



(The study is conducted by the participants of 12th batch of Gender and Governance Training Program, Democracywatch)

**A Study on the Situation
of Children of Drop in Center
in Dhaka City**

Democracywatch

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Preface

Democracywatch, a trust and a registered NGO was established in 1995 with the aim of strengthening Democracy in Bangladesh. We ventured out to achieve this through creating awareness of democratic process, values, human rights and good governance and thereby foster democratic culture. These are to be implemented through education, training of youth especially women, concluding research, increase capacity of democratic institutions and advocacy. Democracywatch trained around 25000 youths sofar in “Life skills” and “Lifestyle” course on basic skills for developing as a confident, aware and competent human being ready to contribute as leaders towards ushering in a better society.

Democracywatch developed a special gender and governance training to add its leadership program. Awareness of gender issues is one of the main themes of training the youths of tomorrow. So an innovative training program called Gender and Governance Training Program (GGTP) and later named as Gender and Governance Sensitization Program (GGSP) was introduced in 2005 funded by CIDA. After two terms of funding by CIDA the Royal Danish Embassy, the Program for Asian Project (PAP) gave us the necessary support. Young public university graduates both male and female came forward to undertake this innovative and purposeful training program. Our rich pool of resource persons includes renowned academics and researchers on gender, politics, sociology and law. These immensely enriched trainings attracted well attributed women and men. The training period was only four months. It was highly regarded as it incorporated some additional components which are not readily found in other short courses i.e. research on gender issues and internship with reputable development and economic organizations. Both of these gave the participants of the course practical knowledge and hand on experience. This inculcated in many of the participants being well placed in renowned international and national NGOs and also engaged in big corporate. We feel elated that the course has been successful in creating female and male leaders in our society within such a short time.

We are proud to present the research reports that each batch has produced. These researchers are rather empirical with small sample size, as it had to be finished within the course period on a shoestring budget. These studies need to have a sympathetic view by its readers. Nevertheless topics selected often created a lot of interest among the stakeholders and academics when they were presented by the students at our seminars. Hope this study is useful to some in their own work and in giving an insight on women’s plight in our society.

To end I thank Mrs. Taherunnesa Abdullah, Magsaysay Award Winner, Prof. Salah Uddin M. Aminuzzaman, Prof. A.S.M Atiqullah of Dhaka of Dhaka University, Mr. Saiful Islam our Monitoring and Evaluation Team Leader and thegender unit for helping the students in completing the reports of these researchers. The students would have been at a loss without their all out support.

I congratulate and thank all the participants for their hard work and willingness to learn about importance of gender in all spheres of the society and contribute in achieving it.

Last but not the least my deepest gratitude to our donors Norad, CIDA, PAP and Royal Danish Embassy for their support.

Taleya Rehman
Founder Executive Director
Democracywatch

Acknowledgement

We, the participants of the 12th batch of the “Gender and Governance Training Program” of Democracywatch conducted the research titled –“**A Study on the Situation of Children of Drop-in Center in Dhaka City**” as part of our training program. In doing this research we received guidance and support from people, without which this research would not have been possible. As such we would like to thank a number of people for their contribution to this research work. First of all we would like to thank Mrs. Taleya Rehman for always being so enthusiastic about our research and taking time out of her busy schedule to guide us in different stages of research. We thank Mrs. Tahrunnesa Abdullah for her precious advice and guidance. We express our sincere gratitude to **Prof. A. S. M. Atiqur Rahman**, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, **University of Dhaka** for acquainting us with basic research methods. It’s due to his excellent teaching on the theoretical aspects of social research that we felt comfortable in undertaking this field of research. We would like to convey our special thanks to Ms. Mansura Akhter, Ms. Anupama Anam and Ms. Syeda Nazneen Jahan for their continuous guidance and suggestions in every stage of the research. We are thankful to Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK) for their consent to interview the respondents of Drop-in Centers run by them. Thanks to all the respondents for their time and sharing with us valuable knowledge and experience on the study subject.

Participants of the 12th Batch

Gender and Governance Training Program
Democracywatch
February 2010

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Executive Summary

One hundred thirty three respondents from six drop in centers of Dhaka City were interviewed. A semi structured interview schedule was used for collection of background information of the interviewees, opinion on various issues related to the drop in center.

Out of total 133 respondents 31 of them were born and brought up in Dhaka. Among the remaining 102 respondents most of them (89%) came from their village homes with their parents or other relatives. As reported by the in charge of drop in centers some of them are not living with their families. They want to live free life with other street children and do not want to be controlled by their parents.

