

# Survival Scenario of the Street Children in Bangladesh

A K M Maksud<sup>1\*</sup>, Mohammad Ekramol Islam<sup>2</sup>, Afia Anjum Raisa<sup>3</sup>,  
and Tahsin Aziz Swapno<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Grambangla Unnayan Committee, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sonargaon University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, City University of New York, USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Computer Science, City University of New York, USA

\*Email:akmmaksud@gmail.com

## Abstract

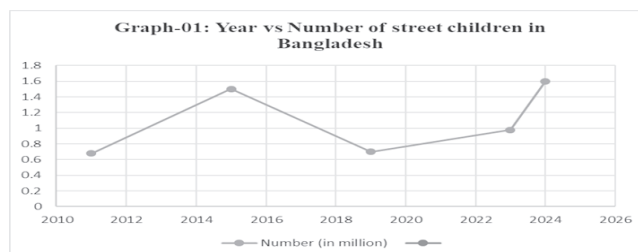
It is believed that millions of children are living in street situated across the world. Children living in street are one of the most vulnerable population groups of urban poor. They face huge difficulties while living in the streets. In fact, their lives are bed of thrones. Fortunately, they depend on themselves to overcome the hindrance in their own ways. The country in which they belong must have a policy to ensure their child and human rights as nobody wants to live on streets willingly. There are a numbers of reasons behind to become street children even though the reasons may vary from country to country, city to city, and from person to person. These factors also vary over time, such as poverty, displacement due to natural disasters and conflicts or family breakdown etc. In order to make a policy for the improvement of the condition of street children, it is required to have sufficient and necessary information on them. In the present research paper, the objective is many fold including to find and assess the demographic and social characteristics of street children, risks and vulnerabilities faced by the street children and finally to asses different parameters such as education, health, nutrition, shelter, livelihood etc. of the street children in Bangladesh perspective. In order to get a wider and clear picture regarding the issue, a total number of 400 street children were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire with both open-ended and pre-coded questions. The field data collection team had to meet/interview 300 sample street children at 62 locations of 25 Thanas in Dhaka City. In addition, the field data collection team had to meet 100 sample street children at 17 locations of 1 Thana in Barisal City. In this present study, a total of 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with stakeholders in GoB agencies, NGOs, UN agencies. Based on the data analysis and finding, fifteen recommendations are made to make policies and actions plan for the different stakeholders including government authorities.

**Keywords:** Street Children, Vulnerable population groups, proverty, Survival Scenario, Children Rights.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is a real fact that millions of children are living in the street across the globe. They are always facing hundreds of difficulties and considered most vulnerable group among the poor people in the world. A street child is any child who works and or lives in the street [1]. The term street children refer to millions of destitute boys and girls who have adopted the street as their abode or source of livelihood, or both [2]. According to Survey Street Children Report [3] United Nations general comment, the term “children in street situations” is used to comprise: (a) children who depend on the streets to live and/or work, whether alone, with peers or with family; and (b) a wider population of children who have formed strong connections with public spaces and for whom the street plays a vital role in their everyday lives and identities. This wider population includes children who periodically, but not always, live and/or work on the streets and children who do not live or work on the streets but who regularly accompany their peers, siblings or family in the streets. Concerning children in street situations, “being in public spaces” is understood to include spending a significant amount of time on streets or in street markets, public parks, public community spaces, squares and bus and train stations. It does not include public buildings such as schools, hospitals or other comparable institutions [4].

A baseline survey conducted in 2001 by the ARISE project, revealed that there are 445,226 street children in six divisional cities of Bangladesh[5]. The number of such children is 1.5 million in 2023 in Bangladesh, among them 75% of them live in the nation’s capital, Dhaka [6,7] and this number can be expanded to more than 1.6 million by 2024 [7].The year vs number of street children has been shown in the graph-01.



