

Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project Affected People: A Study from a Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Perspective

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Abstract

Original Research Article

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP) in Bangladesh, a government-financed effort to connect the central and southwestern parts of the country and integrate with the Asian Highway and Euro-Asian railway, significantly impacted over 15,000 direct and 70,000 total affected households. To address this, an Income and Livelihood Restoration Plan (ILRP) and a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) were implemented. A study was conducted to assess the socioeconomic condition of the affected people, determine the project's impact and vulnerability, and verify their satisfaction with relocation and rehabilitation. The key recommendations derived from this investigation include ensuring the timely provision of legal documents and relocation costs, offering intensive livelihood restoration training (especially for women), facilitating new employment and business opportunities with access to low-interest funds, redesigning socioeconomic and public health awareness programs, adhering to the original resettlement site designs, and establishing participatory monitoring and consultation meetings to ensure the sustainable livelihood of the affected persons.

Keywords: Padma Multipurpose Bridge (PMBP), Resettlement, Livelihood Restoration. Affected Households, Socioeconomic Condition, Vulnerability, Compensation, Relocation, Sustainable Livelihood.

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INTRODUCTION

Involuntary Resettlement: A Critical Development Challenge in large-scale development projects, while crucial for national progress, often inflict one of the most severe social impacts: involuntary resettlement (IR). This process forces people to lose their land, homes, sources of income, and community ties, frequently leading to drastic socioeconomic and cultural distress. However, IR isn't inherently negative; when resettlement plans are meticulously prepared and executed, displacement can be leveraged as a development measure to genuinely improve the living standards and opportunities of affected poor and vulnerable populations.

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP), this project was planned to be jointly co-financed by the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Accordingly, maintaining international standards, a JICA-funded Pre-Feasibility Study (FS) was conducted in 1999. The Feasibility Study formed the basis for the

Government to proceed with the current detailed design and construction plan for the bridge. Later, the Government of Bangladesh, maintaining all international standards, started the construction in 2010 with its own financing.

The Padma Bridge is a large, complex, and challenging project. Thus, the social and resettlement safeguard issues necessitate attention to physical and economic displacement, consultation and participation, gender, livelihoods, public health, and up/down stream impacts on the char land settlements, including management and monitoring of any other unanticipated impacts of the project. Since this project was a complex and challenging initiative of the Government of Bangladesh were prepared, the Social Action Plan (SAP) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and implemented following all international standards, and social safeguard documents have been delivered.

National and Global Safeguards, in recognition of the risks inherent in forced displacement, both national and international policies have been established

to protect affected populations. In Bangladesh, the legal framework is rooted in the Land Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, 1982. This ordinance grants the Deputy Commissioner (DC) the authority to acquire property for public interest, provided that fair compensation is paid before taking possession. A significant step toward strengthening this protection was the later decision to increase the acquisition compensation rate to three times the property's market value. Globally, institutions like the World Bank (OP 4.12) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) require that IR be avoided or minimized wherever possible. When unavoidable, the core objectives are to implement resettlement as a sustainable development program, ensuring displaced persons are assisted in their efforts to restore or improve their livelihoods and living standards to at least pre-project levels.

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP) Context, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project (PMBP) stands as Bangladesh's largest infrastructure endeavor, designed to boost the regional and national economy through enhanced national, regional, and Trans-Asian connectivity. Naturally, a project of this scale required the acquisition of vast amounts of land, consequently impacting a significant number of people. Project data shows that over 70,000 people were affected directly and indirectly, including landowners, tenants, squatters, and small business owners. This impact disproportionately affects vulnerable groups like the extreme poor and female-headed households, highlighting the urgent need for a robust mitigation strategy.

Historically, involuntary resettlement in many developing nations has had a "bitter experience," often failing to ensure sustainable programming due to inadequate community participation, poor long-term economic planning, and insufficient initial social assessments a challenge exemplified by past cases like the Kaptai Dam project, which displaced over 100,000 people. Recognizing these pitfalls and the limitations of the existing national law, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project adopted its own resettlement and social policy framework. This framework was critical to ensure all affected persons receive comprehensive resettlement benefits, including compensation, relocation assistance, and livelihood restoration skills, all implemented through continuous consultation and a dedicated grievance redress process. The ultimate success of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project hinges not only on the physical construction of the bridge but also on its ability to ensure the long-term well-being and economic recovery of every family displaced in its wake.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project's (PMBP) resettlement program by determining if the compensation, relocation, and restoration measures successfully restored or improved the livelihoods and socioeconomic status of the 70,000+ affected households, including vulnerable groups, while ensuring adherence to sustainable development standards.

METHODOLOGY



The Padma Multipurpose Bridge

The methodology for this study incorporated a mixed-methods approach combining desk review, a household survey, group meetings, and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). A total of 100 respondents were selected via random sampling from three randomly selected resettlement sites in the Muwa section. In this study, every 10th household was randomly selected. The study was conducted among the affected communities of Kumarbhog Resettlement Village and Jasoldia Resettlement Village, which are located in Kumarbhog Union under Kumarbhog Upazila of Munshiganj

District. The desk review involved collecting and reviewing relevant project documents from the project authority, as well as articles, papers, and books, along with secondary data from the websites of the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the World Bank (WB). A pre-tested household survey questionnaire with measurable indicators was administered. Nine informal Focus Group Discussion (FGD) meetings, each comprising 10-12 randomly selected project-affected persons, were held to gather opinions on resettlement performance.

