Factors, Nature and Impacts of Slum Dwellers Residential Mobility within the Dhaka City

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ABSTRACT

The pattern of residential mobility varies throughout the world. Slum populations consistently report higher rates of residential mobility than other populations. However, the pattern and the consequences of residential mobility of the slum dwellers are not well studied. Dhaka, the Capital of Bangladesh, has a large population, more than 14 million of which about 1.06 million live in slums with an increase of 60.73 percent in the last 17 years. The objectives of this study are: (1) to identify the significant factors of residential mobility of slum dwellers; and (2) to examine the patterns of residential mobility of slum dwellers in three slums area located in Dhaka. This study further analyzed the impacts of residential mobility on the socio-economic aspect of the slum dwellers. For this research purpose, 267 households from three slums of Dhaka namely Kallyanpur slum, Agargaon slum, and Karwan Bazar railgate slum were selected through non-probability convenience sampling and interviewed. This study found that residential mobility was influenced by factors which are related to life cycle; employment, income and distress; land tenure and homeownership; neighbourhood condition and grouping issues. Among all the studied variables the most five significant factors influencing residential mobility are slum eviction, unavailability of utility services, marriage, changing job and getting homeownership status. It is revealed that the nature of the residential mobility for the surveyed slum dwellers is mainly negative and it poses a significant impact on the socio-economic aspects of life. The findings of the study pave the way to recommend specific measures for the slum dwellers to improve their condition by lessening the negative impacts of residential mobility.

1. Introduction

Residential mobility is an important personal and societal issue having immense influence on urban planning. The micro approach of movement of households within urban area, defined as residential mobility or intra urban migration, is predominant form of movement in the developed world (Cadwallader, 1992 and Short, 1978). Furthermore, these less dramatic short-distance moves take place within a local housing market (Hedman, 2011) which are deeply intertwined with social relations, socio-economic positions and patterns of daily activities. It is argued that patterns of residential mobility have the power to substantially change the population composition of neighborhoods and potentially also other neighborhood attributes (Hedman, 2011).
Mobility patterns are generally the result of conscious decisions - people choose in which neighborhood to live, even if there are differences in ability to choose. Consequently, in order to understand flows of people between neighborhoods, it is necessary to comprehend the factors that influence households to move (or stay) and that affect their choices of destination neighborhoods. Many pushes and pull factors impinge on a household’s decision to relocate and influence the move’s timing and location (Fattah, et. al., 2015; Ozo, 1986).

The life-course perspective provides one of the important theoretical frameworks to explain residential mobility as one of the many related aspects of human development. From this point of view, moving or staying is related to life events such as marriage or divorce; birth of children; children leaving home or attending college; change of employer, income, or assets; and retirement. Several studies have found that these life events are potential triggers of mobility (Clark, 2005; Clark and Withers, 1999; Long, 1991). These events can result in dissatisfaction with the current house, such as when a growing family needs more space, or may change the household’s aspirations, such as when a better job leads to increased status expectations (Sanga, 2015). Furthermore, homeownership or residential stability may become more or less salient at particular stages of life, such as marriage, birth of a child, or retirement. These life events tend to be correlated with demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, race or ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and so forth, and these characteristics are also associated with the probability of residential mobility. Although residential mobility can be a path to greater opportunity and satisfaction, concern exists that many low-income families move not to better their circumstances but due to unstable housing arrangements and that such moves may have negative consequences. Some studies suggest that frequent moving during childhood undermines educational attainment (Wood et. al., 1993), but other studies have found little or no effect after other risk factors are taken into account (Murphey et. al., 2012). Nevertheless, relocating may disrupt social ties and undermine a family’s social capital (Briggs, 1997), and it has a particularly disruptive effect on children when parents provide only modest emotional support and involvement (Hagan, et. al., 1996; Morris, et. al., 2018).

