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Assessment of livelihood status of fish retailers at Galachipa fish market in Patuakhali, Bangladesh

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Abstract

In order to determine the livelihood condition of the fish retailers in Galachipa Fish Market Bangladesh a study was undertaken over 3-month period from August to October 2016 and data were collected from 40 fish retailers. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect the pertinent information from 40 randomly selected fishermen from the study area. The study reveals that the age structure of the retailers in the range of 35-44 years was the highest (33.34%) and above 55 years was the lowest (3.33%). Here, Primary level belongs to the 37.5% who were the highest number of fish retailer. It was found that 10% of the retailers were Hindu and 90% were Muslim. In this study besides retailing fish trading, business, agriculture, fishing, day labour and fish farmers occupation were 55%, 25%, 2.5%, 10%, 2.5% and 5% respectively. Majority had wood & tin house which comprises 53.28% while only 6.6% had building house. It was noticed that the sanitary condition of fish retailers was moderately good. It was found that 72% of the retailer's had good communication and in addition 84% of retailers was electricity fascinator. Among the retailers, 17% of had refrigerator where majority (83%) was lack of it. It can be said that the overall livelihood condition of Galachipa Fish Market retailers was not so satisfactory. They need more help from different sectors to improve their livelihood.

Keywords: Livelihood status, fish retailers, fishing community

1. Introduction

A livelihood is made up of the capabilities, activities, and assets (including both material and social resource) that contribute to a means of living. According to Chambers and Conway ^[1] livelihood comprises the capabilities, the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social), the activities and the accesses to these that together determine the living gained by the individual household. Fisheries, especially in developing countries, contribute to livelihood in a range of ways; directly as food as a source of income and through other social benefits, such as reduced vulnerability to poverty. Fisheries play an important role in the economy of Bangladesh in terms of nutrition, employment and income generation. At the same time, the country is located in one of the world's major river delta systems, with the rivers meeting the Bay of Bengal in the South of the Country. For its geographical position Bangladesh have a nice environment for the fisheries sector. Both fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh play an important role in mitigating protein deficiency and malnutrition, in generating employment and foreign exchange earnings. It is well decorated with so many natural water resources such as rivers, ponds, ditches, beels, lakes, haors, baors, floodplains and canals covering an area of 46, 99,387 ha. ^[2] In 2017-18, this sector contributes 3.57 percent to the national GDP and more than one-fourth (25.30%) to the agricultural GDP. In 2017-18, the country earns BDT 430994.00 lakh by exporting almost 68.94 thousand MT of fish and fishery products. More than 11 percent of total population of Bangladesh is engaged in this sector on full time and part time basis for their livelihoods ^[3]. There are about 80 fish retailers in Galachipa Purba Mach Bazar. But some of the retailers are poor and their living standards are deteriorating day by day. They are considered as most vulnerable and poorest communities in Bangladesh due to having the income below marginal level. Sustainable development and livelihoods are the pre-requisites factor for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Information about retailers of a particular region is important and crucial for the development of economically backward sector. That is way it is very important for us to know the livelihood and nutritional status of retailers.

Lack of adequate and authentic information on socio-economic condition of the target population is one of the serious impediments in the successful implementation of developmental program. Livelihood comprises the capabilities, the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities and the accesses to these (mediated by institutions and social relations) that together determine the living gained by the individual household. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in future, while not undermining the natural resource base [1]. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives to assess the livelihood status at Galachipa purbo mach bazar under Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali, Bangladesh.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study area and period

The study was conducted at Galachipa fish market in Patuakhali district under Barisal region (Figure 1). Data were collected by direct interviewing of the fish retailers. Several visits were made from August to October, 2016 to the study area to collect accurate data.

2.2. Sample Number and Sampling Procedure

It was not possible to include all the fish retailers under the

study area because of limitation of time and resources. Considering all these aspects 40 fish retailers were selected from Galachipa Purba Mach Bazar randomly to address.