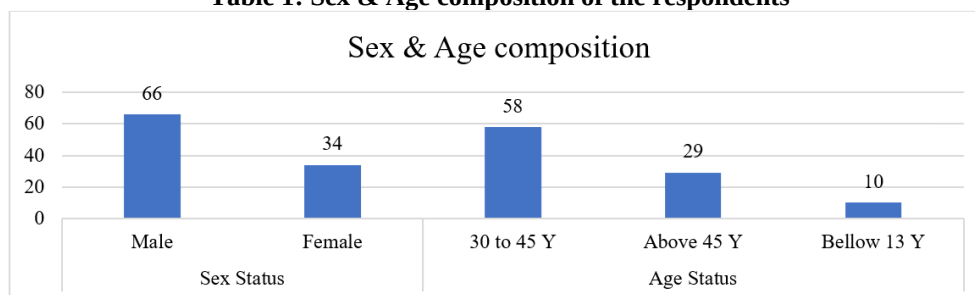
Furthermore, eight (08) KIIs were conducted with project staff and knowledgeable affected persons for in-depth clarification. All quantitative data from the survey was entered and analyzed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS, while qualitative data from meetings and interviews was checked and triangulated for accuracy before preparing the final report.

In this study, 100 respondents were selected to gather demographic information including their age, sex, educational status, occupational status, income, expenditure, and access to government amenities. This information will be presented using graphs and analyzed through both qualitative and quantitative methods. The detailed findings for each category will be presented consecutively in the following sections.

Socioeconomic Information:

RESULT AND FINDINGS

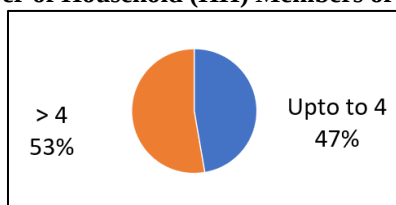
Table 1: Sex & Age composition of the respondents



The demographic breakdown of the 100 respondents indicates a clear gender disparity, with males forming the majority at 66%, while females constitute 34% of the sample. In terms of age, the data shows a concentration in the core working-age bracket of 30-45 years, which accounts for 58% of the respondents.

The older age group, Age, makes up 29%, leaving the youngest group, Age, as the smallest segment at 13%. This composition highlights that the study's findings are primarily shaped by the perspectives and experiences of middle-aged men in the affected population.

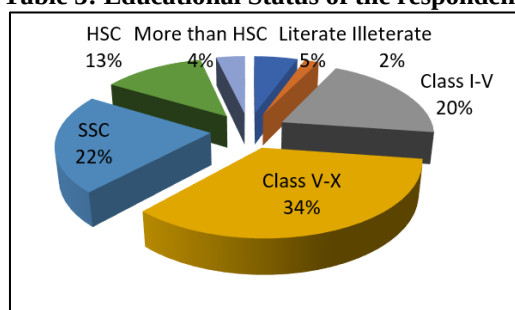
Table 2: Number of Household (HH) Members of the respondents



Based on the provided chart, the distribution of household sizes among the respondents is relatively even, though slightly weighted towards larger families. 53% of the respondent households have more than four

members (> 4), indicating that a majority of the families surveyed are relatively large. The remaining 47% of the households have up to four members (Up to 4), representing smaller family units.

Table 3: Educational Status of the respondents



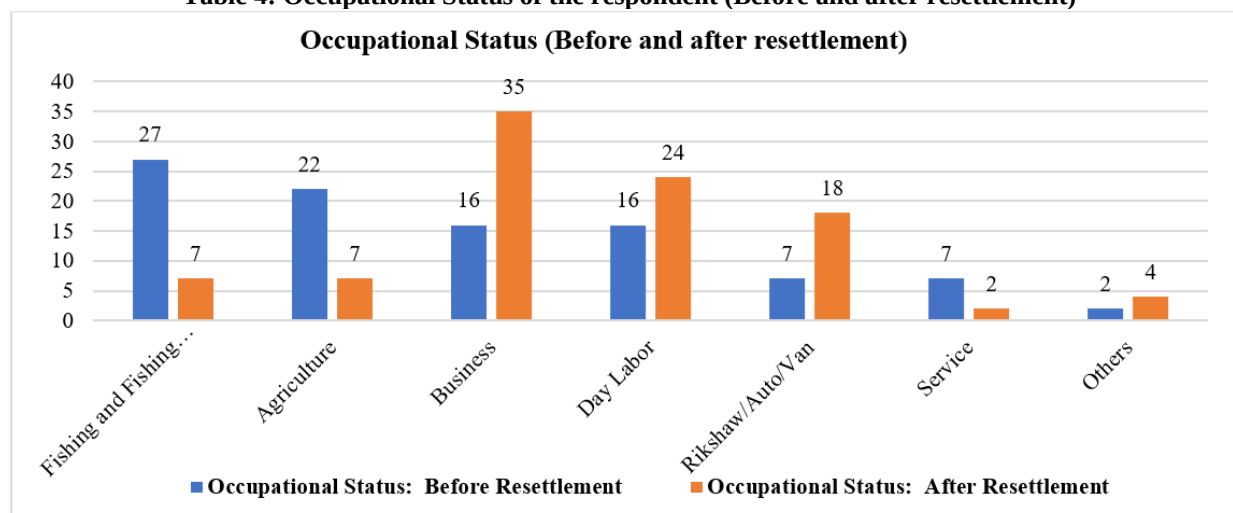
The educational status of the respondents shows a clear concentration at the secondary school level, with the largest group (34%) having education between Class V and X, and another 22% having completed the SSC

