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Socio-economic status of fishermen of the Padma River at Rajshahi city corporation area in Rajshahi district, Bangladesh

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Abstract
The recent research work was carried out during the period June to December 2018 to evaluate the socio-economic status of fishermen of the Padma River under Rajshahi district. The socio-economic status of fishermen was conducted on the basis of their personal life and daily living elements. Findings of the present research work it can be seen that most of the fishermen were 31-40 years (52%), Maximum residents are Muslim (96%). The family size of fisher's community is usually consisted of 57% of nuclear family. About 19.17% residents were high school pass and 22.5% had passed primary level. About 28.33% fishermen had can sign and 30% fishermen were illiterate. About 84.17%% fishermen were completely depending on fishing, 10.83% were occasional fisher's with day labor and only 5% in fishing with other occupation. About 62.5% of fishermen took allopathic, 21.67% homeopathic, 13.33% herbal and 2.5% allopathic and homeopathic treatment.

Keywords: Padma river, livelihood, socio-economics, constraints, fishermen

Introduction

Socioeconomic status is a combination of economic and sociological aggregate measure of an individual's or household's economic access to resources and social standing relative to an individual's work experience and others. By Chambers and Conway (1992) [3] livelihood comprises the capabilities, the assets, the activities and the accesses to these that together determine the living gained by the individual household. Bangladesh is a developing country and it is called the riverine country. Most of the peoples of Bangladesh are depends on river as a fisherman for their economic stability and livelihood. Fish is an important source of protein. Protein is very important for human bodies. For this reason, people take fish to fill up the protein deficiency of their body. To fulfil the demand of the local people, Bangladesh export a large amount of fish and earn a lot of foreign currency. The fishermen are the main origin of that foreign money. But the socio-economic condition of the main source of Bangladesh is very fragile. They don't have better education, enough money and verities facilities for better life. They also have no proper technical knowledge and scientific craft and gears for capturing fish. The daily income and the socio-economic condition of fishermen is very poor. According to Farhana and Naser 2006 [7] the socio-economic condition of fishermen is very vulnerable position. There were many studies occur in that field. Kostori (2012) [12], Flowra *et al.* (2009) [6], Haq *et al.* (2005) and Joadder (2008) [11] are the best example for that. On the basis of their previous study there are no significant changes are found in the result of my present work. Therefore, it is easily understand that the result of our present research work are absolutely correct.

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Plate 1: Location of study area

Methodology
Study Area and study time: The study was conducted on the fishermen of Rajshahi City Corporation under the district of Rajshahi during June to December, 2018.

Collection of data
Data were collected by:
a) Questionnaire survey method.
b) Focus Group Discussion method.

Data analysis
Collected data were compiled by using MS Excel 2003. After that the graphs and the tables are created by using that information (collected data).

Results
Socio-economic status of the fishermen
According to DoF, 2018 more or less 400 fishermen were depends of fishing in Rajshahi City Corporation area. Interview was taken a total of 120 (One hundred and Twenty) fishermen from different places under the study area. This figure is the 30% of the total fishermen. There were only 5 wards city dwellers were found who were fishermen in Rajshahi district. The five wards are ward-4, ward-7, ward-23, ward-24 and ward-29.

Socio-economic characteristics: The relevant data were collected on the socio-economic characteristics included fishermen sex, age group, religion, marital status, educational status of the fishermen, family type, households members, the number of school going children, number of school dropout children, cause of school dropout children, condition of living house, approximate value of livestock, use of electricity, the main occupation, own agricultural land (Decimal), monthly income, yearly income, saving tendency of fishermen,

suffering diseases last year, monthly family expenditure, main source of drinking water, sanitation, type of treatment, food item intake by fishermen, quantity of fish consumed by fishermen per day, number of meals per day and source of money borrowing etc.

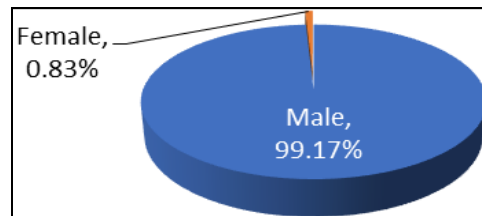**Sex:** From my observation 99.17% male and 0.83% female we found (Fig-1).