2.3. Preparation of Interview Schedule

The study was based on both of primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through market survey using multiple methodological Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools such as Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Interviews with key informants.

2.4. Collection of Data

During the collection of data both primary and secondary sources were considered. Primary data was collected from respondent by the researcher himself. Several visits were made to collect the data. The secondary data were collected from fisheries office and internet.

2.5. Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

The collected data were arranged, summarized and processed for analysis. This data were verified to eliminate all possible errors and inconsistencies. Tabular technique was applied for the analysis of data by using simple statistical tools like average and percentage. Finally these data were processed with the help of MS Excel and MS Word. Table, bar diagram, pie charts were used for represent data analysis.

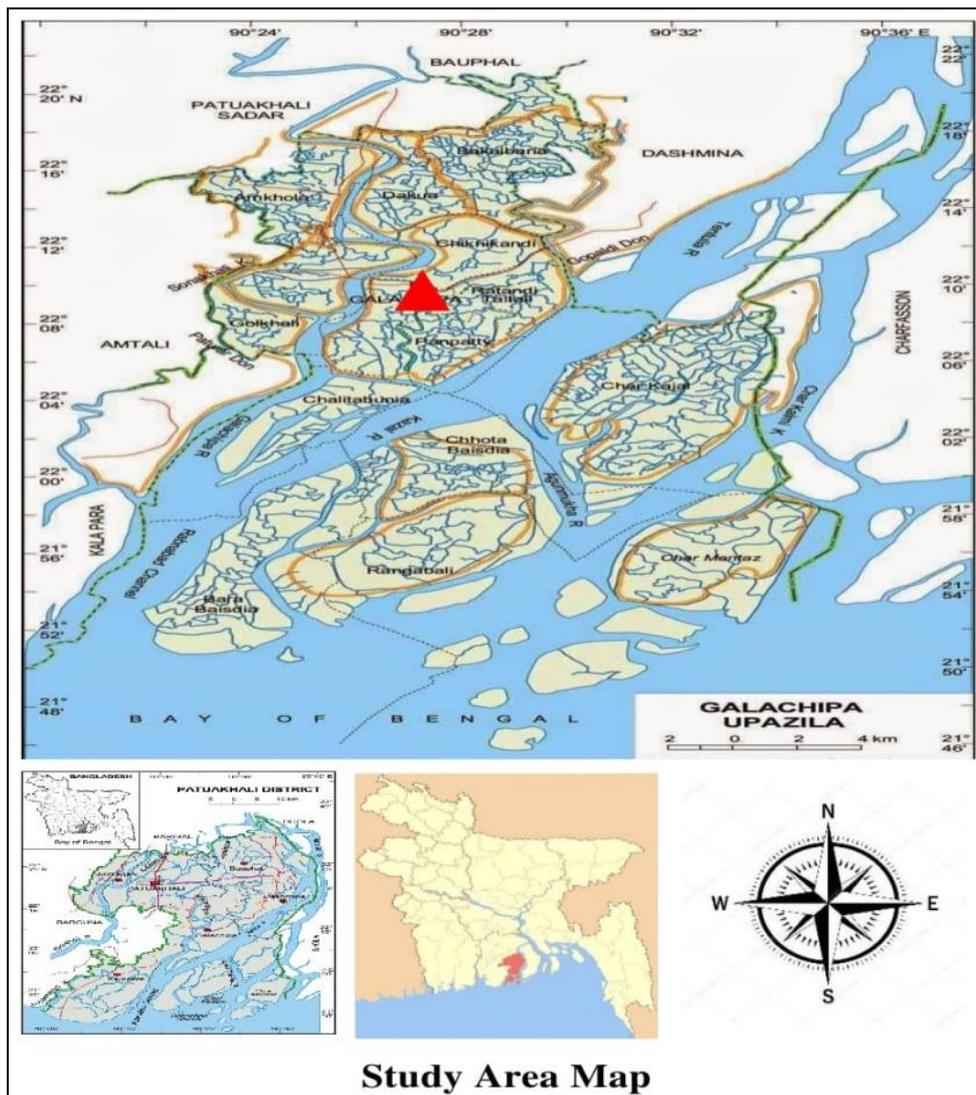


Fig 1: Map showing the study area

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Age structure

Age refers to the period of time from one's birth to the time of interview (in the complete years.) In this study below 25 years of retailers are 16.66%. At the range of 25 to 34 ages the retailers are 26.64%. In the age range 35 to 44 fish retailers are 33.34%. Between age ranges 45 to 54 the number of retailers is 19.98%. Above the 55 age the number of retailer is 3.33% (Figure 2). In this study, it was clear that age range of