Most of the drop in center provides support to children between the age ranging 7 to 14 years. Among the respondents enrolled in the drop in centers majority of them (71%) are in the age group of 10-12 years.

Two third of the total respondents is continuing their primary level education and only five percent of them are enrolled in lower secondary school. Six percent involved in madrasa education. 23% respondents are illiterate, among whom several of them can sign their names only.

Majority girls are engaged in is domestic work. Some of them assist in making jari work, imitation jewelry and supplying water to shops in market places. A few others work as garbage collectors (Tokai), selling flowers and toys on the streets or making brick chips at construction site.

The boys are engaged as porters at launch terminal and market places, garbage collectors, helper in different types of shops etc.

Around two third respondents mentioned that their daily wage is.20 Taka and below, which is very small even to have two meals a day. Thirteen percent of the respondent said that their daily income is in between taka 21 to 40, while the others earning in the range of 41-60 taka (9%), 61-80 taka (5%), 81-100 taka (2%), and 101-120 taka (2%). Seven percent of the respondents mentioned that they have no cash income, but they get food for work. Only two children are unemployed.

The income they earn is used for supplementing family income (45%) which shows that though they are young in age but they feel for their family. 36% of the respondents spent money to meet their basic needs such as food, clothes, and house rents. It is encouraging to find that 20 of them spend their income to meet educational expenses and five respondents save money.

Ninety five percent respondents said that their mother is still alive and 89% cases father is alive. Three fourth of the respondents said that, they stay with their parents; mother and father together or either mother or father. Twenty nine children do not stay with their mother or father and another 27 cases parents live in the village homes. Two girls do not know where abouts of their father or mother as they have no communication with them and 15 cases father deserted the family.

Twenty five mothers are housewives. Among the remaining 108 mothers 53% are domestic workers, 16% garment workers and 10% engaged in breaking brick chips. Other professions include Arabic teacher, sale of garlands made out of discarded flowers of florist, tailor, cook in a road side hotel, hospital attendant, garbage collector, shop assistants in market place and beggar.

Thirty one percent fathers are rickshaw pullers and another 20% are vendors selling different goods. Other professions include driver, messenger, mason, drill worker in a workshop, farmer, and day labor. Nine of them reported that their fathers are vagabond, do not do any work. 14% mentioned that they have no information about their fathers' profession.

Nearly half (46%) of the respondents came to drop in center with their friends who are already enrolled to the centers. One fourth respondents were brought by the family members and 24% came with the assistance of the center's teacher and maid and neighbors. Only six respondents came themselves.

48% of the respondents have joined the centers recently- six month and below. One third of the respondents are enrolled for one to two years and only 20% enrolled in the center for more than two years.

The drop in center provides the children lunch/ snacks and opportunity to study, to play, to paint, participate in cultural activities. They also can interact with other children of same age which is a kind of recreation for them.

Most of the respondents informed that they come to drop in center to study and learn drawing, songs, go to study tours etc. This shows that these children are eager to educate themselves. Recreation and food also attracts them.

Sixteen respondents were found who do not come to drop-in-centre regularly due to too much work load at work-places and illness.

The drop-in centers which are under study projects provide lunch for the children. Lunch is generally provided before 2.p.m. Most of the respondents extend their stay up to 2p.m. to avail the lunch.

Two third of the respondents mentioned that they want the Drop-in-centre should be open from 9 am till 5 pm. 14% of them said that it should be open for twenty-four hours so that they can come any time even after their job. Twenty percent of the respondents opined that it should be open until they go to their sleeping place.

43% mentioned that doctors come to drop-in-center twice a month, 36% opined that doctors come four times in a month and 21% mentioned that doctors visit the drop in centre sometimes in a month. 125 respondents said that DIC refer them to hospital in case of severe sickness. All the respondents mentioned that drop in centre provide medicine to the sick children whenever needed.

From all the above data it can be interpreted that according to the children the health care facilities that the drop in center provides is sufficient.

(ii) Sleeping Place

All the respondents mentioned that there is no sleeping place for the children in the drop in centre. Some of them who have no sleeping place live under the open sky or open place at night.

(iii) Food

All the respondents mentioned the foods such as rice, bread, meat, vegetables, fruits, sweets, snacks etc. are being served to them. Most of the respondents expressed their satisfaction over foods. Some of them also expressed that, they come to drop in center because of food here.

(iv) Shower:

Two third (77%) respondents mentioned that they have the facilities to take shower in the drop in centre. This indicates that some of the drop in center provides shower facilities to the children while some are not.

(v) Entertainment:

None of the DIC has T.V. However, centers have various games such as carom board puzzles etc and occasionally children are taken out to zoo and museum. All respondents have mentioned that materials such as, for education, play, painting, singing, dancing etc provided by drop in center for daily use are sufficient for them.