Fig 1: Proportion of male and female ratio

Age group
From the result of my present work age group are shown in six categories Fig-2. Ahamed (1996) [2] and Ahmed (1999) [1] also worked on that field but result was not similar.
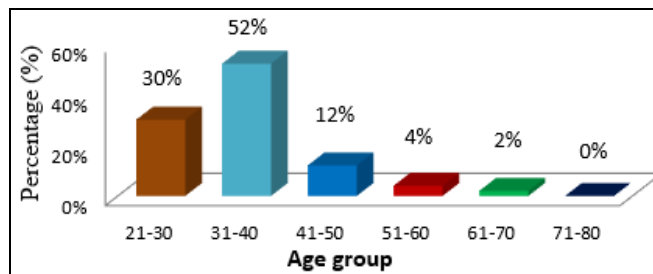

Fig 2: Age group of Fishermen

Religion
The Muslim fishermen were 96% and Hindu fishermen were 4%. Other religions were not found. Fig-3, illustrates that the Muslims fishermen made up the major percentage of the people of the study area. The study of Chantarasri (1994) [4] in Sundarbans Reserve Forest also stated that most fishermen were Muslim. Ahamed (1999) [1] studied in coastal area and showed that majority of fishermen were Muslim (68%). Hindu fishermen were found 32% at Sundarban (Ahamed, 1999) [1]. This study is supporting the present study. Ahamed (1996) [2] while conducting similar studied in the Tangail District finds Hindu fishermen at (57%). So, this study is not related with the present study.
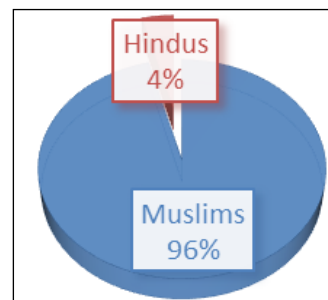

Fig 3: Religion status of fishermen

Marital status
From the result of my recent observation 11% of people were unmaimed and 89% were married Fig. 4. Ahamed (1996) [2], Mannu (1999) [14], Shamima (2000) [16] and. Hossain (2009) [9]

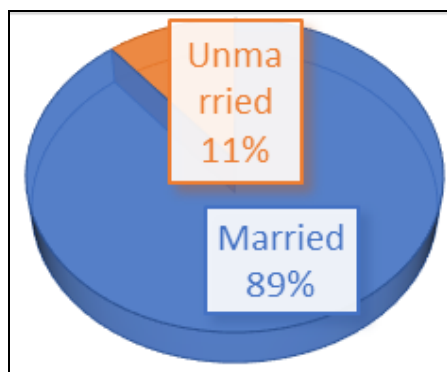also worked on that field and their result was not similar with mine.

Fig 4: Marital status of fishermen

Family type
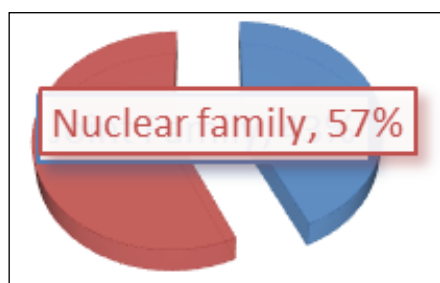The family size of fisher's community is usually consisted of 57% of nuclear family. (Fig-5).

Fig 5: Family type of the fishermen

Family members
From the result of present work 52% resident were male and 48% were female. (Fig-6). According to Islam (2007) [10] the percentage of male is higher than the female.
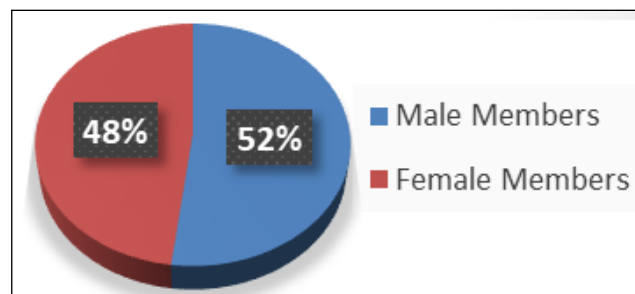