(Secondary School Certificate). Together, these groups represent the majority of respondents. A substantial portion, 20%, only completed primary school (Class I-V), and a smaller fraction (7%) are either illiterate (2%)

or fall into the ambiguous Literate/Illiterate category (5%). At the higher education end, 13% have an HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate), while only 4% have an

education level "More than HSC" (tertiary or higher education).

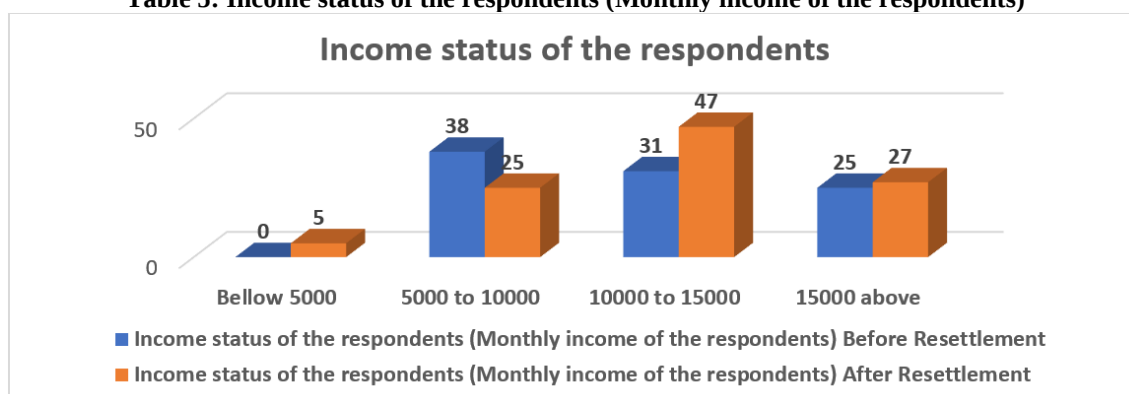
Table 4: Occupational Status of the respondent (Before and after resettlement)



After resettlement, people have moved toward more diverse and flexible livelihood opportunities. Many have successfully shifted into business and transport-related work, with business participation rising from 16 to 35 and rickshaw/auto/van driving increasing from 7 to 18. These changes show that respondents are exploring new income sources and becoming more involved in small trade and service-oriented activities. The number

of day laborers has also grown, indicating wider access to different types of work. Although traditional occupations like fishing and agriculture have declined, the new pattern reflects a move toward more urban, adaptable, and opportunity-driven livelihoods. This demonstrates the community's resilience and ability to adjust to a changing economic environment.

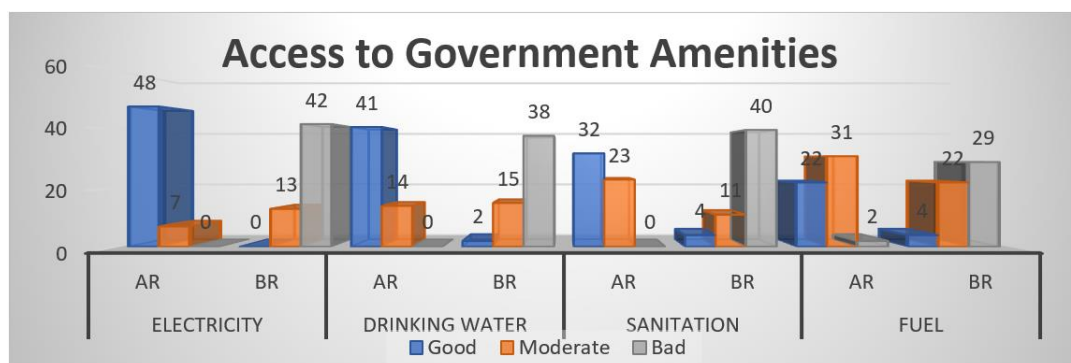
Table 5: Income status of the respondents (Monthly income of the respondents)



The bar chart illustrates the monthly income status of respondents before and after resettlement across four income categories. Before resettlement, no respondents earned below 5000, but after resettlement, 5 respondents fell into this category. The number of respondents earning between 5000 to 10000 decreased from 38 to 25 after resettlement. Conversely, those earning between 10000 to 15000 increased significantly

from 31 to 47, indicating an improvement in income for many. Additionally, the number of respondents earning above 15000 slightly rose from 25 to 27. Overall, the data suggests that after resettlement, a larger portion of respondents moved into higher income brackets, reflecting an overall positive shift in their monthly income.