Slum populations consistently report higher rates of residential mobility than other populations (Coulton et. al., 2009; Philney, 2013; Warner, 2016). While it is clear that low-income families move frequently, it is less clear whether residential mobility represents a positive or negative transition for most poor families. Residential mobility can reflect improvements in a family’s circumstances, such as buying a home for the first time, moving to be close to a new job, or trading up to a better-quality housing unit or neighborhood. It can also be a symptom of instability and insecurity, with many low-income households making short distance moves because of problems with landlords, creditors, or housing conditions (Lall et. al., 2006). Similarly, staying in place sometimes reflects a family’s security, satisfaction, and stability with its home and neighborhood surroundings, but in other cases it may reflect that a family lacks the resources to move to better housing or to a preferred neighborhood (Gramlich, et. al., 1992; South, et. al., 2005). Therefore, it is important to know what the actual reasons of mobility of low-income people are. Residential mobility has both positive and negative impacts on the family members which depends on push or pull factors acting behind the mobility (Murphey, et. al., 2012).

DHAKA, the capital of Bangladesh, is the most densely populated city in the world (Satu and Chiu, 2017). Being the center of all economic, educational and administrative activities and due to the lack of decentralization policy, people from the whole country tend to migrate to Dhaka. Therefore, many of the immigrants initially concentrate in slums of Dhaka due to low skill, poverty and limited alternatives. According to the latest census, third of its kind in the country on slum dwellers and floating population conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in 2014, 1.06 million people live in slums across the country while 1.23 million people live in slums in Dhaka division (BBS, 2014). The poor environmental condition and lack of infrastructures pose negative impacts on the physical and psychological well-being of urban slum dwellers. According to the Habitat for Humanity (2016) slums are defined by overcrowded, unsafe and unhealthy homes with limited or no access to basic services namely water, toilets, electricity, transportation. Such homes are unstable and lack secured land tenure. In the context of Bangladesh, slums are defined as settlements with a minimum of 10 households or a mess unit with a minimum of 25 members and predominantly very poor housing lacking security of tenure with poor environmental services especially water and sanitation. It typically possesses extremely high population density and room crowding where dwellers deprive socio-economic status (Centre for Urban Studies, 2005). The Centre for Urban Studies estimated that the total population of Dhaka’s slums was more than doubled between 1996 and 2005, from 1.5 to 3.4 million people (BBS, 1999). The number of people living in slum in Dhaka city is increasing day by day. In last 17 years the number of slum population in Dhaka has increased 60.73%. According to Centre for Urban Studies (1995), a slum may be defined as “a building, group of buildings or area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which, because of these conditions or any of them, endanger the health, safety or moral of its inhabitants or community”.

It is evident from the definition of slum that slum dwellers lead a deplorable life. Therefore, it is important to investigate the factors and impacts of residential mobility which is yet to be explored. This research is a pioneering one in the context of Bangladesh and in addition significant one in the context of international literature to develop and share the knowledge on residential mobility of the slum dwellers. This research aims to identify the important factors responsible for residential mobility, the nature of such factors and the impact of mobility on the socio-economic aspects of the slum dwellers. Following this introductory part, the next section depicts the methodology. Later the findings are discussed in brief which is followed by recommendations and conclusion.
2. Methodology

This paper aims to identify the significant factors and nature of residential mobility of slum dwellers of Dhaka. Further, the impact of residential mobility on their socio-economic life has been also investigated. After consulting the relevant literature, important variables are selected for investigating the residential mobility pattern. Table 1 presents the selected variables for analyzing the factors and nature of residential mobility and the consequent impact on the socio-economic aspect of life.

### Table 1 Variables Considered for Analyzing Residential Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Factors of residential mobility of slum dwellers | Factors related to life-cycle  
  - Marriage  
  - Birth of children  
  - Domestic violence | Factors related to employment, income and distress  
  - Movement for job  
  - Home rent | Factors related to land tenure and home ownership  
  - Home ownership  
  - Slum eviction | Factors related to neighborhood condition  
  - Utility services  
  - Violence with neighbors  
  - Concern about children  
  - Social safety | Factors related to grouping  
  - Religion based groups  
  - District of origin | | Nature of residential mobility |  
  - Change in job  
  - Change in family income  
  - Change in the availability of utility services  
  - Change in the home ownership status  
  - Change in safety of the movers’ family members  
  - Change in social clashes | Socio-economic impact for residential mobility |  
  - Living cost  
  - Neighborhood involvement  
  - Acceptance as community member  
  - Education of children  
  - Balance in income and expenditure |

Source: Authors, 2017

Three considerably old public slums at varying locations are chosen for investigation. These are Kallyanpur slum, Agargaon slum, and Karwan Bazar railgate slum. Table 2 presents the basic information about these slums.