35 to 44 years are the height retailer members in Galachipa Purba Mach Bazar. The lowest number is above 55 years. So it can be said that middle aged are the majority portion where old aged are minor portion of retailer. Kabir *et al.* [4] said that age group of 31-40 years was the highest (50.00%) and 41-60 years was the lowest (10.00%) considering all fishermen of the Old Brahmaputra River which is more or less similar of this research.

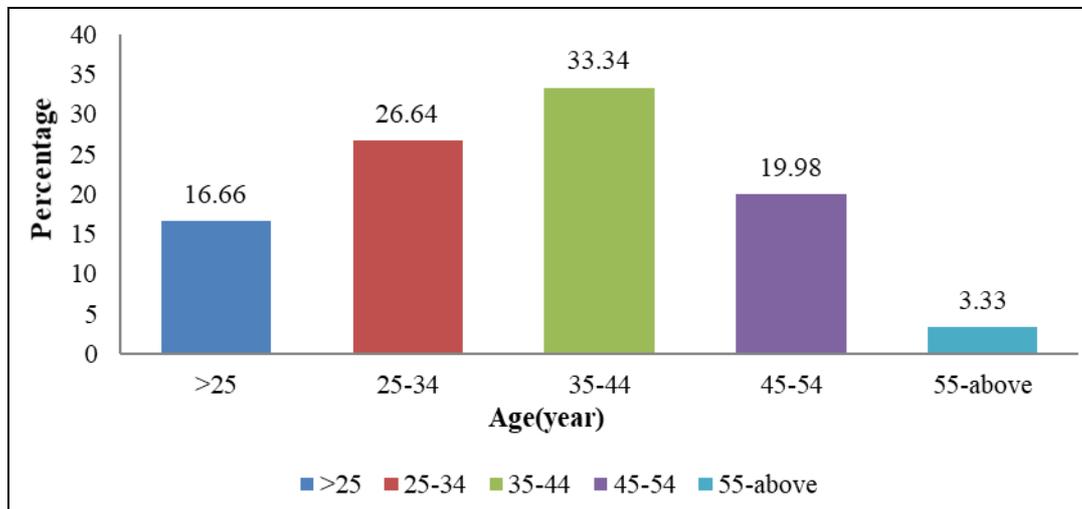


Fig 2: Age Distribution of Fish Retailers in the Study Area

3.2. Education Level

Education of a retailer was defined as the formal education received up to a certain level from an educational institute. Education was measured in term of actual years of successful schooling. Here the educational level result express that 17.5% were uneducated. Primary level belongs to the 37.5% who were the height number of fish retailer. On the other hand, class eight passed retailers are 25% as same as uneducated number. S.S.C passed was 9.99% (Table 1). So it can be described that their average education quality was not satisfied. But no respondent was higher educated. Zaman *et al.* [5] found that 23.3% farmers were illiterate whereas 14.4%, 8.9% and 6.7% were educated up to primary, secondary and higher secondary or above level respectively education compared to that here is good condition.

riverine fishermen were Muslims and Hindus respectively which is nearly close to this report.

