product became dirty or got any spot.
3. Cannot bargain to raise wage rate because others are doing by low rate because of their needs.
4. Wages are not enough in comparison to the labour.
5. If we work for any other contractor offering greater wage, the existing contractor do not give us order.
6. Do not pay wages regularly.
7. We cannot protest because we do not have any one to support/help.
8. Sometimes contractors impose extra work but do not pay wage for that wor.
9. Contractor/employer do not pay festival bonus or extra money though workload increase at the time of festivals.
10. We do not get any leave for even any emergency.
11. Insufficient work space creates problems.
12. Employer/contractor keeps wages due even up to 6 months.
13. We do not get any direct contract, some middle man get contract and engage us in work, so we get less wages.
14. Many working girls want engaging in education but they do not have opportunity.
15. Jaita-paying less wages than actual wage to sales girls, though they work while at shop.
16. Do not have opportunity of Training.
17. We receive only Taka 35.00 for 1000 shopping bags and Tk. 150.00 for one shari, which takes 2 days to complete and it is very low wage, we cannot maintain family.
18. For Karchupi work, it takes one week to complete a Shari/Piece of material but wage is only Tk. 200.00. The owners making high profit but paying us less.
19. We do not get respect and dignity from the society.
20. Work environment is not favourable ans suitable.
21. The owner charging from customers Tk. 200.00 – 250.00 for sewing one set Salwar-Kamij but paying us only Tk. 45.00.
22. The employer/contractor does not behave properly with us.
23. Some employers/contractors do not pay wages before selling the products.

Health hazard:

1. We suffer from Headache/ pain in hand, legs, shoulder, west etc. due to long time work in steady sitting position.
2. Suffering from pain in eyes and vision problem due to working in insufficient light at work placees
3. Lack of toilet and safe water facilities.
4. Lack of sufficient ventilation at work place.
5. The owners, contractors do not pay any compensation if we got any accident/wound at the time of work.

Problems create in families:

1. We cannot take proper care of children, husband and family members when they become ill
2. We cannot give time to children for taking in schools and proper care.
3. Our children do not have any opportunity to play and recreation.
4. Cannot cook and serve food to family members timely.

Recommendations:

1. We need to be united and create unanimous voice by forming organizations.
2. Our demands needed to be informed to the employer collectively.
3. To be work with concern authorities to ensure services that we are entitled to receive from Government.
4. Our skill needed to be improved to receive increased wages/rate.
5. We should keep quality of our work to receive increased wages, so we need further training.
6. Workplace/work environment needed to be improved.
7. Employers need to take care of our health.
8. We should take care ourselves that our workplace is clean and healthy to prevent illness.
9. There is shortage of power (electricity) so we should not consume power unnecessarily.
10. To prevent health hazard we should drink enough water and stand up and walk for few minutes at the time of work.
11. We should be punctual in completing our work in time to get further work and greater wages.
12. We need advanced training to improve quality of our production.
13. We should be innovative in our work and learn skill in accordance with the demand of market.
14. The employers should pay wages regularly and timely including festival bonus.
15. Introducing appreciation and providing incentive/reward for good/quality work could encourage all workers.
16. Employers should provide order directly to the workers not through a middleman/sub-contractor.
17. The works that are hazardous and harmful for health should be compensated by providing alternative adaptation and /or providing cost of health services/ medical treatment by owners.
18. Workplaces should make well ventilated and there should be enough light.
19. Compensation for any accident/wound caused at the time of work should be ensured.
20. There should be facility of child care centre where we can drop our children while we are engaged in work.

Conclusion:

The Baseline survey intended to identify diverse HBWs and gather wide range of information to find out the facts concerning their work, problems and lifestyle. The survey also designed to find out the overall rights situation of HBWs and degree of their rights sensitivity. Nevertheless, due to time constraints the survey activities needed to be squeezed to complete it within the stipulated timeframe of the project plan. From the interview and Sharing Workshop, it has been revealed that both categories of HBWs are living in such a vulnerable situation immediate and effective interventions are needed to promote their rights and protect them from all forms of exploitation. These HBWs are not only the victim of unjust act and behaviour of families, customers and employers/contractors they also facing diverse problems, which includes health hazards as well. However, they are helpless and got to be living with all those problems and barriers in an ignorant and deprived situation though they are contributing to national economic development through their work. The data, information and recommendations from this survey would help designing and implementing appropriate measures/interventions so that these vulnerable HBWs could live a dignified and decent life.

Further Recommendations by the Survey Team:

- Mass awareness raising programme is needed to be undertaken regarding the problems faced by HBWs and for increasing their visibility.
- Extensive advocacy with the Government is needed to ensure formulating a National Policy for Home based workers and incorporating the issues concerning the HBWs in the Labour Law.
- HBWs issues can be included with the Poverty Reduction programmes.
- Financing support from the Banks and MFIs is needed to be ensured for HBWs.
- Increased services and support for HBWs by Government & NGO sectors are needed.
- Organisation building and capacity enhancement support is needed for HBWs.
- Establishing drop-in centres for children of HBWs is essential for safety and development of their children.
- Equal access to civic amenities for HBWs is needed to be ensured.
- Support for marketing facilities is needed for Own Account HBWs.
- There should be an authority to fix wages of HBWs and monitor the payment of appropriate wages by the owners/employers/contractors.

THE SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