### Table 2 Area and Population Profile of Study Slums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Kallyanpur Slum</th>
<th>Agargaon Slum</th>
<th>Karwan Bazar Railgate Slum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Area (in 2012)</td>
<td>4.1 ha</td>
<td>1.6 ha</td>
<td>2.0 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Ownership</td>
<td>House Building Research Institute (HBRI)</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (in 2014)</td>
<td>8129</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>2385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household (in 2014)</td>
<td>2184</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Urban Studies (CUS), 2012; Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2014

This study follows mixed method approach including both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The data for analyzing the condition of considered factors were collected from primary sources through questionnaire interview of the slum dwellers. A semi-structured questionnaire was prepared for conducting survey. This questionnaire is divided into four parts with questions...
of the following areas—questions related to socio-demographic information, questions related to factors influencing the slum residents to move or stay, questions related to satisfaction of movers and stayers to identify positive and negative moves; and questions for identifying socio-economic effects on the neighborhood, movers and stayers due to the residential mobility of slum dwellers. The total households of the three case study slums is 3314. At 90% confidence level with 5% confidence interval, the required sample size is 249. However, for this study total 267 household units from three slums (Table 3) were selected for the questionnaire interview which is a representative sample. These samples were selected through non-probability convenience sampling. The adult persons (aged above 21 years) of the households present during the survey were the representatives of the questionnaire interview. The collected data were analyzed through descriptive statistical analysis after processing.

Table 3 Sample Size from Three Case Study Slums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slum Name</th>
<th>Sampling Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kallyanpur slum</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agargaon slum</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karwan Bazar railgate slum</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Socio-Demographic Information of the Respondents

The family size influences the slum dwellers to move their residence in another place or slum where they accommodate comfortably with affordability. Therefore, family size is an important factor which influences residential mobility of slum dwellers. As presented in Table 4, survey data revealed that the maximum family size was 7 with the minimum family size of 2. It is further found that in each household the average number of contributors in family income was 2. The slum dwellers struggle for their survival as their earning is very small. They are involved in many types of work such as day laborers, rickshaw/van pullers, shopkeepers, garment workers, housemaid etc. The average monthly family income was about 7000 BDT (USD 84), where the maximum family income was 16000 BDT (USD 192) and the minimum monthly income was 2000 BDT (USD 24).

Table 4 Socio-Demographic Information of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socio-Demographic Character</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family size</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributor to family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly income</td>
<td>16,000 BDT (USD 192)</td>
<td>2,000 BDT (USD 24)</td>
<td>7,000 BDT (USD 84)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2017 * 1 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)= 0.012 USD

3.2 Mobility Rate of the Slum People

The respondents reported frequent rate of residential mobility. Three families out of every four reported that they had changed their residence several times. As shown in Table 5, most of the movers (81%) were the owners of their house in the previous slum while 19% of movers were renters in their previous dwellings. Although most of them had their own houses in the previous place, they moved on to another place to live because of various reasons such as slum eviction, for better job purposes etc. Data shown in Table 5 had also indicated that about 42% and 29% of the respondents reported residential mobility more than 5 and 10 times respectively. Majority of the movers (57%) moved their residence from one slum to another while rest of them (43%) moved within the same slum.

Table 5 Respondent’s Mobility Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent’s Mobility Rate</th>
<th>Previous Dwelling of Movers</th>
<th>Trend of the Residential Mobility (in last 10-20 years)</th>
<th>Nature of the Residential Movement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movers</td>
<td>Non-Movers</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Renter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2017
Table 6 presents that among the three case study slums, Kallyanpur slum shows highest rate (90%) of residential mobility among its dwellers followed by Agargaon slum (72%) and Kawran Bazar railgate slum (48%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slum area</th>
<th>Kallyanpur Slum</th>
<th>Karwan Bazar Railgate Slum</th>
<th>Agargaon Slum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of the sample households</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movers percentage</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2017

### 3.3 Factors of Residential Mobility of Slum Dwellers

In this section the factors that greatly influence the slum dwellers to take their decisions regarding residential mobility are identified. The important factors identified and discussed are related to: (1) Life cycle; (2) Employment, income and distress; (3) Land tenure and home ownership; (4) Neighborhood conditions and (5) Groupings.