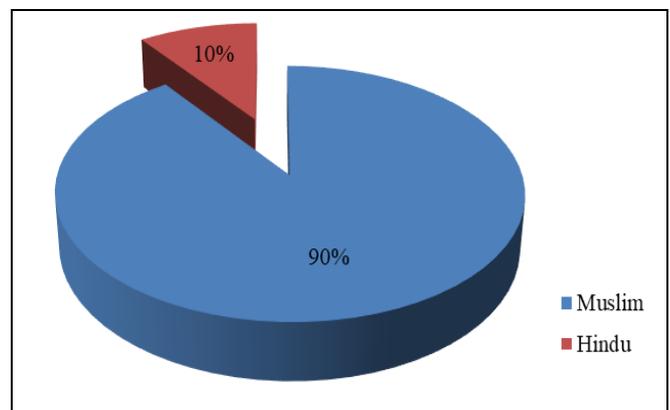


Fig 3: Religion Status of Fish Retailers in the Study Area

Table 1: Education levels of fish retailers in Galachipa Purba Mach Bazar

Education Level	No. of Retailers	% of Total Fish Retailers
None	7	17.5
Primary	15	37.5
Eight	10	25.00
SSC	7	17.5
HSC	1	2.5
Higher	0	0

3.3. Religion

Religion Refers to the believers of some group of people. It varies to person to person, area to area even country to country. In this study it was observed that majority respondent was Muslim, which was 90% (Figure 3). On the contrary Hindu were very lowest number, which was calculated in 10%. Kabir *et al.* [4] reported that Muslims were featuring as the absolute majority of the fishermen. About 85% and 15%

3.4. Family size

Family size refers to the total number of members including the respondent himself, spouse, children and other dependent, who live and eat together in a family unit. From the research it was found that in the range of 1-2 family members there are 3.33% as similar as 9 members above (3.33%) (Figure-4). The height member was in 5-6 members group in this range member was 46.62%. On the contrary, member range 3-4 & 7-8 contains 19.98% & 26.64% (Figure 3). Mahmud *et al.* [6] found that the highest percentage was obtained in the 5-7 members' family (60%). The lowest percentage was obtained in the above 10 members, family (6%). 14% people lived in 2-4 member's family, 20% people lived in 8-10 members in family which is as same as this study.

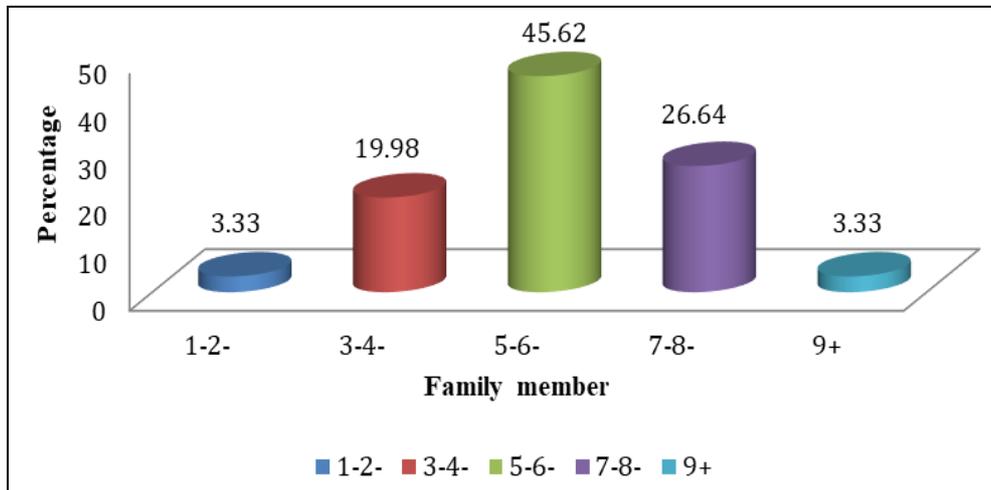


Fig 4: Family Status of Fish Retailers in the Study Area.