(vi) Sanitation System:

Three fourth (75%) of the respondent mentioned that the drop in center provides soap for washing hands.

Regarding toilet facilities in drop in center most (96%) of the respondents replied positively. They said the toilet facility that the drop in centers provides is reasonably good. Only four percent said that toilet facilities are not so good, it needs to be improved.

(vii) Others:

Besides the above the drop in centers provide for the children library facilities, dress, study tour, games, place to rest during day time etc. All the students are satisfied with the facilities provided by drop in center.

All of the respondents mentioned that they do not have to pay any fee for services provided by Drop-in- centre. Most of the respondents (88%) mentioned that they come to drop-in-centre daily. Only few respondents (12%) cannot come regularly as they involve in some other job for earning money. All the respondents mentioned that as the entire environment of the DIC is very friendly and the persons working there is very well-mannered so the children feel that they are welcome to DIC. Most of the respondents mentioned that they do not face any problem in Drop-in Centre.

Aspiration of the Respondents

Among the total respondents thirty percent wants to be Doctor which if followed by Teacher (20%). Five of them want to be Engineer or lawyer. Other professions/jobs mentioned include service holder (10%), Garment workers/Tailor (10%) and businessman (6%). Some of them are willing to have jobs as police/RAB or work in the arm forces.(9%). A few others want to be Film Actor-Actress/ Singer/ Artist// Player (7%). Three girls mentioned that they want to be Nurse and one boy wants to be pilot.

Chapter: One

1.1 Introduction:

Government statistics, based on a survey by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, estimate the number of street children in Bangladesh to be around 380,000 of whom 55% are in Dhaka city, raised in streets, with no education, not enjoying protection of single clauses of international child rights. A little less than half of them (49.2%) are of the age group < 10 years, while the remaining falls in the age group of 11-19 years. Their gender composition is as follows: boys 74.3%, while girls account for 25.7%. The above report estimates that by 2014 the number of such children would exceed 930,000.

Street children constitute one of the most vulnerable, underprivileged and marginal groups in Bangladesh. "Street children" are essentially the boys and girls for whom the streets, unoccupied dwellings, wastelands etc., have become homes and/or sources of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised by responsible adults. The major problems of these children are: Insecure life, physical and sexual abuse by adults of the immediate community; harassment by law enforcing agencies; no or inadequate access to educational institutions and healthcare facilities and lack of decent employment opportunity.

The number of street children in Dhaka city is increasing by the year. Thus competition for the few available jobs is becoming tougher. They continuously struggle for work, food and survival. Drugs and weapons are increasingly becoming part of street life resulting in even more threats for these children. Some of these children are involved with domestic work where life is also sometimes vulnerable. These kinds of children have no, or inadequate, access to educational institutions and healthcare facilities; and lack of decent employment opportunity. Even they do not get any safe and secure place where they can do their daily work like taking rest, bath, study and sleep. Different studies have already found that a large number of girls are living on the streets under the open sky. Therefore, they are involved with different kinds of unethical work like sexual work, drug marketing, pick pocket and other business to earn money to meet their daily needs. At the same time, they are being trafficked. Although the number is not so high but its effect is severe on the society.

Considering the existing situation government and human rights organizations have taken special measures to ensure their safety and security by establishing drop in centre. The drop-in-centers are for those street children who are engaged in any kinds of work and earn themselves. These children are underprivileged group of the society. They may live with their family or may not. These groups of children come to these drop in centers several times in a day after finishing their job. These kinds of drop in centers provide them food, clothes, health service, education and try to make them aware. The drops in center are of different types. These are for different vulnerable group of people of the society. It might be for the street children, for the drug abuser, for prostitutes, for old people, for disadvantaged girl child. The drop-in center is an institution where the underprivileged group of children can safely drop by to rest. Around 140-150 children utilize the center everyday, 25% of them being girls. The center offers a resting place, amusement, showering facilities, lockers for safe-keeping valuables, meals, basic education, skill training, and first aid and medical treatment. Counseling is also provided.

1.2 Description of the Drop in Centers selected for the study:

Each Drop-In-Center (DIC) selected for the study has two personnel, one Senior Educator with a consolidated monthly salary of Tk. 12,700 to Tk.10, 000. Some of them are graduates and others are masters degree holders. In addition, each DIC has an Assistant Educator with Higher Secondary Certificates and drawing a monthly consolidated salary of Tk. 5,700/-. In addition, all of them get other benefits such as, two festive bonuses with one month salary for each, coverage of health insurance, leave encashment and paid maternity leave. In addition, those who complete two years of service are entitled to Provident fund and Gratuity benefit. Working hours in all DIC is 9.am to 5.p.m. In addition, they also enjoy working with children and respect they get from these children is itself much more satisfying which motivates them to continue with this job.