Street children are the most deprived and vulnerable group among the disadvantaged children living in Bangladesh. Due to lack of shelter and inadequate food and healthcare support, their lives become miserable. Furthermore, work is a reality for many of Dhaka's street children; some of whom become embroiled in the lower echelons of Bangladeshi organised crime groups [8]. The children living in street situations surveyed were involved in various types of work, see table-01 below:-

Table-01: Types of works in which street children are involved

Types of works	(in %)
Collect waste or scrap	20.00%
Begging or assistance for begging	18.40%
Work in shops, restaurants and tea stalls	15.00%
Sell different goods/things on the street	09.30%
<b>Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 2022</b>	

The reasons for their connection to the streets will vary from country to country, city to city, and from person to person. These factors will also vary over time, such as poverty, displacement due to natural disasters and conflicts or family breakdown all lead to increases in the numbers of street children in a given area. Discrimination, lack of access to justice, a lack of legal status (due to a lack of birth registration for example) all contribute to a situation where a child is living or working on the street. Children may migrate to the streets for other reasons as well, including: sexual, physical or emotional abuse, urbanisation, HIV / AIDS, being forced into criminal activity, being rejected from their family for so called "moral" reasons, mental health issues, substance abuse and sexual orientation or gender identity. Street children experience high levels of stigma [9]. This present article is the result of a study entitled "Assessment on the Street Connected Children's Rights, Protection and Vulnerability Situation in Bangladesh" undertaken by Grambangla Unnayan Committee with support from the Consortium for Street Children and Commonwealth Foundation. The main objective of the study is to assess the extent to which street children's rights are realised in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives were:

- i. Assess the current demographic and social characteristics of street children in Bangladesh
- ii. Assess the state of street children's rights and protection situations in Bangladesh
- iii. Assess the situations in relation their education, health, nutrition, shelter, livelihood etc. of the of street-connected children in Bangladesh
- iv. Assess the risks and vulnerabilities faced by the street children in Bangladesh

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The research work of [10] investigated different parameter regarding street children and found that the poverty is the main culprit behind to compell the children to stay and involve in works on street. Their research investigations also touched the health issues and revealed that remedy required remedy in order to ensure a better life style. It is explored in [11] through the analysis of detailed empirical research with children in Bangladesh. This dominant narrative posits that children whose basic material needs cannot be met within the household move to the street. A survey has been conducted on a sample of 101 children from two purposively selected areas of Dhaka city to gather information on their socio-economic status by using quantitative method [12]. According to [12], housing, food, and lack of jobs are the three most common problems for which they are to seek assistance and to live in the street for unknown period. The purpose of [13] is to have a close and empathetic look into the lives of street children that will help to identify their health-related needs. It is investigated in [4] regarding a issue, why children leave home with a sample of street children in Dhaka, Bangladesh. An estimated 1–3 million children live on the streets of Dhaka, Bangladesh relying on each other for survival in an environment characterized by illness, violence, and poverty. Research has rarely examined the everyday caregiving environment of street children in Bangladesh or how they survive the illness and injury so common to their experience [15]. The qualitative project purposively selected 75 street children and asked three primary questions: 1) What is the nature of crisis children encounter on the street? In Bangladesh, an estimated one to three million street children face poverty, violence and social stigma daily. It is explored how street children in Bangladesh engage in financial transactions in their social networks to build resiliency and sustain contextual well-being under conditions of extreme adversity [16]. Number of street children has been rising in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in recent years and also the prevalence of substance abuse is increasing among these children. The study of [17] focus on understanding street children's perception/attitudes towards substance abuse.

An attempt has been taken in [18] to present the socio-economic and physical consequences of girl child marriage and its legal protection with awareness level of parents in rural Bangladesh. Children's rights, such as the right to life, the right to protection from the threats to her own safety, the right to equality in education, employment, health, the right to employment, the right to meet the needs of food, clothing and shelter. The study result of [19] provide in-depth information about the various forms of violence experienced by street children in the city of Padang. Handling of the street children has a goal to reduce the growth's number of the street children in the City of Semarang. Atkinson-Sheppard has presented a study of street children's involvement as workers in Bangladeshi organised crime groups based on a three-year ethnographic study in Dhaka [20].