3.5. Other Occupation

In this study besides retailing they were found in various occupations. They are Fish trading, business, agriculture, and fishing. Among these occupation fish traders are majority portion. They are 53.28%. Business persons are 19.98%. Agriculture portion is so lower. It is 3.33%. In the fishing occupation there are 13.33%. Daylabour, fish farmer is 3.3%

and 6.6% (Table 2). Ali *et al.* [7] reported that in Bagmara upazilla under Rajshahi district almost all respondents (60%) agriculture is their primary occupation. However, as a primary occupation, 14% of respondents stated that fish farming is their primary occupation, while 18% and 8% are occupied in business and service, respectively.

Table 2: Different Occupations of Fish Retailers

Occupation	No. of Retailers	% of Occupation
Fish Trading	22	55
Business	10	25
Agriculture	1	2.5
Fishing	4	10
Day Labour	1	2.5
Fish Farmer	2	5

3.6. House Condition

In this study housing condition refers to the house structure where retailers are lived. It was evident from data that 6.66% of the retailers live in building house. 29.97% live in tin & shed building. It was noticed that most of the retailers live in wood & tin houses. They are 53.28%. Probably for the

economic insolvency or for the geographical reason they live in wood & tin house. Rest of 9.99% lived in other type of houses (Figure 5). According to Khan *et al.* [8] fishing community near Tista River had 83% kacha and 3% semi paca house respectively. 62% of fisherman house structure was kacha in Mymensingh reported by Rabbani.

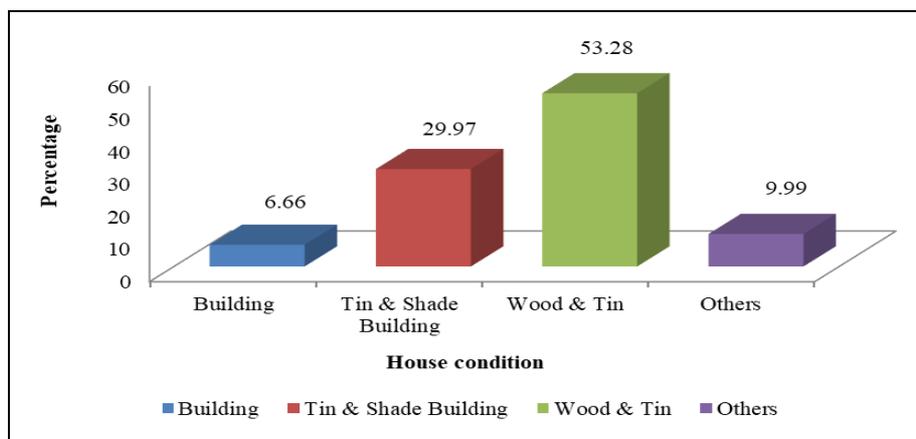


Fig 5: Housing Conditions of Retailers

3.7. Sanitary Condition

In the study it was noticed that the sanitary condition of Galachipa fish Market fish retailer's is good. Majority portion (43.29%) use paka toilet where 33.3% use normal toilet. 23.31% use ring slap and wooden toilet (Figure 6). It is good

news that no single retailer uses open toilet. Kabir *et al.* [4] found that 65% of toilets were kacha while 5% were semi-paka and 30% of the fishermen had no sanitary facilities. There were no kinds of paka sanitation found in the investigation where in this study report is comparably better.