Table 6: Information of access to government amenities (Access to government amenities)

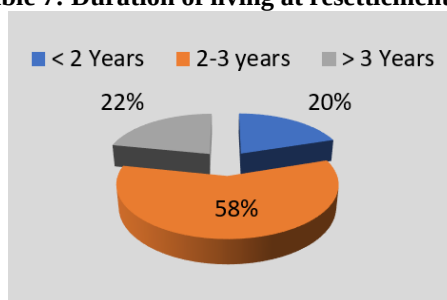


The bar chart illustrates the respondents' access to government amenities - Electricity, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Fuel - before and after resettlement. After resettlement, there is a significant improvement in access across all categories. For electricity, 48 respondents rated access as good after resettlement compared to none before, while bad access dropped from 42 to zero. Similarly, good access to drinking water increased from zero to 41 respondents, with bad access decreasing from 38 to none. Sanitation access improved notably, with 32

respondents rating it good after resettlement, up from none, and bad ratings falling from 40 to zero. Fuel access also saw improvements, with good access rising from 4 to 22 respondents and bad access decreasing from 29 to 2. Overall, the chart reflects a clear enhancement in access to essential government services following resettlement.

Impact:

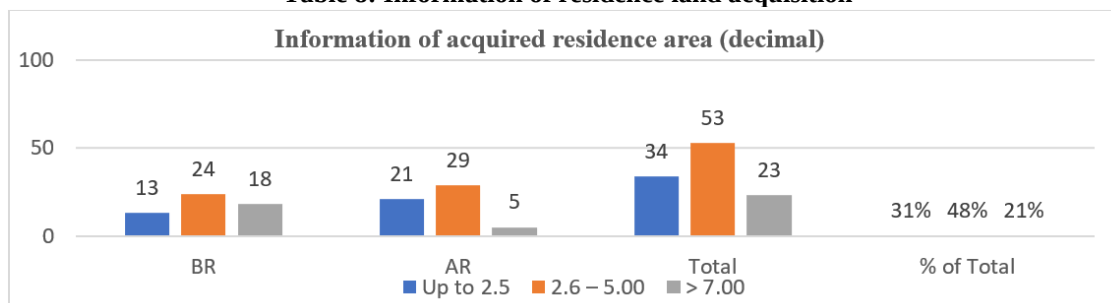
Table 7: Duration of living at resettlement site



The pie chart illustrates the duration of respondents' residence at the resettlement site, divided into three time periods. The largest segment, representing 58%, indicates that the majority of respondents have lived at the site for 2 to 3 years. Those residing for more than 3 years constitute 22% of the

respondents, while the smallest group, 20%, have been living at the resettlement site for less than 2 years. This distribution shows that most residents have a moderate length of stay, with fewer having either recently moved in or lived there for an extended period.

Table 8: Information of residence land acquisition



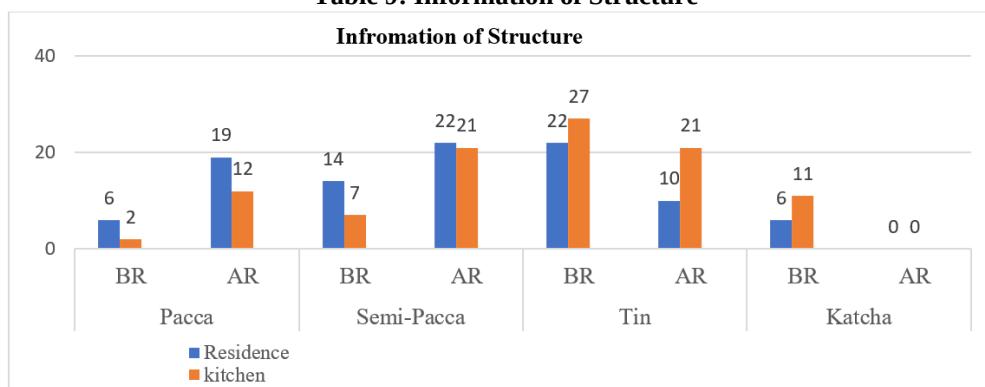
The chart titled "Information of acquired residence area (decimal)" shows the distribution of residential land areas acquired before resettlement (BR) and after resettlement (AR). It reveals that a majority of the respondents (48%) own land within 2.6 - 5.00

decimals, while 31% have up to 2.5 decimals, and 21% possess more than 7 decimals. Before resettlement, 24 households belonged to the 2.6 - 5.00 decimal group, followed by 18 households with over 7 decimals, and 13 households with up to 2.5 decimals. After resettlement,

the pattern remains similar most (29) households own 2.6 - 5.00 decimals, followed by 21 households with up to 2.5 decimals, and 5 households with more than 7

decimals. Overall, this indicates that the majority of the resettled households have relatively small to medium-sized residential plots, mostly within 2.6–5.00 decimals.

Table 9: Information of Structure



The chart titled “Information of Structure” illustrates the types of housing and kitchen structures before resettlement (BR) and after resettlement (AR). It shows a significant improvement in the quality of structures after resettlement. Before resettlement, most residences (22) and kitchens (27) were tin-made, while only a few were pucca (6 residences and 2 kitchens). After resettlement, the number of pucca residences increased notably to 19 and pucca kitchens to 12,

indicating better housing conditions. Similarly, semi-pucca structures remained consistent for residences (22 BR to 21 AR) but slightly decreased for kitchens (14 BR to 7 AR). Katcha structures declined sharply, with only 6 residences and 11 kitchens before resettlement and none after. Overall, the data suggest a positive transformation in housing standards, with a shift from tin and katcha to more durable pucca and semi-pucca structures following resettlement.