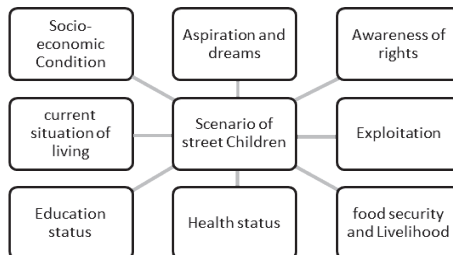
It considers the crimes mastaans commit, the ways they divide labour, and how and why street children become involved in these groups. Street children are usually treated with utmost negligence as nobody smiles at them, cuddles them, protect them and give them comfort. They have no helping hand for their existence and survival except their own efforts. There is a need to move beyond a vision of these street children, which encompasses the origins of their problems in their family, community, school, work and leisure setting hindering their physical and mental development. Many researcher thought about the remedy regarding the street children. The contribution of Serrokh is to use the capability approach (CA) to examine micro-finance as a tool to improve the well-being of street children in Bangladesh [21]. The research results of [22,23] intend to accomplish a profound study based on vulnerability of labour condition of single mother's children in Bangladesh. Since secured life of single mothers by law can provide a better life to the children. The author also focused on comprising a special law in support of the single mothers of Bangladesh to protect children from forced and hazardous labor. In the present research paper, the objective is many fold including to find and assess the demographic and social characteristics of street children, risks and vulnerabilities faced by the street children and finally to asses different parametrs such as education, health, nutrition, shelter, livelihood etc of the street children in Bangladesh perspective.

**3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The purpose of this study is to conduct a baseline survey for the street children in Bangladesh that explored accurate and verifiable data set. In this study both the quantitative and qualitative techniques were used for data collection. Quantitative data collection techniques were used to generate numerical data through survey. As qualitative techniques In-Depth Interview, Key Informant Interview and Focus Group Discussion were used.

During the study a large number of reports, journals, laws and different types of documents were reviewed. For the quantitative assessment, a total number of 400 street children were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire with both open-ended and pre-coded questions for the proposed assessment. The field data collection team had to meet/interview 300 sample street children at 62 locations of 25 Thanas in Dhaka City. In addition, the field data collection team had to meet 100 sample street children at 17 locations of 1 Thanas in Barisal City.

In this study, a total of 10 FGDs were conducted. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with stakeholders in GoB agencies, NGOs, UN agencies. For making a lucid and meaningful analysis of findings following statistical tools was used. Qualitative data was processed manually. As this study involves vulnerable children as study participants, a child safeguarding policy was put in place to minimize the risk of harm. The activities were performed under the study to produce the desired outputs from September 2020 to February 2022. Survey data was collected during September-November 2020 and KII and FGDs were conducted from March 2021 to February 2022.

