

Fellowship Category

Research Report

Final Submission

**SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR WASTE PICKERS: POLICY INTERVENTIONS
AND WAY FORWARD**

15 September 2019

Researcher

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research assignment on “Social Protection for Waste Pickers: Policy Interventions and Way Forward” sponsored by Social Science Research Council is an opportunity for me to see the issues with a broader lens from social perspective. Indeed, it was an attempt to identify how the socially excluded persons are addressed in GoB policy framework. Main spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is “No One Leave Behind”. In our development planning “inclusiveness” is highly prioritized but whether this ideological position is implied or not, that is the development debate. This study is a partial reflection of concepts and reality.

Informal economy has been playing significant role in the area of income generation and employment creation. But traditionally, the sector is ignored and mostly informal workers are deprived of basic services from public institutes. Waste Pickers is such a group who are used to live in a low standard environment, used to work in hazardous workplace and their voice is not high to attract the policy makers.

I am thankful to SSRC for supporting the study dealing with the excluded group of the society. I also appreciate sincere contribution of my research team members who interviewed the waste pickers in selected two dumping stations and captured their views on relevant issues. It was my pleasure to talk with senior officials of waste management department of Dhaka North and South City Corporations as Key Informants and their assistance in getting the required information.

Social research emphasis on in-depth analysis on social issues, capture the perception of relevant stakeholders, identify the constraints and make suggestions for improvement of the situation. For this study, more qualitative approach was preferred rather than quantitative figures.

I strongly believe that, the findings of the study will help the local government authority particularly the policy makers of Dhaka North and South City Corporation to revisit their support to waste pickers from sustainability and human resources development perspective.

As social protection of the citizen of Bangladesh is a constitutional right, so the concerned authority should must consider social protection of the waste pickers with due importance. A long-term action plan is suggested to address the issue with comprehensive intervention. In addition, this report will contribute towards achievement of SDG-8 (Inclusive Growth and Decent Work), particularly target 8.3 – promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Decent work is one of the key agendas of SDG, so this is the responsibilities of the Government of Bangladesh and other Non-State Actors to create enabling environment for the waste pickers and ensure their livelihood security.

I will happy if the findings of the study can be shared with relevant GoB agencies including Dhaka North and South City Corporation for their further thoughts targeting the welfare of the waste pickers and that will be a need-based action to hear the voice of voiceless and proper inclusion of marginalized groups in the society.



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Date : 15 September 2019