Table 10: Information of Toilet Pattern

Toilet Type	Before resettlement (BR)	After resettlement (AR)
Sanitary	22	48
Slab	50	52
Kutchha	28	0
Total	100	100

The data on toilet types shows a notable improvement in sanitation conditions after resettlement. Before resettlement, only 22% of households had sanitary toilets, which significantly increased to 48% after resettlement indicating better access to hygienic sanitation facilities. The proportion of slab toilets remained almost stable, with a slight rise from 50% to

52%, suggesting moderate improvement in semi-permanent toilet use. Notably, kutchha (unhygienic) toilets, which accounted for 28% before resettlement, were completely eliminated (0%) after resettlement. Overall, these changes reflect a clear enhancement in sanitation standards and hygiene awareness among the resettled population.

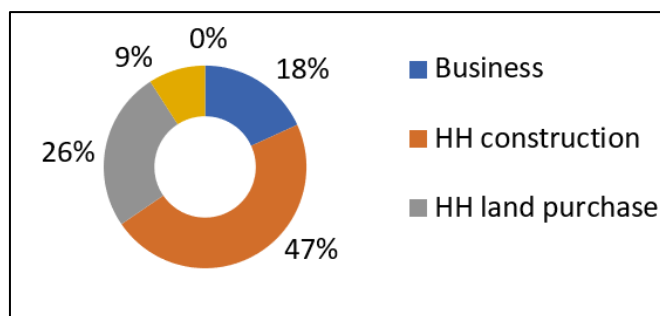
Table 11: Information of Business Loan

Information of Loan (Business Loan)		
Category	Yes	No
Before Resettlement (BR)	14	21
After Resettlement (AR)	32	3

After Resettlement (AR), the data indicates a substantial increase in the number of respondents who have acquired a business loan. The count of respondents who answered "Yes" to having a loan jumped from 14 before resettlement (BR) to 32 after resettlement (AR). Conversely, the number of respondents who answered "No" to having a loan drastically decreased from 21 (BR) to only 3 (AR). The total number of business men is

stated as 35. With 32 out of the 35 business men having a loan after resettlement, this suggests that almost all business men were able to secure a loan following the resettlement, a major improvement from the pre-resettlement phase where only 14 had a loan. This shift strongly implies that the resettlement process, or factors associated with it, created a much more favorable environment for business men to access loan financing.

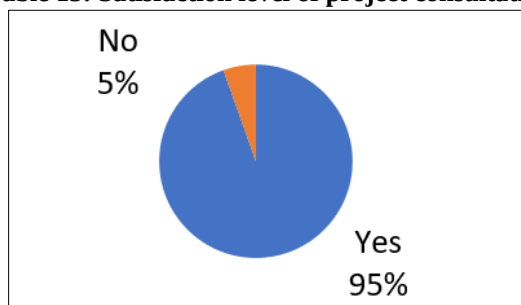
Table 12: Investment of Compensation Award (more than 50%)



Based on the analysis of fund utilization among the 100 respondents, the clear majority of funds were allocated towards Household (HH) construction, accounting for 47% (47 respondents). The second most significant use was for HH land purchase at 26% (26 respondents). Together, these two residential categories represent nearly three-quarters of the total fund utilization. Investment in Business was the third largest

category at 18% (18 respondents), while Agriculture land/pond purchase was the least utilized non-zero category, making up only 9% (9 respondents). Notably, Savings/Bank savings was not a use for any of the funds, registering 0% (0 respondents). This distribution indicates that the primary focus for the respondents was on securing and improving their residential situation.

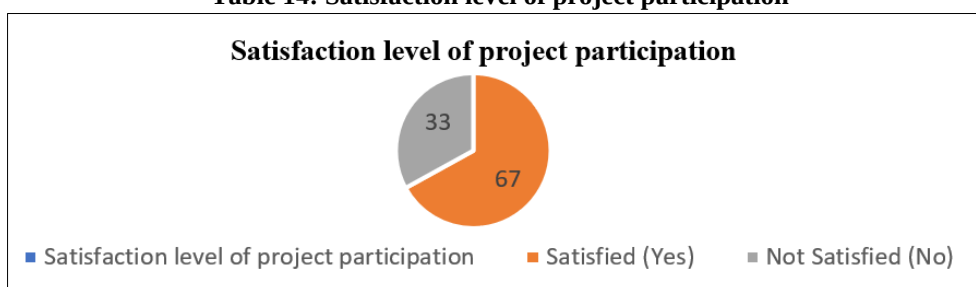
Table 13: Satisfaction level of project consultation



Based on the pie chart illustrating the Satisfaction level of project consultation, the data demonstrates an exceptionally high degree of satisfaction among the respondents. A commanding of the respondents answered "Yes," indicating they were satisfied with the consultation process for the project. In

stark contrast, only a minimal of the respondents answered "No," expressing dissatisfaction. This strong endorsement suggests that the project's consultation efforts were highly effective and inclusive, successfully meeting the communication and engagement needs of nearly all participants.