Fig 6: Family members of the fishermen

Housing condition: House type
According to the result of present study 16.67% people used kacha, 75.83% used semi-pacca and 7.50% used pacca house. (Fig-7). According to CPP (1996) 89.23% people used tin made house and Ahamed (1999) [1] said the housing condition of fishermen was very poor.
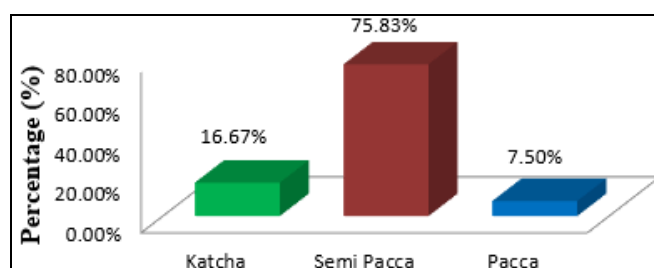

Fig 7: Condition of living house of fishermen

Use of electricity
100% fishermen had the facility of electricity (Fig-8). According to Shamima (2000) [16] 20% people used electricity in Gallamary fishing community, Khulna and Momotaz (2009) [13] 90% fishermen get electricity facilities. So, the result of present study was differ from the result of themselves.
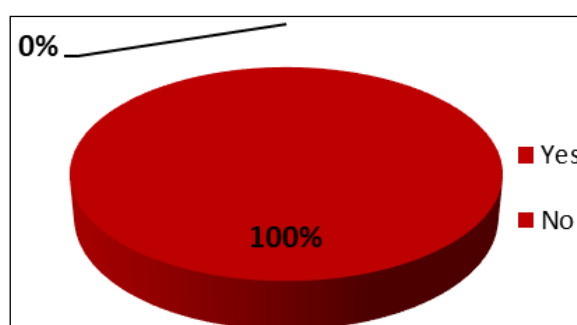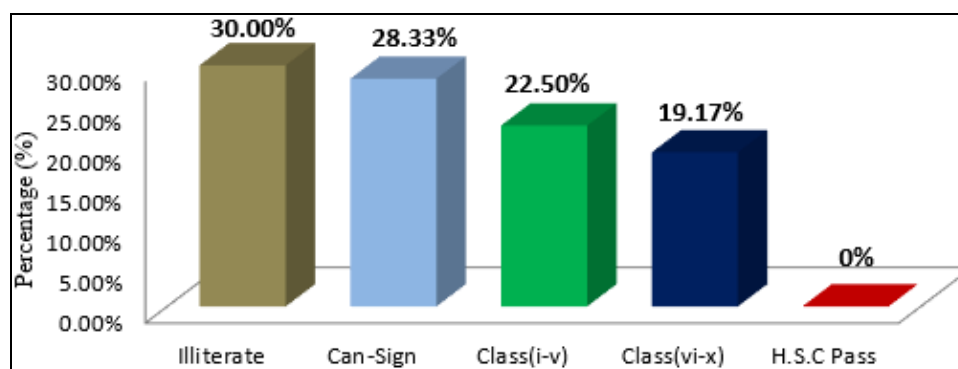

Fig 8: Use of electricity of Fishermen

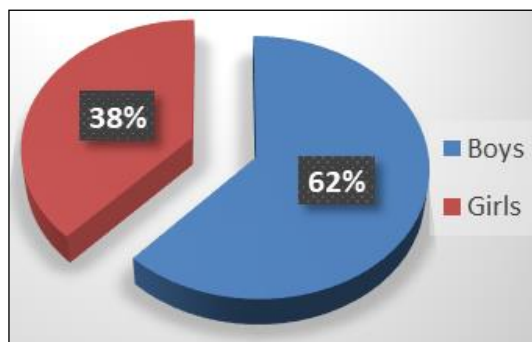**Fig 9:** Fishermen's Education Level

Educational status of fishermen
About 19.17% residents were high school pass and 22.5% had passed primary level. (Fig-9). The big portion of the fishermen was illiterate and no one could find H.S.S pass or tertiary level passed. Ahamed (1996) [2] said in Tangail he found 23% literate people and 69% respectively.