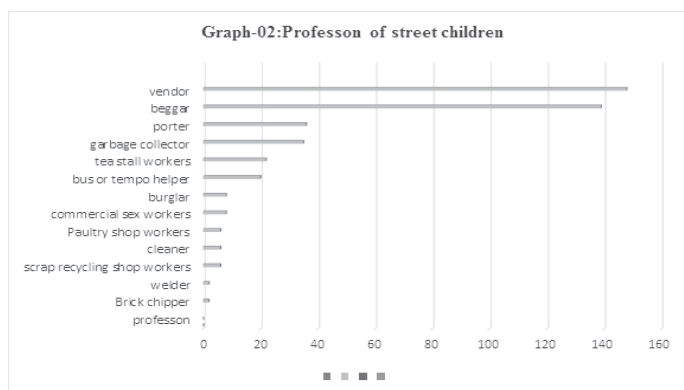


**Figure 1: Prepared based on the present study by authors**

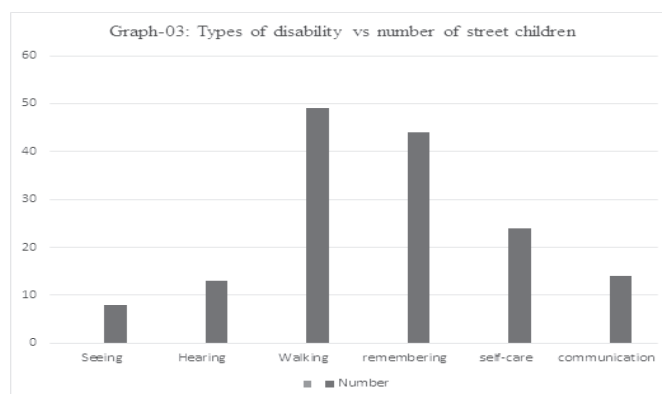
## 4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### 4.1 Socio-economic and demographic characteristics

The study findings demonstrate that the number of male street children (77.5%) is comparatively much higher than the female children (22.3%). Majority (59.0%) of street children belongs to the age group of 14-17 years. Street children were found earn through selling things on the street as a vendor (37.0%), beggar (34.6%), porter (9.0%), garbage collector (8.6%), tea stall worker (5.3%), bus/tempo helper (4.8), burglar (1.8%), commercial sex work (1.8%), cleaner (1.5%), poultry shop worker (1.3%), scrap recycling shop worker (1.3%), welder (0.5%), brick chipper (0.3%) (see the bar diagram-01 below).



The Most of the respondents (93.3%) get their payment daily basis and their mean working hour was 10 hours. The mean monthly income was BDT. 7306. Most of the street children (78.5%) reported that they do not save any money and 21.5 percent of them reported to save money. The mean amount of savings was BDT. 436. The mean monthly expenditure of street children was BDT. 2868. Street children were found to spend money for food (95.9%), drugs (Marijuana, Dandy, cigarettes/bidi) (3.8%), bribe of police or guards (1.8%), clothing (1.5%), medicine (1.0%), bribe to local senior brothers (0.5%), toilet (0.5%) etc. Regarding disability, 2 percent of the street children have difficulties in seeing; 3.2 percent of them have hearing difficulties; 12.2 percent of them have difficulties in walking or climbing; 11 percent of them have difficulties in remembering or concentrating; 6 percent of them have difficulties with self-care; 3.5 percent of them have difficulties in communication (see the graph-03).



### 4.2 Migration history & current situation of living

About two-fifth of the street children (39.6%) reported to come from coastal region of Bangladesh i.e. Barisal, Bhola, Noakhali, Borguna etc. A considerable portion of them (17.9%) came from poverty stricken districts of Bangladesh i.e. from Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Rangpur, Gaibandha etc. Hunger and working opportunities were the major determinant for most of the participants to migrate to a city. More than one-third of the street children (38.3%) came to the city to get square meals three times a day and 38% of the came to the city in search of a job.

A quarter of the respondents (23.3%) said that their fathers had died and 11.5% of them reported that their mother had died before. More than one-tenth of the street children (11.3%) reported that both the parents died. A considerable portion of the street children (6.8%) could not inform whether their parents are alive or dead.

During the survey, it has been found that 30.3 percent children live alone. It was also found that during daytime, 34.4 percent of street children stayed on footpaths/public places/foot over bridge/street. The other places of stay during daytime were parks or open places (26.3%), river terminal (18%), bus terminal (10.6%), railway station (9.5%) etc. About half of the street children (44.2%) live in the slums during night time. The other places to stay at night time were river terminal (15.3%), footpaths (13.5%), park/open spaces (10.6%), bus/train station (15.6%) etc. Only 7.8% of street children were found to live in the night shelter, drop-in center, and any other short-term care facilities.

About half of the street children (48.5%) reported that they cannot sleep at night as they desire. More than one-third of them (36.4%) cannot sleep because police or night guards do not let them sleep as they wake them up and oust them from their sleeping places. The other reasons were as follows: excessive hot weather (21.6%), mosquito bites (24.9%), acute sound of transport (11.1%), hunger (1.8%) etc.