#### 3.3.1 Factors Related to Life Cycle

Marriage, birth of children, domestic violence etc. are most of the significant factors of life cycle events. As Figure 1 presents, according to the survey, marriage is found as a moderately significant factor affecting residential mobility. 18% of respondents found marriage as one of the determining factors which justified the decision to move into a new place. Birth of children was found as a less dominant factor in slum residential mobility which influenced 7% of the respondents. A new place with better environment than the current one for the newborn is the main motivation for such residential move. In the slums, domestic violence also leads to breakdown of the family which sometimes results in residential move. About 2% of the respondents reported residential mobility on this ground.

#### 3.3.2 Factors Related to Employment, Income and Distress

The factors related to employment, income and distress influence the movers among the slum dwellers to a great extent. It includes those factors like movement for job and difficulty in paying home rent. About 16% of the respondents reported that the distance of the working place from their living place was the main reason for their residential mobility. Housing rent is considered as one of the important factors of residential mobility. Some respondents marked it as a major factor to residential mobility. Only 19% of the total respondents from all three slums were renters (refer to Table 5). However, Figure 1 presents that 16% and 8% of the respondents identified job and housing rent respectively as the main reason of their move.

#### 3.3.3 Factors Related to Land Tenure and Home Ownership

Land tenure and home ownership are playing significant role in the movement of slum dwellers. In Dhaka, slums are located on lands owned by the government, semi-government organizations and individuals which lead to eviction. Generally, whenever a slum is evicted, the dwellers shift their residence to a nearby slum or take shelter temporarily with their relatives. According to the survey, 65% of the respondents identified slum eviction as the cause of their residential mobility. Other than land tenure, about 19% of the respondents who were renters in the previous slum reported that they consider home ownership as one of the major reasons for residential mobility.

#### 3.3.4 Factors Related to Neighborhood Conditions

There are several factors such as unavailability of utility services, violence with neighbors, welfare of the children and safety; which are related to neighborhood conditions and significantly influence the residential mobility of the slum dwellers. The unavailability or poor quality of utility services makes the living condition of the slum unhygienic and leads to the spread of diseases resulting in poor health. The survey data revealed that 34% of the movers changed their residences due to unavailability of the utility services. Other than poor utility service, 9% and 5% of the movers identified safety and violence respectively as their major reasons of residential mobility. Only 2% of the respondents moved from their earlier residences for the welfare of the children.

#### 3.3.5 Factors Related to Groupings

Religion based groups and the district of origin of the slum dwellers are considered under the factors related to groupings affecting residential mobility. Muslims and Hindus are the main religious community living together in the slums. Only 1% of the respondents reported that they shifted their residences due to religious clash among the neighbors. Bangladesh is characterized by regional imbalance and skewed urbanization pattern which lead to migration of the unskilled people in the sums of primate
city, Dhaka. However, in the slums people who originate from the same district tend to group together. These groups are sometimes involved in serious conflicts which influenced weaker and vulnerable segment of the people to move out from the slums. About 8% of the movers reported that they shifted from the previous slums due to the conflict that arose from the district groups.

Figure 1 presents the overall factors affecting the residential mobility according to the surveyed respondents. The main reason for residential mobility was slum eviction (65%), followed by unavailability of utility services (33%) and marriage (18%). Factors related to safety on the other hand, such as domestic violence (2%) and religious conflict (1%) are shown least concerning from the survey.

![Figure 1](image)

**Figure 1** Factors Affecting the Residential Mobility of Slum Dwellers  
Source: Research data, 2017

### 3.4 Nature of Residential Mobility of Slum Dwellers

The nature of residential mobility, whether imposing positive or negative impacts on the slum dwellers is investigated and discussed in this section. The common factors as identified in the earlier parts are examined in detail to evaluate the impacts of residential mobility.

#### 3.4.1 Change in Job of the Movers

According to survey findings, the maximum number of movers (38%) was in the same job while 26%, 22% and 14% of the movers consecutively got better job, worse job and became jobless. Here the option “unchanged” in job does not show the positivity or negativity of the nature of residential mobility. The options worse job and jobless are considered as negative residential mobility and the option, getting better job is considered as a positive impact. Therefore, according to the survey data, change in job of movers that is 36% of mobility is negative in nature and 26% is positive in nature.