School going and dropout children of fishermen
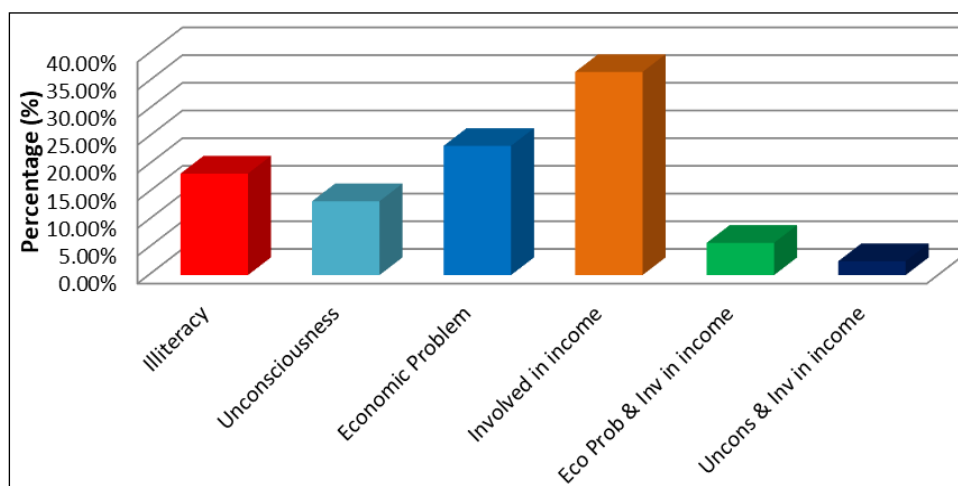The present scenery is shown in below diagram (Fig-10).

Fig 10: Percentage of dropout students

The reason of dropout from school
According to present result that the highest causes was involved in economic activities that was 36.68%, followed that economic problem which was about 23.33%. The lowest causes of dropout were unconsciousness and involved in income related activities which was only 2.5% and second lowest causes of dropout was economic problem and involved in income (5.83%). The study was also found that the percentage of unconsciousness related dropout of school children was approximately 13.33% (Fig-11).
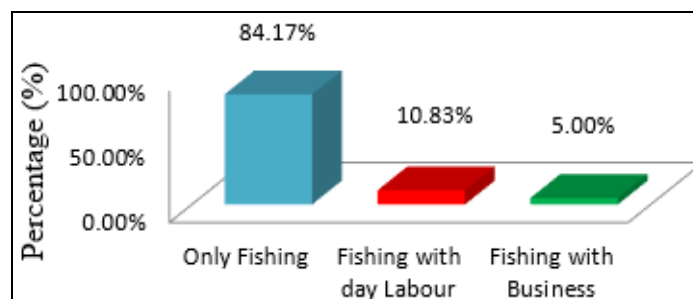

Fig 11: Causes of school dropout children of Fishermen

Occupation
About 84.17%% fishermen depend on fulltime fishing and 10.83% are occasional fishermen. Only 5% were depends on other occupation (Fig-12).

Fig 12: Main occupation of the Fishermen

Assets: Cow, Goat, Hen, Duck etc. are the assets of fish farmers. The findings are discussed in this section.

Poultry and livestock
About 70% of the Rajshahi city corporation's fishermen had no assets. The lowest percentage (0.83%) of the fishermen had only hen, 5.83% of fishermen possessed cow, 10% fishermen had only goat and about 13.34% fishermen who had cow, goat and hen (Fig-13). Most interesting thing was found that there were not any fishermen who had a single duck.
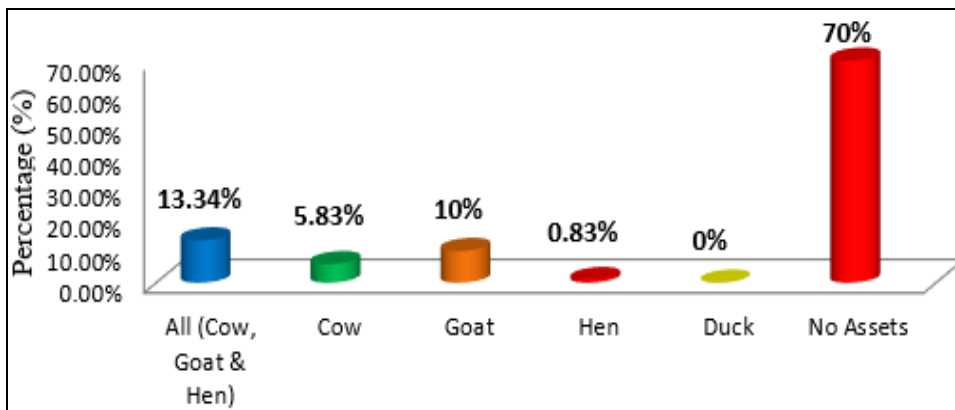
Fig 13: Poultry and livestock of fishermen