#### **4.3 Education status and access to education services/education and swimming skills**

The vast majority (98.5%) of street-connected children are not currently studying in formal or non-formal schools, and are unable to write a single character of the alphabet. This is despite progress made at a national level in primary level enrolment and eliminating the gender gap. Street-connected children are therefore being left behind from progress towards SDG 4.1, which calls on states to ensure, by 2030, that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Economic factors play a large role in street-connected children's low school attendance rates. Even though there are no or minimal tuition fees associated with accessing primary education, the economic poverty of families and children themselves means children cannot afford to reduce or lose their earnings from the street. There are also social factors, with some families unwilling to pay for school and a preference to work rather than study among some children, even if opportunities were presented or assistance to study provided. Many children (65.7%) declined to talk about their attitudes to education, which may demonstrate how low a priority it is for these children. The survey also demonstrates that less than half (43.3%) of the children can swim, an essential life skill as many live or work near the rivers of Dhaka and Barisal.

#### **4.4 Health status and access to services in relation to safe drinking water and sanitation**

According to the findings of the survey, 66.5 percent of the street children suffered from different types of physical illness during the last 90 days. The reported types of physical illnesses were fever (89.8%), cough (52.6%), cold (38%), headache (38.3%), stomach pain (32.7%), physical weakness (26.3%), diarrhea (7.1%), breathing problem (3.8%), accidental injuries (1.5%), pain in sexual organ (0.8%). About three-fourth (74.0%) of the street children who suffered from physical illness received some kind of medical treatment to treat the illness. However, 84.7 percent of them received medical advice and medicine from nearby pharmacies (non-qualified medical practitioner i.e. medicine seller). Most of the street children (61.8%) reported to use public toilets for defecation. In addition, 27.1 percent of them defecate in open spaces. Findings also show that 63.4 percent of them drink water from public water points and 28.2 percent of them drink water from hotels/restaurants/mosque.

Street children suffer severe mental health outcomes due to chronic exposure to psychosocial distress, anxiety and frustration. The findings also indicate that 67.5 percent respondents feel frustrated. The major reasons for feeling frustrated were being orphaned (15.6%); unable to afford food (13.8%); verbal abuse (13.9%) etc. To overcome their frustration, a considerable portion of them (35.2%) of them sit quietly somewhere and 9.9 percent of them take drugs or smoke.

Findings show that 32.8 percent street children smoke cigarettes almost every day and 26.8 percent of them tried Dandy (a kind of adhesive used in shoe making). The other types of drugs they tried were Hashish (Ganja), Yaba, dried tobacco leaf (Zarda), Phensedyl etc. It is a matter of concern that 60.7% of them take drugs almost every day.

#### **4.5 Food security and access to food**

A large majority of the street children (78.5%) could not afford three meals a day for 5-20 days in the last month. Moreover, two third (66.5%) of the street children were in situations when they were unable to have anything to eat for a whole day. Specially the effects of COVID-19 pandemic made their lives worsen.

Street children who rely on street for their survival, 83.8% of them struggled a lot due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the several lockdowns situation round the country. Among the street children who suffered from COVID-19 pandemic, 85.7% of them suffered from food crisis, 77.0% of them lost their jobs and 53.1% of them lost their accommodation. To prevent COVID-19, majority of the street children (61.2%) said they could not take any protection measures against COVID 19.

#### 4.6 Torture, abuse, violence and sexual exploitation

Street children experience a range of physical and emotional abuse, violence and exploitation. Findings also show that 79 percent children were victim of violence. They frequently suffer from various abuses and the types of abuses street children face were as follows: emotional/mental abuse (97.5%); physical abuse (93.8%); sexual abuse (7%). The perpetrators by whom the children were abused were street people (38.6%) visitors/ people who stays at park (13.6%), owner of shop/ employer/ Mahajan/ hotel owner (13.3%), staffs of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) (11.0%), Police/ Ansar/ night guard (5.7%), passengers of train/Ticket Checker of train (12.3%), car drivers/bus contractor/people of bus stand (2.8%) etc. Among the victims of abuse/violence, 91.7% street children could not take any action. According to the findings, 6.0% percent street children were detained/arrested by the police. The major reasons of their arrest or detention were suspicion of thievery in shrine (29%); entering into the railway station's platform (25%); driving on the wrong side of road (8.3%), hitting car while driving rickshaw (8.3%), taking intoxicating substances (8.3%) and for selling drugs (8.3%). Rest of the participants reported to being detained for travelling on roof of train (4.2%), for performing sex business (4.2%) or being detained for no reason (4.2%).