Rules of registration:

Respondents of the present study are mostly working children living with their parents and only a few of them are so called street children. The Drop-In Center provides services for these children.

Requirements for admission in the DIC include:

- These children must be regular in attendance.
- They must be working children.
- The age limit of getting admitted into drop in center is 8 to 14 years.

Seat capacity:

So far, DICs have no seat limit. Except one DIC, number of children registered ranges between 55 to 170. However, daily attendance of children in DIC is generally much less than the number of children registered.

1.3 Rationale of the study:

The Drop-In Center provides services exclusively for children who are homeless and who would be living on the streets. In order to ensure that Drop-In Centers are serving this population, clients will be referred by Outreach. Street homeless clients will either be brought to the Drop-In Centers by Outreach Teams or Outreach Teams will provide an attestation that the individual is street homeless.

Most of the street children do not have any idea or information about the drop in center. So, it is necessary to increase the drop in centers and to inform the street children about it. Because the services of these centers will help them to overcome the obstacles and the street children will be able to contribute in country's development. For this, more study is needed to find out effective ways to make their lives a better ones.

These categories of children are one of the parts of our total population. If necessary steps are not taken to save them they will be involved with unethical work as well as social justice will be hampered. It is expected that the findings of the study will help to raise awareness among the stakeholders about the importance of security and services given by the drop in centers. It is also hoped that the findings would help the government as well as the human rights organizations to take more effective measures. The findings of the research may also help the future researchers who are interested to work on the issue.

1.4 Objectives of the study:

The general objective of the research is to know about the situation of the children of the drop in centers in Dhaka city.

More specifically:

1. To determine the present conditions of the drop in centers in Dhaka city.
2. To identify the services provided by the drop in centers.
3. To find out the problems and challenges faced by the children and employees of the drop in centers.
4. To identify their needs and aspiration and obtain suggestions to overcome these problems.

1.5 Methodology

Research Design:

Considering the objectives of the study, geographical areas, time, types of respondents, major thematic areas under the study, both qualitative and quantitative research methods and procedures were applied to explore pertinent information for this study. Major steps and procedures followed in this study were as follows:

Study Population:

The study population consisted of all the children registered by the drop in centers in Dhaka City considering easy access and other facilities.

Sampling Method:

From Six drop in centers 133 children were selected randomly for conducting the study. From each five drop in center 23 respondents and only from ECOTA 18 children (because of non availability of children) were interviewed for the study. More or less equal number of male (47%) and female (53%) children were interviewed.

| SL | Name of Drop in centers | Number of Children |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Mohammadpur | 23 |
| 2 | Goran | 23 |
| 3 | Bashabo | 23 |
| 4 | Mirpur | 23 |
| 5 | Shantibag | 23 |
| 6 | Jonson Road (ECOTA) | 18 |
| | Total | 133 |

Measures Used:

Considering the nature of variables and types of respondents quantitative procedures of data collection were applied.

Data Collection Tools:

Main data collection techniques used in this study was Semi-structured interview schedule. This method was applied to collect data from children of selected drop in centers in Dhaka city.

Data Collection Procedure

One hundred and thirty three respondents from six drop in centers of Dhaka City were interviewed. A semi structured interview schedule was used for collection of background information of the interviewees, opinion on various issues related to the drop in center.

Challenges and Limitation of the study:

While conducting the study the following limitations had to face:

- As time, resources and manpower allocated for the proposed study was very limited, the data collection was limited only within 133 respondents of Dhaka city.

Chapter: Two

Data Analysis and Representation

A. Personal Information:

Table 1: Person with whom migrated to Dhaka

| SL | Person with whom migrated to Dhaka | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Mother | 22 | 22 |
| 2 | Father | 04 | 03 |
| 3 | Mother and Father | 54 | 53 |
| 4 | Elder Brother | 1 | 01 |
| 5 | Relatives | 10 | 10 |
| 6 | Came alone | 10 | 10 |
| 7 | Unknown person | 01 | 01 |
| | Total | 102 | 100 |
| 1 | Permanent inhabitant of Dhaka | 31 | |

Analysis:

Table 1 shows that, out of total 133 respondents 31 of them were born and brought up in Dhaka. Among the remaining 102 respondents most of them (89%) came from villages with their parents or other relatives. As reported by the in charge of drop in centers many of them are not living with their families. They want to live free life with other street children and do not want to be controlled by their parents. However, some of these children have contact with their families. Only 11% came by themselves or with unknown person.