Agricultural land ownership
From the result of present work 77.5% had no land, only 22.5% had below 50 decimal lands (Fig-14). According to

Momotaz (2009) [13] 60% had above 50 decimal lands. So, this result was not similar with present result.
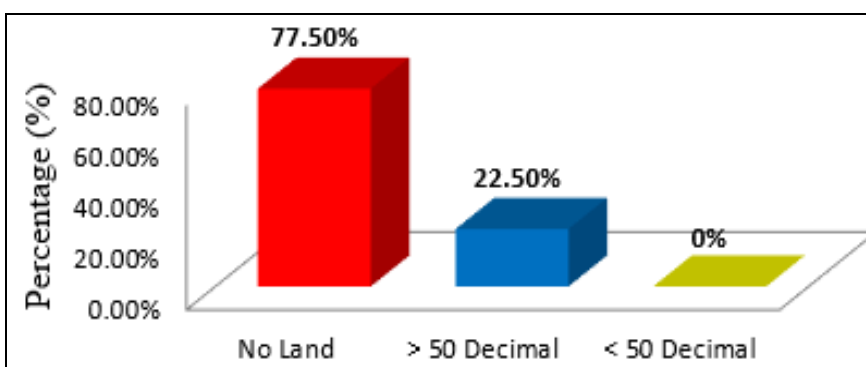

Fig 14: Agricultural land ownership of fishermen

Food and nutrition
Food item intake by the fishermen
The result of the present work 53.5% local resident is

depending fish. Whereas 4% are depends on different types of meat, 27.5% herbivores, 7% only vegetable protein and 8% on poultry (Fig-15).
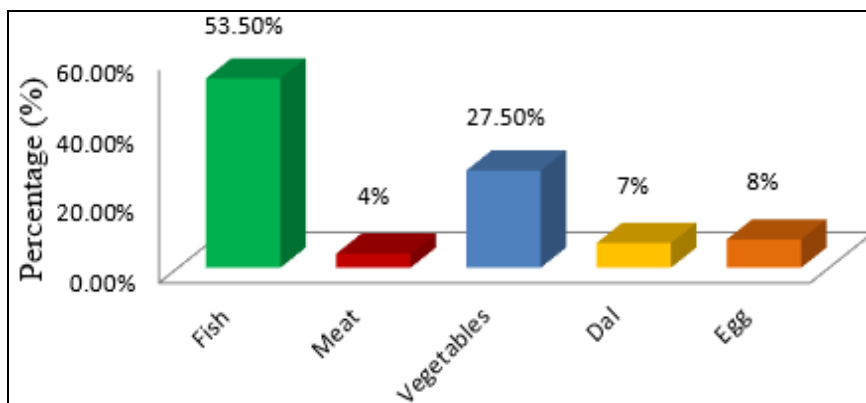

Fig 15: Food item intake by the fishermen

Status of drinking water
75% fishermen drinking water from tube-well. Whenever the fishermen were fishing in the deep river and their carried fresh water was finished, in that acute scarcity of drinking water, they had to take the river water to drink. This both sources of water (tube-well & river) receiver were about