According the findings, 11.2% of them were provoked by others to get engaged in sex work. Local older children/street people/addicted people (26.7%), neighboring aunt/aunty at shrine (13.3 %), local people (18.7%), ticket checker of the train (6.7%) etc. provoke them to get engaged in sex work. Besides the perpetrators, 8.9 percent of the street children reported to get involved in sex work willingly to earn money.

#### 4.7 Awareness on child rights issues

Findings show that 88.5% of the street children acknowledged about their right to have proper meal, 86.3% have rights to survive with dignity, 47.8% have right to get proper treatment, 43 percent have right to be protected from being tortured by others and 25.3% have rights to have access to education. Street children mentioned about some kinds of facilities a child might need to survive e.g. required food (91.0%), medical treatment in needs (69.8%), security (52.3%), education opportunity (44.0%) etc. Unfortunately it was found that street children do not get the opportunity to express their opinions in the Government's actions and decision regarding their wellbeing as according to the findings only 3% had the chance to express their views.

#### 4.8 Risk assessment of the street

Risks and vulnerabilities were the great concern for the street children. During interviewing the children, 16 major issues of child vulnerabilities were asked that include, birth registration, child-friendly environment, safe shelter, food security, protection, participation, disability and justice. Every issue had 0-5 range of scoring from zero vulnerability to severe vulnerabilities. During the assessment, the street children different issues in relation to risks and vulnerabilities. The situation of the child was categorized according to their vulnerability based on the findings, using a rating scale that contains value of 0 to 5, where 5 means high risk and 0 means safe. According to the Risk Assessment Matrix the total score was 60. If any child obtained the score between 1 to 23, the child was considered as moderately or less. If the score is 24 or above up to 60, then the child is considered as high risk. Based on the findings of the assessment, it showed that only 1.3% of the respondents were safe or at low risk. The rest of the respondents, i.e. 98.7% were at moderate to high risk.

The study manifests that all the street children were unaware of any helpline for children where they can call to get help and report abuse. None of them ever used the helpline for getting support or reporting any abuse. They also reported they do not have any access to any helpline number and thus they find it useless. During the survey, the participants were asked if they know how to connect with a social worker. Surprisingly, only 0.5% of all participants replied positively that they know how to contact a social worker if needed. The rest 99.5% of participants said they have no idea about how to contact a social worker.

#### 4.9 Aspirations and dreams of the street children

Street Children face several difficulties to access the basic rights to survive. However, having all those difficulties to survive 84.8% has aspirations for the future. Street children have aspirations to be a shop or business owner, driver, officer at offices, garment worker, rickshaw puller, auto mechanic, cleaner, thief, doctor, policeman, etc. A portion of the children have a dream to go back to their village and a considerable portion of them (3.9%) do not know what to dream for future. Better working opportunity was the most common future aspiration among male and female street children as 30% male children wanted a better earning opportunity and 35.6% female children wanted a good job.



### **5.0 CHALLENGES AND WAYS OUT TO REDUCE THE RISK AND VULNERABILITY OF THE STREET CHILDREN**

Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990: ratifying the Convention requires the Government of Bangladesh to develop the child rights architecture needed to deliver rights for all children in the country, including street-connected children. Many government ministries, departments and agencies are engaged in implementing the rights of street-connected children. At present, although the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has a key coordinating role, its ability to exercise this has remained weak.

