

Understanding Socio economic dynamics of Slum Residents

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As part of our internal investigation inside the livelihood of slum residents, the team conducted a random sample data collection initiative that elucidated the daily lives and dietary habits of the residents with consideration to their income. One-hundred and thirty (130) participants were selected and questioned on their socio economic abilities. Approximately 28.4% participants earned between BDT 15,000, while 40.4% participants earned between BDT 15,000-30,000 a month. Only 1.8% of the participants claimed to earn more than BDT 30,000. It was seen that participants who earned within the range of BDT 18,000-30,000 were mostly fish suppliers, grocery business owners or sold fruits.

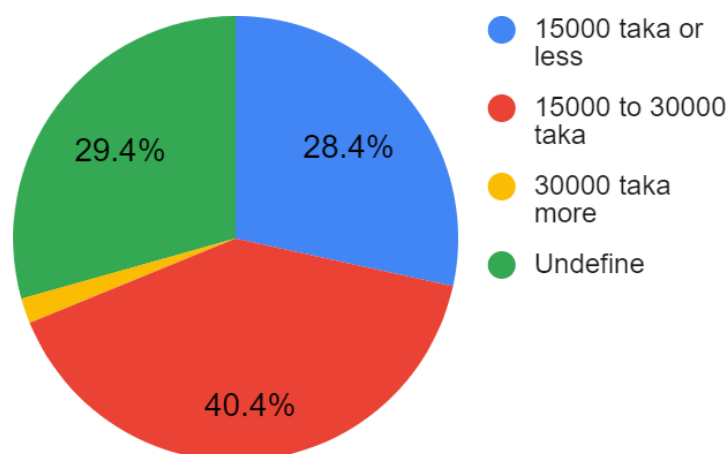


Figure 1: Monthly Income

Considering their income, when asked about their child's education - almost 50% of the participants were unable to send their children to formal education institutions, including *Madrasa*. They blamed their lack of finances as in most cases, there was only one breadwinner of the household. Around 17-18% of the participants informed that they were able to admit their children into formal education.

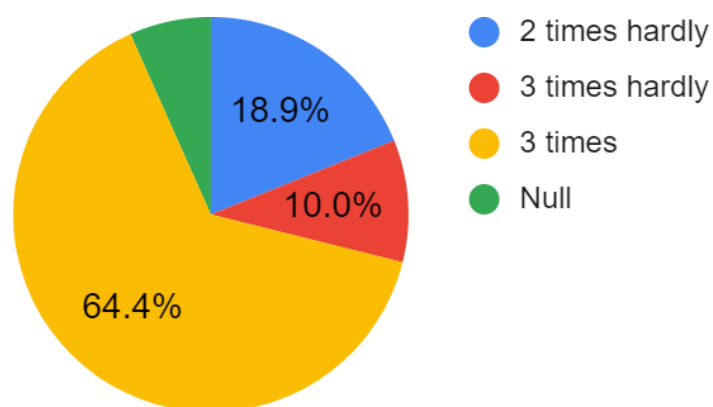


Figure 2: Meals per day

The next segment of questions were focused on their access to daily meals. 64.4% of the participants managed to afford three meals a day for their family. Around 10% were unable to consume three meals due to work commitments and limited finances. 19.8% spoke of their troubles of ensuring two meals a day due to inflation.

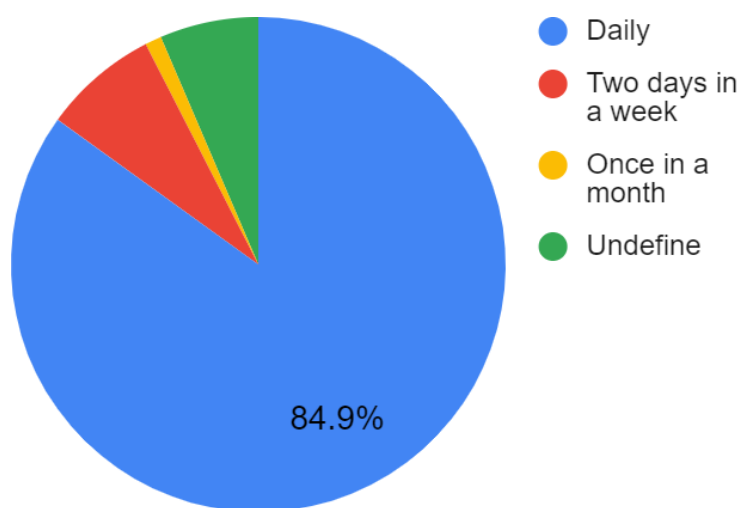


Figure 3: Grocery Shopping

It was noted that 84.9% of the participants had the financial capacity to buy groceries on a daily basis, however, the quantity was unclear. 7.5% would buy their grocery twice a week and another 1.1% were buying grocery once a month. 6.5% of the participants, however, were unable to answer, suggesting unstable income.

A concerning factor with the answers was the relationship between their food intake and the number of times they were buying groceries. The inconsistency could suggest either their lack of understanding or mistrust to answer. Additionally, the survey found that there was a significant gap in balanced diet available to these participants. They mostly consumed egg as a source of protein as it was cheaper than meat and fish.

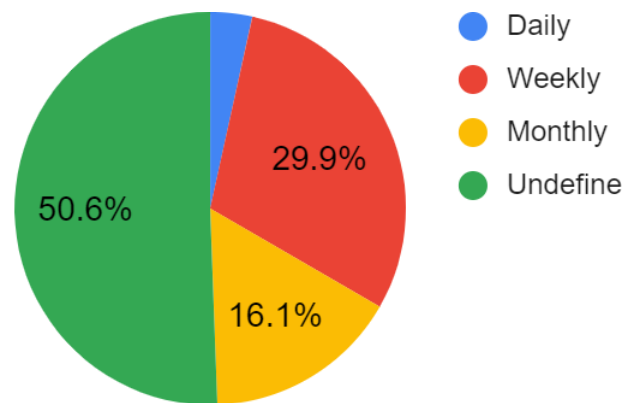


Figure 4: Protein consumption in a month

Only 3.4% of the participants were able to consume protein daily, 29.9% managed to have protein in their meal once a week, 16.1% could only manage to consume protein once a month and finally, a staggering 50.6% participants could not consume any protein at all.

In conclusion, the survey provided valuable insight to the relationship between income and dietary conditions of the Begunbari residents. The ability to spend on nutritious food was limited with rising inflation and the lack of understanding the need for such food came from limited access to education. This proves a bigger problem at hand - a consistent lack of protein might make these residents more vulnerable to diseases and a weaker immune system. The survey was able to highlight the need for intervention to improve nutritional well-being of the community. Efforts to increase knowledge and help them budget for nutritious food is crucial to benefit their overall health and well-being.