21.5%. Only 3.5% of the fishermen did not carry any fresh water while they were catching fish in the deep river and then they used river water for drinking (Fig-16). According to Ahmed, (1999) [1] maximum fishermen used pond water. That result was not similar at present work.
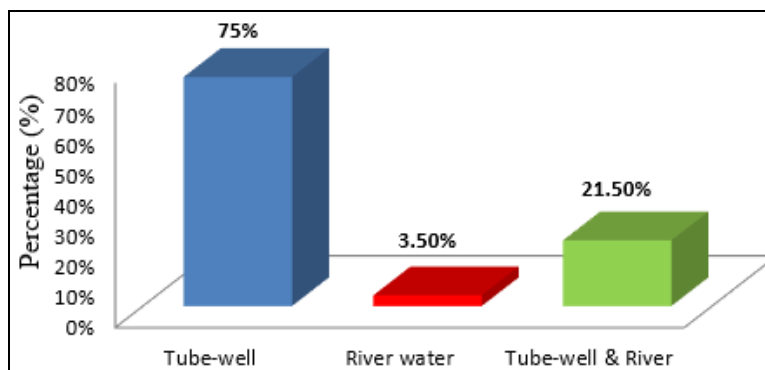
Fig 16: Status of drinking water

Sanitation habit of the fishermen
80%fishermen were used hygienic toilet and 20% used
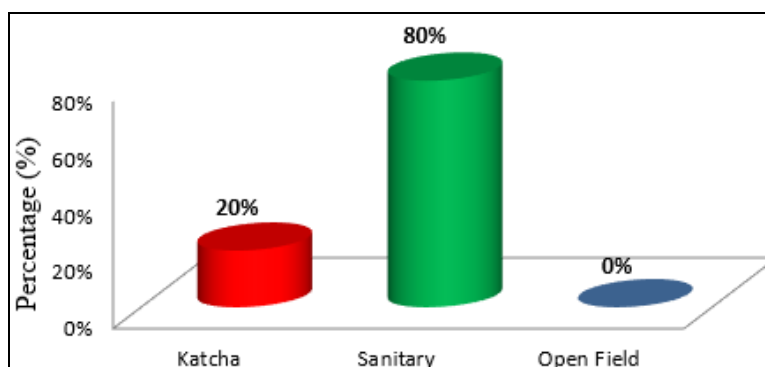
unhygienic toilets (Fig-17).

Fig 17: Different sanitation practices of fishermen

Nature of treatment
According to the result of present study 62.5% of fishermen

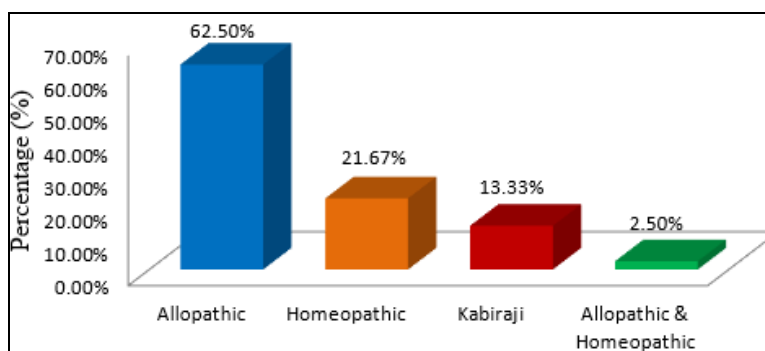are depends on allopathic, 21.67% homeopathic, 13.33% herbal and 2.5% allopathic treatment (Fig-18).

Fig 18: Types of treatment taken by fishermen

Income
Monthly income
It was also found that a little portion of their catching fish was reserved others fish for their own consumption. It was revealed that about 15% fishermen monthly income between Tk. 12,000-15,000; 74.17% fishermen monthly income between Tk. 8,000-12,000; 8.33% fishermen monthly income below Tk. 8,000 and only 2.5% fishermen monthly income above Tk. 15,000 (Fig-19).

Conclusion
The present socio-economic condition of the fishermen of Padma River was not satisfactory. Maximum of them were totally depends on fishing for their livelihood. They had no headache about their own life, child's life, education, nutritional and health condition. Some of them are wanted to

change their profession for better life. It is very essential for our Government to take necessary steps to improve the socio-economic condition of fishermen in the total of our country.

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