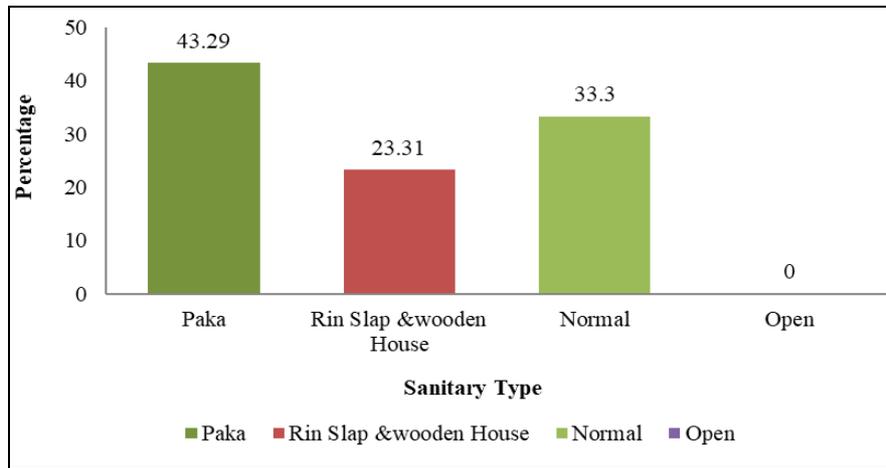


Fig 6: Sanitary Conditions of Retailers

3.8. Daily Income

During the study it was noticed that in the income range of 300-400 Tk are the height and 500-600,700-above range was lowest. So it can be said that most of the retailer’s daily income between 300-400Tk. 6.66% ‘s income in 500-600 or

700 Tk above.200-300 Tk range was 23.31% retailer’s where 19.98% income was 400-500 Tk (Figure 7). A daily income of BDT 51- 75 was found for the fishermen of Dahia Beel in Natore district, reported by Flowra *et al.* [9]. So the present study area’s retailers economic condition was satisfactory.

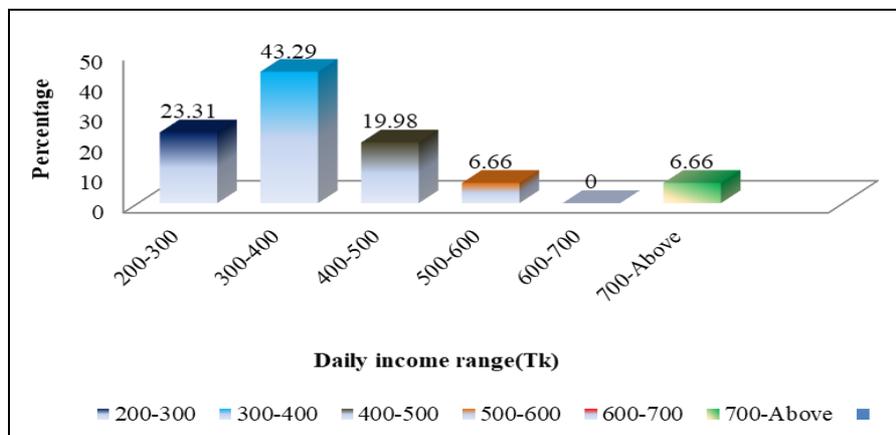


Fig 7: Daily Income Statuses of Retailers

3.9. Communication

In the study it was found that 72% of the retailer’s had good communication system 26% of the retailers was moderately good communication (Figure 8). But rest of 2% had a bad communication system. Here most of the retailers belongs to

the nearly area or in the Galachipa Sadar. As it is a town area their communication facilities were easily good. But this is not the real situation of overall country where most of the retailers are lack of this facility.

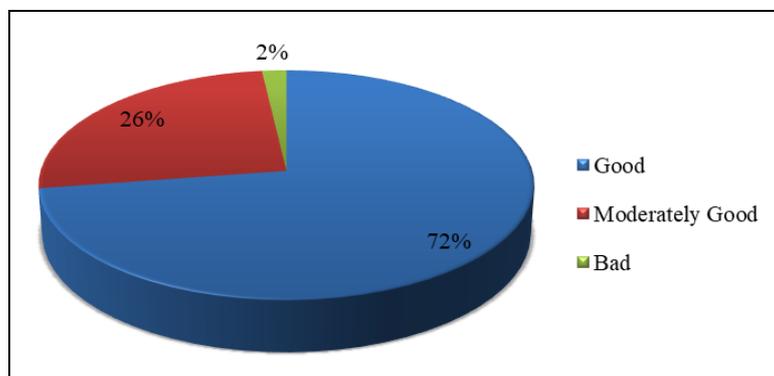


Fig 8: Communication Systems of Retailers

3.10. Refrigerator

This study was done to identify their assets condition. Refrigerator is one of the physical assets. Among the retailers

83% had no refrigerator. Only 17% had refrigerator (Figure-9).