Table 2: Age range of the respondents

| SL | Age range (In year) | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | 7-9 | 26 | 20 |
| 2 | 10-12 | 95 | 71 |
| 3 | 13 & above | 12 | 9 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Most of the drop in center provides support to children between the age ranging 7 to 14 years. Table 2 shows that among the respondents enrolled in the drop in centers 71% are in the age group of 10-12 years, while 20% are from the age group 7-9 year. Only nine percent are in the age group 13 years and above.

Table 3: Sex of the respondents

| SL | Sex | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Female | 70 | 53 |
| 2 | Male | 63 | 47 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Table 3 shows that more or less equal numbers male (47%) and female (53%) respondents were interviewed.

Table 4: Educational Qualification of the respondents

| SL | Educational Qualification | Frequency | % |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Primary level (Class i-v) | 88 | 66 |
| 2 | Lower Secondary level (Class vi-viii) | 6 | 5 |
| 3 | Illiterate, can sign their name only | 31 | 23 |
| 4 | Others | 8 | 6 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Table 4 shows that 23% respondents are illiterate, among whom many of them can sign their names only. Two third of the total respondents is continuing their primary level education and only five percent of them are enrolled in lower secondary schools. Eight respondents studying in *madrassa*.

Table 5: Profession of the Respondents

| SL | Types of work | Frequency | |
|----|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | F | M |
| 1 | Porter | | 11 |
| 2 | Garbage Collector | 5 | 12 |
| 3 | Helper in making imitation jewelry and Decorating cloths with Jori and puti | 9 | 2 |
| 4 | Helper in a shops such as tea shop, grill shop, sweet shop, folding shopping bags Tailoring, Embroidery work, labeling shirt collar, automobile repairing garage, | 3 | 19 |
| 5 | Newspaper seller | | 1 |
| 6 | Domestic worker | 28 | 1 |
| 7 | Work in market places as water suppliers, egg washer | 10 | 4 |
| 8 | Make Brick chips | 2 | |
| 9 | Collect throwaway Vegetable at market places and sell | 1 | 4 |
| 10 | Street sellers of side flowers and toy sellers | 2 | |
| 11 | Food carrier (to offices) | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | Not involved in jobs | 5 | 5 |
| | Total | 66 | 60 |

Analysis:

Majority girls are engaged in is domestic work. Some of them assist in making jari work, imitation jewelry and supplying water to shops in market places. A few others work as garbage collectors (Tokai), selling flowers and toys on the streets or making brick chips at construction site.

The boys are engaged as porters at launch terminal and market places, garbage collectors, helper in different types of shops etc.

Table 6: Daily income of the respondents

| SL | Daily Income Range (In taka) | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | 20 and below | 77 | 60 |
| 2 | 21-40 | 16 | 13 |
| 3 | 41-60 | 11 | 09 |
| 4 | 61-80 | 06 | 05 |
| 5 | 81-100 | 03 | 02 |
| 6 | 101-120 | 03 | 02 |
| 7 | Unemployed | 02 | 02 |
| 8 | Food for work | 09 | 07 |
| 9 | No information | 06 | |
| | Total | 133 | |

Analysis:

Table 6 shows that daily income of the respondents. There are six no responses. Among rest of the respondents about two third mentioned that their daily wage is.20 Taka and below, which is very small even to have two meals a day. Thirteen percent of the respondent said that their daily income is in between taka 21 to 40, while the others earning in the range

of 41-60 taka (9%), 61-80 taka (5%), 81-100 taka (2%), 101-120 taka (2%). Seven percent of the respondents mentioned that they have no cash income, but they get food for work. Only two children are unemployed.

Table 7: Ways of spending daily Income

| SL | Ways of spending daily Income | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|---|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Support Parents | 60 | 45 |
| 2 | Meet cost of food and clothes and other needs | 40 | 31 |
| 3 | Give house rent | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | Educational purpose | 20 | 15 |
| 5 | Savings | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | No information | 7 | |
| | Total | 138 | 100 |

* Multiple responses

Analysis:

Table 7 shows that among the 133 respondents there are seven no response. 45% respondents supplement family income which shows that although they are young in age they feel liability for their family. 36% of the respondents spent money to meet their basic needs such as food, clothes, and house rents. It is encouraging to find that 20 of them spend their income to meet educational expenses and five respondents save money.