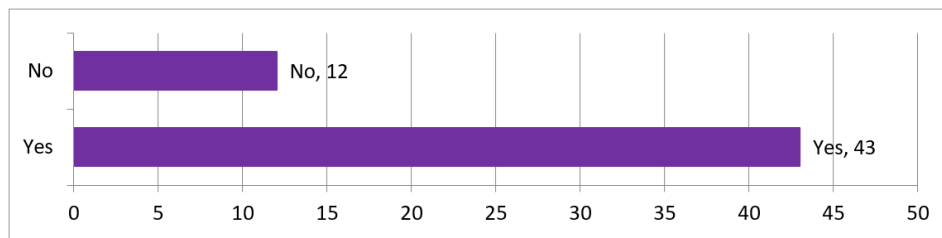
Table 14: Satisfaction level of project participation



The pie chart illustrates the satisfaction level of project participation among respondents, showing that 67% reported being satisfied while 33% expressed dissatisfaction. This indicates that a majority of participants had a positive perception of the project's participatory process, reflecting effective engagement and beneficial outcomes for most respondents. However,

the presence of 33% unsatisfied participants suggests that certain aspects, such as inclusiveness, communication, or responsiveness to community needs, may require further attention to enhance overall satisfaction and ensure broader acceptance of the project activities.

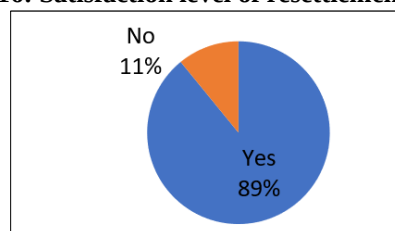
Table 15: Satisfaction level of NGO activities



Based on the bar chart showing the Satisfaction level of NGO activities related to the resettlement ground work, the data indicates a clear majority approval. A substantial of the respondents answered "Yes," expressing satisfaction with the work being performed by the NGOs. Conversely, only of the respondents

answered "No," indicating dissatisfaction. This distribution shows that the resettlement groundwork conducted by the NGOs is viewed positively by over three-quarters of the population surveyed, suggesting that their efforts are largely considered effective and helpful to the community.

Table 16: Satisfaction level of resettlement Award



The data clearly indicates a high degree of satisfaction with the resettlement award, as of the respondents answered "Yes," signifying their contentment. Only a small minority of answered "No," indicating dissatisfaction. This substantial difference

between the satisfied and dissatisfied populations suggests that the resettlement awards were largely perceived as fair and adequate by almost nine out of ten respondents.

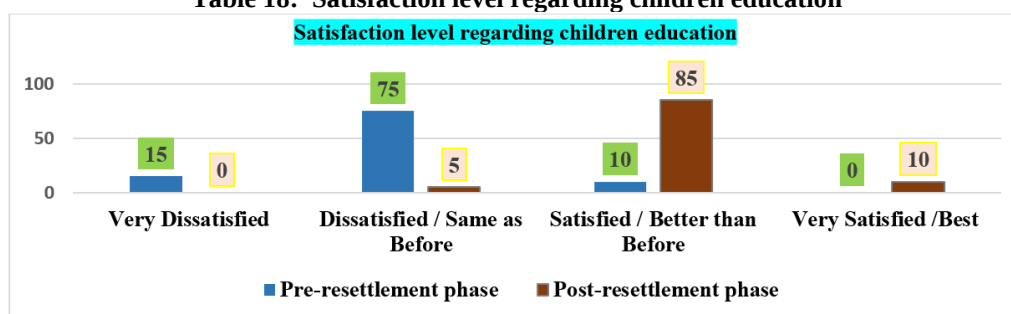
Table 17: Information of resettlement objection/complaint

Information of resettlement objection/complaint		
Category	Yes	No
Before Resettlement (BR)	85	15
After Resettlement (AR)	0	100

Based on the provided data, the resettlement process resulted in a complete and highly successful resolution of all initial objections and complaints. Before Resettlement (BR), a significant majority of 85 out of 100 respondents (85%) raised an objection or complaint, indicating widespread issues or dissatisfaction with the pre-resettlement circumstances. However, the situation dramatically improved After Resettlement (AR), where

the number of respondents reporting an objection or complaint dropped to zero (0). Correspondingly, every respondent (100) reported having no objection or complaint after the resettlement. This positive shift from a state of high dissatisfaction to one of total acceptance and no remaining grievances suggests that the resettlement process effectively addressed and resolved all concerns of the affected population.

Table 18: Satisfaction level regarding children education



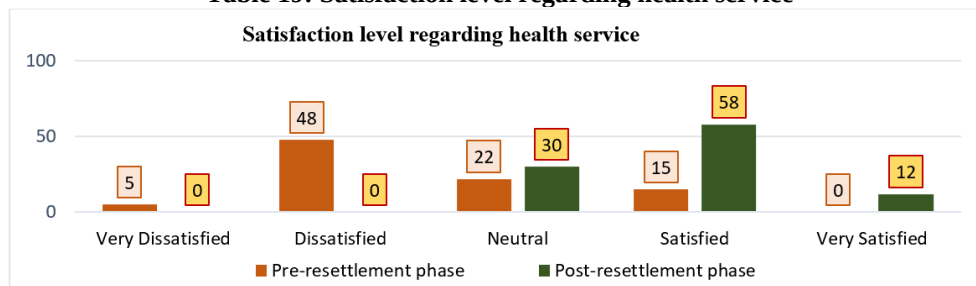
The chart shows a clear improvement in satisfaction levels regarding children's education after

resettlement. During the pre-resettlement phase, the majority of respondents (75%) were dissatisfied or felt

the situation was unchanged, while 15% were very dissatisfied and only 10% were satisfied. However, in the post-resettlement phase, satisfaction increased dramatically, with 85% of respondents reporting that the situation was better than before and 10% being very

satisfied. Notably, no respondents were very dissatisfied after resettlement. Overall, the data indicates a significant positive shift in satisfaction levels, suggesting that the resettlement process greatly improved perceptions of children's education.