#### 3.4.2 Change in Family Income of the Movers

In this research, the increased family income of the households due to residential shift is considered as positive mobility impact while the decreased mobility as the impact of negative mobility. The survey findings revealed that among the 203 movers; 30%, 35% and 35% of the respondents’ family income respectively increased, decreased and remained unchanged. The families whose incomes remain unchanged after the residential mobility are not considered for any type of mobility impact. Therefore, according to the change in the family income of the movers, 35% of the mobility is negative and 30% of the mobility is positive in nature.

#### 3.4.3 Change in the Availability of Utility Services

For investigating the nature of the residential mobility, the increase in availability of utility services due to shift in residence is considered as positive mobility while the decrease in availability of utility services is considered as negative mobility. No change in the availability of utility services defines none of
the above. The utility services of 33% of the movers are increased when they changed their residence. Only 6% of the respondents’ utility services decreased after changing the residence. The utility service of 61% of the movers remained unchanged. Therefore, according to the change in the availability of utility services, the residential mobility of about 33% of slum dwellers is positive and of 6% of slum dwellers are negative.

3.4.4 Change in the Home Ownership Status

During analysis, the mobility in which the movers became homeowner from renter is considered as positive mobility impact while the mobility in which the movers became renter from owner is considered as negative impact. The survey data revealed that the status of the home ownership of 54% of the movers remained unchanged. Only 9% of the movers became homeowner from renter and 37% of the movers became renter from homeowner. Therefore, 9% of the respondents had positive impact of residential mobility while 37% of them had negative impact.

3.4.5 Change in Safety of the Movers’ Family Members

When the safety is increased as the decision of residential mobility, it is considered as the positive impact while the decreased safety is considered as negative impact. According to the survey findings, 26% of the respondents reported that the safety of their family members increased due to residential mobility while 21% of the respondents reported negatively. The safety of 53% of the respondents remained same as before. Thus, it can be opined that 26% of the respondents faced positive impact while 21% of them realized negative impact because of their residential mobility.

3.4.6 Change in Social Clashes

Increase in social clash or clash with neighbors is regarded as the negative impacts of residential mobility while the decrease in such activities as the positive impact. According to the survey data, 36% of the respondents reported that the social clash is increased while 26% respondents reported decreased social clashes after their shift of the residences. Therefore, 36% of the residential mobility of the slum dwellers presents negativity and 26% of the mobility of slum dwellers presents positivity.

3.4.7 Comparison among the Variables of Nature of Residential Mobility

Among the six variables for assessing the nature and impact of residential mobility on slum dwellers (refer 3.4.1 to 3.4.6) only two presents positive impacts while the other four variables present negative impacts. Figure 2 presents that the change in the utility services and the change in the safety feelings of the family members are the two variables which showed positive impact. The change in job, change in family income, change in home ownership status and change in social clashes are the four variables which reported more negative impacts than positive ones. Therefore, the survey findings revealed that due to the residential mobility of slum dwellers the average family income and home ownership status lowered, social clashes increased and the number of people with inferior or without job increased.

![Figure 2 Nature and Impact of Residential Mobility of Slum Dwellers](Source: Research data, 2017)
3.4.8 Overall Satisfaction of the Movers with Current Residence

Even after the shifting of the residences for several times, 60% of the respondents reported that they were dissatisfied with their current residence while 40% reported that they were satisfied. However, most of the dissatisfaction respondents (71%) answered negatively about their willingness of further shifting of the residences.