Table 8: Information about Parents

| SL | | Response | | Mother | | Father | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | N | % | N | % |
| 1. Parents alive | | Yes | | 127 | 95 | 118 | 89 |
| | | No | | 6 | 5 | 15 | 11 |
| | | Total | | 133 | 100 | 133 | 100 |
| 2. Contact with parents | | 1 | Child stay with parents | 99 | 76 | 91 | 69 |
| | | 2 | Do not stay with parents | 13 | 10 | 16 | 12 |
| | | 3 | Parents live in village home | 16 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| | | 4 | No contact | 02 | 2 | - | - |
| | | 5 | Father deserted the family | - | | 15 | 11 |
| | | 6 | No response | 03 | | | |
| | | Total | | 133 | 100 | 133 | 100 |
| 3. Profession of Parents | | | | | | | |
| SL | Mother's Profession | N | % | Father's Profession | N | % | |
| 1 | Housewife | 25 | -- | Rickshaw puller | 41 | 31 | |
| 2 | Domestic worker | 57 | 53 | Vendor (Business) | 27 | 20 | |
| 3 | Garment's worker | 18 | 16 | Meson | 11 | 8 | |
| 4 | Make brick chips | 11 | 10 | Vagabond | 9 | 7 | |
| 5 | Arabic teacher | 2 | 2 | Driver | 10 | 8 | |
| 6 | Garbage collector | 2 | 2 | Day labor | 7 | 5 | |
| 7 | Tailor | 2 | 2 | Drill worker in a workshop | 6 | 4 | |
| 8 | Cook | 3 | 3 | Farmer | 4 | 3 | |
| 9 | Sale of garlands made out of discarded flowers of florist | 4 | 4 | Messenger | 4 | 3 | |
| 10 | Hospital attendant | 2 | 2 | Others | 14 | 11 | |
| 12 | Beggar | 3 | 2 | Total | 133 | | |
| 13 | Shopkeeper | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| 14 | Work in market/bazaar | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| 15 | Total | 108 | 100 | | | | |

Analysis:

Table 8 shows that, Ninety five percent respondents said that their mother is still alive and 89% cases father is alive.

Three fourth of the respondents said that, they stay with their parents; mother and father together or either mother or father. Twenty nine children do not stay with their mother or

father and another 27 cases parents live in the village homes. Two girls do not know where about of their father or mother as they have no communication with them and 15 cases father deserted the family.

Out of 133 mothers 25 are housewives. Among the remaining 108 mothers 53% are domestic workers, 16% garment workers and 10% engaged in breaking brick chips. Other professions include Arabic teacher, sale of garlands made out of discarded flowers of florist, tailor, cook in a road side hotel, hospital attendant, garbage collector, shop assistants in market place and beggar.

Thirty one percent fathers are rickshaw pullers and another 20% are vendors selling different goods. Other professions include driver, messenger, and meson, drill worker in a workshop, farmer, and day labor. Nine of them reported that their fathers are vagabond, do not do any work. 14% mentioned that they have no information about their fathers' profession.

B. Information related to Drop-in-Center:

Table 9: Contact Person to Drop-in-Center

| SL | Contact Person to Drop in Center | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-----------|---|------------------|---------------------|
| 2 | Family members | 33 | 26 |
| 4 | Friends and center inmates | 62 | 46 |
| 5 | Center's maid | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Center's teacher | 16 | 12 |
| 7 | Neighbor & local people | 16 | 12 |
| 9 | Self | 6 | 4 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Table 9 shows that nearly half (46%) of the respondents came to know about drop in center from their friends or center inmates and another 26% cases family members brought them to drop in centers. In addition, 34 of them came with the assistance of the center's teacher, maid (12%) and with neighbors (12%). Only six respondents came by themselves.

Table 10: For how long been in drop-in-center

| SL | For how long been in drop in center | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-----------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 7 Days | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 Month | 29 | 22 |
| 3 | 2-5 Month | 14 | 11 |
| 4 | 5-6 Months | 13 | 10 |
| 5 | 1 Year | 29 | 22 |
| 6 | 2 Years | 14 | 11 |
| 7 | 3-4 Years | 25 | 19 |
| 8 | 7 Years | 1 | 1 |
| 9 | No information | 2 | |
| | Total | 133 | |

Analysis:

Table 10 shows that 48% of the respondents have joined the centers recently six month and below. One third of the respondents are enrolled for one to two years and only 20% enrolled in the center for more than two years.