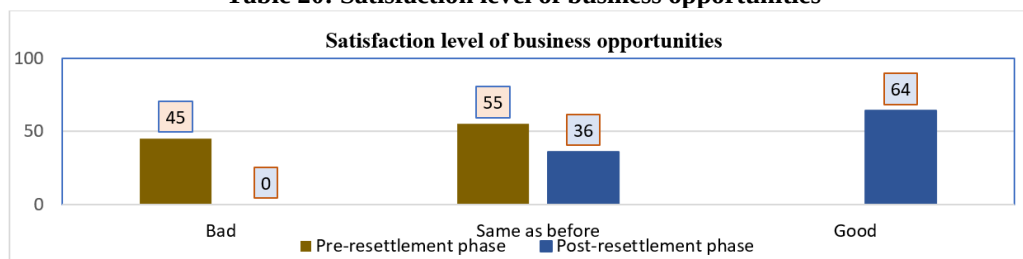
Table 19: Satisfaction level regarding health service



The level of satisfaction regarding health services shows a remarkable improvement after resettlement. During the pre-resettlement phase, a majority of respondents (48%) were dissatisfied, and 5% were very dissatisfied with the health services. Only 15% expressed satisfaction, and none were very satisfied, while 22% remained neutral. However, in the post-resettlement phase, the scenario changed significantly

58% of respondents reported being satisfied, and 12% were very satisfied with the services. The proportion of dissatisfied and very dissatisfied respondents dropped to 0%, indicating a positive shift in perceptions. The neutral group slightly increased to 30%, suggesting that health service delivery and accessibility improved notably after resettlement, enhancing the overall satisfaction among the affected population.

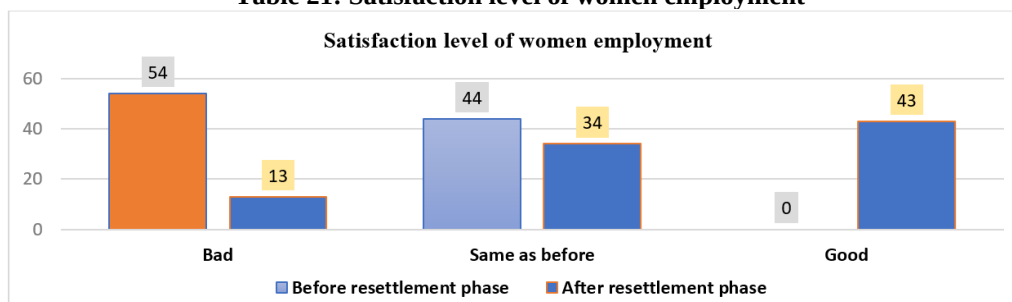
Table 20: Satisfaction level of business opportunities



Observing the data on satisfaction levels with business opportunities reveals a distinct shift following the resettlement phase. Prior to resettlement, the dominant sentiment was negative, with 45 respondents rating the opportunities as "Bad," while zero felt they were "Good." The largest single group, rating satisfaction as "Same as before," comprised 55 individuals. Post-resettlement, this dynamic completely

inverted: the number of people who felt the opportunities were "Good" dramatically rose to 64, becoming the highest category. Concurrently, the "Bad" rating dropped entirely to 0, and those who felt the opportunities remained the "Same as before" decreased significantly to 36. The overall picture strongly suggests that the resettlement process was effective in enhancing satisfaction regarding available business opportunities.

Table 21: Satisfaction level of women employment



Observing the data on satisfaction levels with women's employment reveals a significant improvement

following the resettlement phase. Before the resettlement, the sentiment was notably negative, with

the highest proportion of respondents (54) rating satisfaction as "Bad," while zero felt it was "Good." A substantial number (44) considered the satisfaction level to be the "Same as before." After the resettlement, this pattern reversed sharply: the number of respondents reporting "Bad" satisfaction plummeted to 13. Crucially, the "Good" rating category emerged with 43 responses, indicating a considerable increase in positive perceptions of women's employment opportunities and conditions. The "Same as before" category also saw a decrease, falling to 34. This overall shift suggests the resettlement process was beneficial in positively impacting satisfaction levels regarding women's employment.

Reason for Construction:

The construction of the Padma Bridge aims to establish direct road and rail connectivity between Bangladesh's central region and the southwestern districts, including Munshiganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Barishal, Patuakhali, and Faridpur. The bridge ensures smooth communication between 21 southern districts and Dhaka as well as the eastern part of the country. It is designed to improve the living standards of people in the southern region by enabling faster transportation of goods to national markets, ensuring timely supply of raw materials, and boosting production. The bridge also enhances the use of Mongla Port as the country's second seaport, supports integration with the Asian Highway, and promotes regional connectivity within South Asia. Overall, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge is expected to bring significant socio-economic transformation, contributing an additional 1.23% to the national GDP upon completion.