The minimum age of criminal responsibility is very low in Bangladesh, at just 9 years. Bangladeshi Law criminalises different types of behaviours that street-connected children over the minimum age of criminal responsibility habitually rely upon for their survival, including vagrancy, begging and public nuisance. Birth registration is another key issue: while retroactive birth registration is possible in Bangladesh, in practice it is inaccessible to many street children due to the costs involved.

The protection of violence against children in Bangladeshi law and practice is a matter of concern, Corporal punishment, while unlawful in schools, is not forbidden in alternative care institutions, detention facilities, or as punishment for certain offences. The Penal Code of 1860 criminalises rape, but only against girls and not boys: this must be rectified and made gender-neutral to ensure the protection of all children. Girls who are married are also insufficiently protected from sexual violence and abuse at the hand of their spouse. Street children find it difficult to access health care, the delivery of which has been further disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

An estimated four million children were not in primary education in Bangladesh in 2020, with groups including children living in poverty facing particular barriers to education, including a large number of street children. National Children Policy 2011, which is the modified version of National Children Policy 1994. It is one of the foundational steps for promoting betterment of children. Under the Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 (Act no. 42), Chapter One, Section 2/8 stated that 'No children under 14 years are permitted to work and children aged 14 to 18 are only allowed to do light and non-hazardous work'.

Several ministries, including Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Unemployment, etc. are working together for proper implementation of the Act and Policies. The Children Act (2013) was a significant development in the progression of child rights in Bangladesh. While the Children Act provides some general guidance for certain professionals dealing with child protection issues, there is no specific provision concerning the guidance and training needed for street children. Child Welfare Boards at national, district and upazila level are to be established under the provision of the Children Act 2013. To deal with the children who get involved in conflict with the law or contact with law, children-specialized police desk along with Child Affairs Police Officer (CAPO) and Children's Court are also mentioned in the Children's Act.

### **6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of the survey, it is clearly evident that street children of Bangladesh are living in risky and very vulnerable situations and the current research has a very strong relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as No Poverty (Goal 1), Zero Hunger (Goal 2), Good Health and Wellbeing (Goal 3), Quality Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8), Reduce Inequalities (Goal 10), Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16) are directly connected with the rights, protection and the livelihood of the street children. It is a time demand situation that emphasis necessary measures should be taken immediately in order to ensure the rights and protection of the street children. In fact, Bangladesh has a great commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by the year 2030. To prevent the terrible situations encountered by the street children in their daily life some recommendations are given below:

- i. Ensuring birth registration for all street children
- ii. Government can introduce and enforce an alternative care system for the street children who have no parental identification so that every child is being taken care of by a legal guardian.
- iii. Government, City Corporations, Municipalities and NGOs should take necessary initiatives to establish night-care shelters or drop-in centers for the children who live at very risky places especially at night. There are several initiatives taken by the government for the street connected children, but most of the project were short term basis which did not make significant change on the lives and livelihood of the street children.
- iv. Government, Local Government Institutions and NGOs should make arrangement for adequate food supplies for the street children with ensured access.
- v. Street children should have access and support for their education both at formal and Non-formal schools.
- vi. There should be provision with all the banks so that street children can save their money without any fees or charges.
- vii. Government should ensure free and easy access to health care services by the street children
- viii. Food, shelter and medical support should be provided to the street children in emergency situations at a priority basis.
- ix. Street children who are already engaged in income earning activities can be facilitated to get engaged in safe earning activities.
- x. A Street Children Task Force should be formed and bring into operation at each of the 64 districts of Bangladesh.
- xi. Government and other service providers should take appropriate measures to ensure special care for street children with disabilities.
- xii. Government and other organizations should take necessary measures to ensure proper mental health care for street children.
- xiii. Street children should be facilitated so that they have easy access to Child Helpline-1098 and Victim Support Centres.
- xiv. Government should strengthen enforcement and Children Act 2013, Child Labor Elimination Policy-2010, National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour (2020-2025) and Labour Act-2006 to promote and protect the rights of street children.
- xv. Street children should have meaningful participation in the existing National Children's Parliament and other child forums to raise their voice.

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