Table 11: Reasons behind coming to Drop in Center

| SL | Reasons behind coming to Drop in Center | Frequency | (%) |
|--------------|---|------------|-----|
| 1 | To study and learn drawing, songs, go for study tours | 120 | 92 |
| 2 | To get food | 21 | 16 |
| 3 | To get treatment facilities | 3 | 2 |
| 4 | To play and enjoyment | 40 | 31 |
| 5 | To get other facilities from DIC | 36 | 27 |
| 6 | No money is needed to come in center | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | 222 | |

*Multiple Responses

Analysis:

The concept of drop in center is very recent in Bangladesh. The drop in centers provide the inmates lunch/ snacks and opportunity to study, to play, to paint, to do cultural activities. They also can interact with other children of same age which is a kind of recreation for them.

In a response to the reasons behind coming to drop in center table 11 shows that, most of the respondents informed that they come to drop in center to study and learn drawing, songs, go to study tours etc. This shows that these children are eager to educate themselves. Recreation and food also attracts them.

Table 12: Activities at Drop-in-Center

| SL | Activities at DIC | Frequency | Percentage % |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Study | 123 | 92 |
| 2 | Singing | 100 | 75 |
| 3 | Dancing | 65 | 49 |
| 4 | Drawing | 116 | 87 |
| 5 | Playing Games | 121 | 91 |
| 6 | Others | 50 | 38 |
| Total | | 575 | |

*Multiple Responses

N=133

Analysis:

Table 12 reveals that a majority (92%) of children mentioned that they come to drop in center to study, which shows their eagerness towards getting educated. These children are known as street children, they do not have the opportunity to enroll in formal school because

of financial condition. So, the drop in center is a great opportunity for them to quench their thirst for education. Following that 91% of the respondents mentioned the activity which they like most is “Playing Games” which is followed by drawing (87%), Singing (75%), Dancing (49%) and others (38%) which include attending workshop, telling stories etc. Drop-in-center is a place of attraction for various activities such as dancing, playing, singing, drawing etc. and they love to come to drop in center.

Table 13: Reasons behind the not coming to drop-in-centre regularly

| SL | Reasons behind the not coming to drop-in-centre regularly | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|---|-----------|--------------|
| 1. | Too much work load at work-place | 8 | 50 |
| 2. | Illness | 5 | 32 |
| 3. | Timing of school | 1 | 6 |
| 4. | Accidents | 1 | 6 |
| 5. | Mother’s sickness | 1 | 6 |
| | Total | 16 | 100 |

Analysis:

Sixteen respondents were found who did not come to drop-in-centre regularly. Table 13 shows that, among this group of respondents half (50%) of them mentioned too much work load at work-place as the main reason for not coming regularly. The second major reason is ‘Illness (32%).

Table 14: Spending time at DIC

| SI | Spending time | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | 9am-2pm | 15 | 11 |
| 2 | 10am-2pm | 64 | 48 |
| 3 | 10am-5pm | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 12pm-2pm | 49 | 37 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

The drop-in centers which are under this study provide lunch for the children. Lunch is generally provided before 2.p.m. Table 14 shows that, most of the respondents stay between 1-2p.m. to avail the lunch.

Table 15: How long DIC should be opened daily

| SL | How long it should be opened? | Frequency | Percentage % |
|----|---|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Full working day (9 am-5 pm) | 81 | 61 |
| 2 | Half working day (9 am-2 pm) | 04 | 3 |
| 3 | Day and night all time/ 24hrs | 18 | 14 |
| 4 | Others (Before going to their sleeping place) | 27 | 20 |
| 5 | Do not know | 03 | 02 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Table 15 shows that around two third of the respondent (61%) mentioned that they want the Drop-in-centre should be opened from 9 am till 5 pm. While 14% of them said that it should be opened for twenty-four hours so that they can come any time even after their job. Twenty percent of the respondents opined that it should be opened until they go to their sleeping place.

Facilities provided from the drop-in-center:**Table: 16 (i) Health care facilities:**

| SL | Factors | Responses | Frequency | Percentage % |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| i) Health care facilities | a) Number of visit made by doctor | 2 times in a month | 52 | 43 |
| | | 4 times in a month | 43 | 36 |
| | | Sometimes | 25 | 21 |
| | | No response | 13 | |
| | | Total | 133 | 100 |
| | b) In case of severe sickness | Refer to hospital | 125 | 94 |
| | | No response | 8 | 6 |
| | | Total | 133 | 100 |
| | c) Providing medicine | Positive | 133 | 100 |
| | | Total | 133 | 100 |

Table 16 reveals that; in the matter of healthcare facilities number of visit by the doctor vary from center to center. There is 13 no response. Among rest of the respondents 43% mentioned that doctors come to drop-in-center twice a month, 36% opined that doctors come four times in a month and 21% mentioned that doctors visit the drop in centre sometimes in a month. 125 respondents said that DIC refer them to hospital in case of severe sickness. All of the respondents (100%) mentioned that drop in centre provide medicine to the sick children whenever needed.