Economic Impact:

The Padma Bridge will play a vital role in the development and establishing direct road and rail connectivity between Bangladesh's central and southwestern regions. It will ensure smooth communication between 21 southern districts with capital city of Dhaka, improving living standards and expanding faster transportation and supply of raw materials, thereby boosting production. The bridge will also enhance the use of Mongla Port as an alternative to Chattogram Port. As part of the Asian Highway, the Padma Bridge will bring a revolutionary change in internal and regional connectivity across South Asia and have a significant positive impact on both micro and macroeconomic levels.

DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSION

During discussions with the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), several major concerns were raised regarding their post-relocation situation. Many expressed deep anxiety over the delay in receiving their promised land deeds, fearing they might lose ownership of their new plots since the expected timeframe of one to two years has already passed. Financial hardship is another pressing issue, as PAPs were not compensated

for the cost of relocating or rebuilding their previous structures, forcing many to take high-interest loans from local NGOs to construct new homes. The absence of a designated market area has hindered business and income-generating opportunities, worsening their economic instability. Education has also become difficult, with a newly built primary school remaining unopened, compelling children to attend distant schools and cross dangerous roads daily. Additionally, residents lamented the loss of community and recreational spaces, as plots originally meant for playgrounds are being reassigned for new housing. Health service access remains a critical unmet need, with calls for establishing a permanent health center within or near the larger resettlement sites to ensure timely and reliable medical support for all families.

Suggestions and Essential Needs for Sustainable Resettlement:

The Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and other stakeholders shared several practical suggestions and emphasized essential needs to ensure sustainable resettlement and long-term stability. They strongly recommended forming a Resettlement Management Committee to take responsibility for the daily management of the sites, including cleanliness, conflict resolution, community events, and maintenance of shared facilities such as mosques, temples, and schools. To strengthen economic resilience, they highlighted the importance of providing targeted training programs on income-generating activities, market linkage, and entrepreneurship development for both men and women, enabling them to rebuild their livelihoods. Additionally, they stressed the need for affordable housing finance, proposing that house construction loans be offered at minimal interest rates through project management and implementing NGOs. This initiative should be guided by a well-prepared Income and Livelihood Restoration Plan (ILRP) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to ensure that affected families can achieve financial security and sustainable living conditions in their new communities.

Recommendations for a Sustainable Resettlement Outcome:

Here are the recommendations and conclusions, focusing on practical steps for mitigating resettlement impacts and ensuring a sustainable future for the affected persons. The following recommendations are crucial to address the issues identified in the study and ensure the project fulfills its mandate, the recommendations and the suggestions are as follows;

- a. **Fulfilling Core Commitments on Land and Finance:** The most urgent priority is to establish trust and financial stability. The project authority must immediately transfer the legal land deeds for the purchased plots at the resettlement sites. Concurrently, the promised relocation cost for the structure transfer must be paid out without further delay to alleviate the

existing financial crisis and prevent reliance on high-interest loans.

- b. **Prioritizing Economic Empowerment and Training:** Livelihood restoration cannot be an afterthought. Income Generating Activities (IGA) training must be intensified, with a special focus on women's empowerment and specialized IGAs for them. The implementing NGOs (ILRP & RAP) must not just provide training but also actively establish market linkages and follow up with intensive monitoring to ensure skills translate into sustainable income.
- c. **Creating and Funding Business Opportunities:** The project needs to actively search out and establish new business and employment opportunities for the affected persons, which necessitates the development of essential infrastructure, such as market spaces. Crucially, access to low-interest funding sources must be secured so that people can invest their capital productively for economic purposes, rather than just focusing solely on housing construction.
- d. **Enhancing Social and Health Awareness Activities:** A comprehensive redesign of socioeconomic and public health awareness activities is necessary. This program should be broader and more intensive, covering topics like group savings and cooperatives, public/private investment, safe road use (especially relevant for children accessing distant schools), and vital health issues such as HIV/AIDS, sanitation, and child nutrition. The establishment of a Resettlement Management Committee is key to managing these social activities and community disputes.
- e. **Adhering to and Consulting on Site Design:** The project authority must commit to following the original design for each resettlement site. Any proposed changes to the site plan—such as reallocating common areas like playing grounds—must first be made in full consultation with the affected households already living there. Furthermore, any common infrastructures that have been completed (like the school) must be immediately opened for the public good and intended purpose.
- f. **Ensuring Participatory Project Governance:** Monitoring and cooperation must become truly participatory. The implementing NGOs (ILRP & RAP) should organize bi-monthly or quarterly consultation meetings at each resettlement site. These meetings must include the project management authority to directly provide updates, gather essential feedback from affected persons, increase awareness, and allow for mass decision-making on critical issues affecting the community.

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CONCLUSION

The study emphasizes that effective mitigation of resettlement impacts and sustainable livelihood restoration of affected persons require timely fulfillment of project commitments, particularly regarding land documentation and relocation support. Strengthening income and livelihood restoration through skill development, women-focused IGAs, and access to affordable financing is essential. Additionally, enhancing community participation, promoting socioeconomic and public health awareness, and ensuring transparent and consultative decision-making will foster greater trust and long-term resilience. Consistent monitoring, participatory supervision, and regular consultations between affected households, implementing organizations, and project authorities are vital to achieving inclusive and sustainable resettlement outcomes.

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