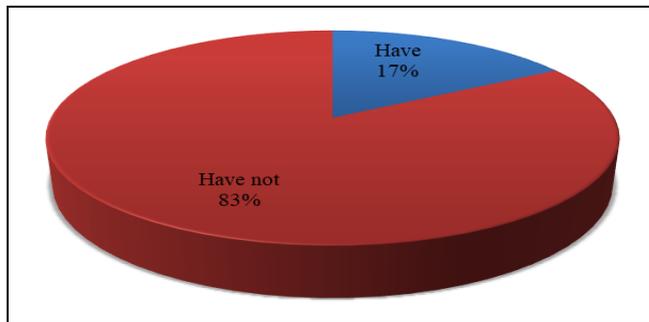


Fig 9: Refrigerator Owners of Retailers

3.11. Electricity

Electricity condition of this area is good. 84% of retailer was electricity faciator where 16% was lack of it (Figure 10). Mahmud *et al.* [6] noted that the majority percentage of households had an electricity connection (82%) and minority (18%) percentage of households had no electricity connection. DoF [11] reported from “Third Fisheries Project” that 2% fishermen household used electricity.

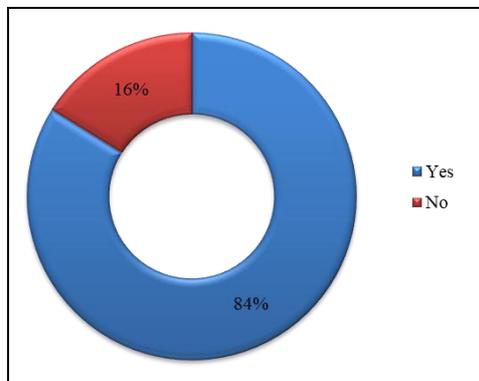


Fig 10: Electricity Fascinators among Retailers

3.12. Television

Television is the sources of entertainment of the retailer. They pass there relax time by enjoying television. They also use it to know the information about fisheries economy, their product information such as price, market demand, selling validity for example Hilsa fish during the banning season. Here television occupier was 56.61%. Where 3.33% had black & white television and 53.28% had color television. On the contrary 43.29% did not occupy any television (Figure 11). If their economic condition as well as electricity facility can be improved the television occupier may be increased.

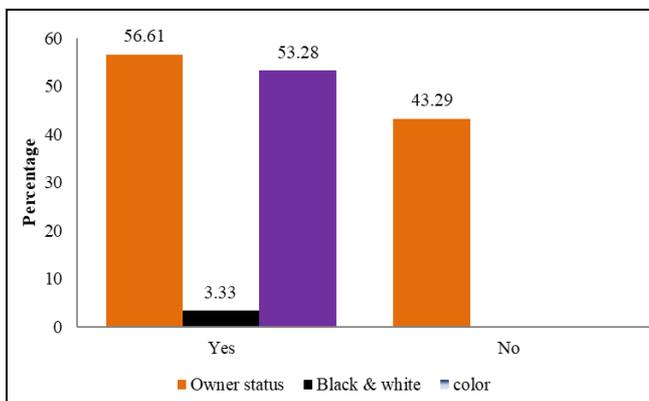


Fig 11: Television Owner Statuses of Retailers

4. Conclusion

The study was conducted to assess the livelihood status of the fish retailers in Galachipa Fish Market, Patuakhali, Bangladesh. It can be said that the overall livelihood condition of Galachipa Fish Market retailers was not so satisfactory. They need more help from different sectors to improve their livelihood. If their livelihood condition is improved fishery economy will be improved which good impact will go to the total economy of Bangladesh. It is therefore recommended that Government and other support organizations should take initiatives to uphold their socioeconomic condition.

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