3.5 Socio-Economic Impact of Residential Mobility on Slum Dwellers

The socio-economic impact of residential mobility on the slum dwellers has been assessed through investigating these five variables: the living cost, neighborhood involvement, acceptance as community member, education of the children and balance between income and expenditure. Due to residential mobility, the living cost of majority of the movers was increased. According to the survey findings, living cost of 58% of the movers increased, that of 16% movers decreased and for 26% of the movers living cost remained unchanged due to residential mobility. In most of the cases it was difficult for the respondents to get involved with the members at the new slums after their initial shift. More than 90% of the movers admitted that they were hesitant to talk with the new neighbors after their shift to a new slum but gradually the neighborliness developed. To become a member of the new community after the residential mobility is tough and requires more time. This is also the case for the slum dwellers. Most of the movers (91%) responded that it was very difficult for them to become a part of the new slum while 9% of the movers found it easy to become the community member of the new slum. Sometimes the education of the children of the moving families is disturbed and even stopped forever due to the residential mobility. Lack of formal educational institutions for the low-income people is also one of the reasons for that incidence. The survey data revealed that the education of the children of 67% of the family was disturbed due to the residential mobility. It is of utmost importance to justify the residential mobility in terms of income and expenditure to realize its impact on the socio-economic aspects of the slum dwellers. Since most of the slum dwellers are rickshaw pullers, day laborer, housemaids whose income level and savings are small, it requires a big amount of money for them for shifting to a new place. Furthermore, being involved in the informal employment, the residential mobility has both negative and positive impact on getting new income opportunities. About 67% of the movers reported that the expenditure increased for them than the income which made the balance in income and expenditure decreasing. For 33% of the respondents the balance in income and expenditure increased. Overall, enormous impacts on the social-economic aspects of the slum dwellers are observed.

This study investigates the factors of residential mobility of the slum dwellers and reveals that the nature of the residential mobility for the surveyed slum dwellers is mainly negative and it poses significant impact on the socio-economic aspects of life.

The findings of the study pave the way to recommend specific measures for the slum dwellers to improve their condition by lessening the negative impacts of residential mobility. To analyze the significance of the factors on residential mobility of the slum dwellers, five types of factors and the related variables are scrutinized. The factors are related to life cycle; employment, income and distress; land tenure and home ownership; neighborhood condition and grouping issues. Among all the studied variables the most five significant factors influencing residential mobility are slum eviction, unavailability of utility services, marriage, changing job and getting home ownership status.

After examining the nature of residential mobility through selected six variables namely change in job, change in income, change in utility services, change in home ownership, change in safety and change in social clashes; it is revealed that because of the residential mobility of slum dwellers the average family income and home ownership status decreased, social clashes increased and number of people with worse job increased. The impact of residential mobility on the socio-economic life of the slum dwellers are assessed through five variables namely living cost of the movers, neighborhood involvement, being the community member, education of the children and balance in income and expenditure of the movers. The study uncovers that due to the residential mobility the living cost is increased imposing decrease in the balance between income and expenditure; creates complicity in involving the movers with the community which eventually pose barrier for majority of the movers to be community members. Sometimes it also hinders the education of the children. In fact, overall socio-economic life is influenced by residential mobility of the slum dwellers.

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

The study reveals that most of the slum dwellers must move due to slum eviction and this type of mobility influences the homeownership status and convert the slum dwellers from owners to renters. This also poses negative impact on the socio-economic aspects of the dwellers and the education of their children. Therefore, as Ozo’s (1986) had suggested, decision makers should consider about the rehabilitation of slum dwellers before any slum eviction takes place. Since unavailability of the utility facilities is another major reason of residential mobility, it should be of utmost importance to provide the basic utility facilities to the slums at minimum cost. As suggested by Zanganeh et. al. (2011), the government should work hand in hand with the non-government organizations (NGO) in this regard. Likewise, Lall et. al. (2006) and Sanga (2015) had opined that NGOs should also take initiatives for the provision of income generating activities and poverty alleviation programs to the poor and unskilled slum dwellers. This vulnerable section of the society should be allocated interest free loans for self-employment. Formal and informal education programs and vocational trainings targeting the children as well as the adult illiterate people should be arranged for person enrichment which is also inline with the suggestion made by Ersing et. al. (2009). There should be free supply of textbooks, uniform, stationery items and various scholarships for attracting the
children and their parents. Further, there should be initiatives for night schools for old people of the slum.

The slum dwellers are mostly migrants who work as day laborers and live very deplorable life. Due to the high cost of city life and higher rentals, they tend to live in slums in congested environments and move to new slums for life cycle events, better employment opportunities, changing home ownership status and better neighborhood condition. However, this residential mobility is not positive always, rather in most of the cases the residential mobility is negative in nature and imposes great toll on socio-economic aspects of their life. The government should take effective initiatives so that the negative impacts of residential mobility are reduced. Further studies can be conducted to investigate in detail the socio-economic impact by such residential mobility on the overall slum neighborhood.

References