From all the above data it can be interpreted that according to the children the health care facilities that the drop in center provides is sufficient. They try their best to provide treatment facilities for the children who come there.

(ii) Sleeping Place

All the respondents mentioned that there is no sleeping place for the children in the drop in centre. Some of them who have no sleeping place live under the open sky or open place at night.

(iii) Food

All the respondents mentioned the foods such as rice, bread, meat, vegetables, fruits, sweets, snacks etc. are being served to them. Most of the respondents expressed their satisfaction over foods. Some of them also expressed that, they come to drop in center because of food here.

(iv) Shower:

Two third (77%) respondents mentioned that they have the facilities to take shower in the drop in centre. This indicates that some of the drop in center provides shower facilities to the children while some are not.

(v) Entertainment:

None of the DIC has T.V. However, centers have various games such as carom board puzzles etc and occasionally children are taken out to zoo and museum.

(vi) Sanitation System:

In case of sanitation facilities more than two third (75%) of the respondent mentioned that the drop in center provides soap for washing hands.

Regarding toilet facilities in drop in center most (96%) of the respondents replied positively. They said the toilet facility that the drop in centers provides is reasonably good. Only four percent said that toilet facilities are not so good, it needs to be improved.

(vii) Others:

Besides the above the drop in centers provide for the children library facilities, dress, study tour, games, place to rest during day time etc. All the students are satisfied with the facilities provided by drop in center.

Some other information mentioned by the children of the drop in center:

a) Payment for DIC:

All of the respondents mentioned that they do not have to pay any amount of money for coming to Drop-in- centre.

b) Regular visit to DIC :

Most of the respondents (88%) mentioned that they come to drop-in-centre daily. Only few respondents (12%) cannot come regularly as they are working to earn money. All the respondents have expressed positive feelings about Drop-in-centre. They mentioned that as the entire environment of the DIC is very friendly and the persons working there is very well-mannered so the children feel that they are being welcome to DIC.

c) Problems faced at DIC

Most of the respondents mentioned that they do not face any problem in Drop-in Centre. Only a few of them said that as they are working they cannot stay at drop in center for long.

Table 17: Aspiration of the Respondents

| Sl. | Aspiration | Frequency | Percentage % |
|-----|---|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Doctor | 41 | 30 |
| 2. | Teacher | 27 | 20 |
| 3. | Police /RAB/Army | 12 | 09 |
| 4. | Engineer | 04 | 03 |
| 5. | Garments worker/Tailor | 14 | 10 |
| 6. | Film Actor-Actress/ Singer/ Artist// Player | 08 | 07 |
| 7. | Nurse | 03 | 02 |
| 8. | Service holder | 13 | 10 |
| 9. | Lawyer | 02 | 02 |
| 10. | Pilot | 01 | 01 |
| | Total | 133 | 100 |

Analysis:

Among the total respondents thirty percent wants to be Doctor which if followed by Teacher (20%). Five of them want to be Engineer or lawyer. Other professions/jobs mentioned include service holder (10%), Garment workers/Tailor (10%) and businessman (6%). Some of them are willing to have jobs as police/RAB or work in the Armed Forces.(9%). A few others want to be Film Actor-Actress/ Singer/ Artist// Player (7%). Three girls mentioned that they want to be Nurse and one boy wants to be pilot.

Chapter: Three

Recommendation:

The respondents made several recommendations for further improvement of services of drop-in-centers:

1. The drop in centers should be more clean and hygienic.
2. The rooms of the DIC should be more spacious.
3. The rooms of DIC should be decorated, so that the children will be more attracted towards the activities.
4. All drop in centers should have shower facilities.
5. Basins should be provided for washing hands.
6. If the drop in centers provide accommodation for staying at night then it would be convenient for those children who are really homeless and have to sleep under open sky at night.
7. The drop in centers should be open for 24 hours.
8. The drop in centers should have entertainment facilities such as TV, music player etc.
9. DICs should have play ground
10. There should be more Games (Foot Ball, and Cricket set) facilities.
11. The DICs should be enriched with various types of books including educational and story, so that they can read and gain knowledge.
12. DICs should provide regular schooling facilities.
13. DICs should have vocational training facilities
14. DICs should provide uniforms
15. The quality and variations of food item needed to be ensured .

Annexure I

List of the Participants:

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Sonia Sabrina

Sumsun Naher

Ferdous Ara Khanum

Marjina Akhter Akhi

Md. Badiuzzaman

Md. Manirul Islam Millat

Tahmina Akter

Sultana Afroza

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Shukla Dutta