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Enumerators Team

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Storyline

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Why a Study on the Real Economy

A Changing Scenario

- July Uprising of 2024 not only ushered in a widely desired political change but also generated heightened expectations among the public for corresponding improvements in economic welfare.

- Ongoing high rates of inflation and economic disruptions due to the sudden change in the political scenario raised fears of worsening economic outcomes at the household level.

- While needed policy attention was swiftly brought to bear on the macroeconomic scenario, corresponding attention on the microeconomic i.e. household-level, scenario was hampered by the lack of updated and comprehensive household level data. Available national data extended only up to 2022 leaving an information gap on household-level scenario in the post-Uprising period.

- The study on the State of the Real Economy has thus been a timely response to generate holistic and integrated household level updated data to inform and enable better policy response. Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance commissioned this national survey through an open competitive process in which the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) was successful in securing the assignment.

PPRC Track Record in Rapid Response National Surveys

- PPRC has a strong track record in rapid response national surveys on household-level economic realities : i) after the global financial crisis of 2008 ii) after the political crisis of 2015 and iii) during and after the Covid pandemic.

- An updated and signed MOU with BBS since 2023 has allowed PPRC to partner with the national statistical organization to rapidly establish a sampling framework for new national surveys.

- Use of CAPI – computer-assisted personal interviewing – approach with customized app has allowed significant time efficiency in completing the research cycle without compromising survey integrity.

- The use of holistic and integrated household survey instrument allow for datasets that can yield more meaningful findings that can enable and inform better policy responses.

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Design & Methodological Framework

Study Design: Cross-sectional, nationwide household survey

Sampling Strategy: Stratified two-stage cluster sampling in partnership with BBS

Sample Size: 432 PSUs × 20 HH per PSU → **8067** completed interviews

Data Collection Method: Face-to-face interviews using CAPI (KoboToolbox)

Analysis Approach: Descriptive analysis

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Study Timeline

Project Start
and Contract
Signing

Instrument Development
through an iterative revision process

*Data cleaning
& Preliminary
Analysis*

*National
Dissemination*

23 - 30 April

8 - 31 May

19 June – 24 August

16 April

4 - 7 May

1 - 17 June

25 August

Enumerator Training

108 enumerators were trained by
the Research Team on the
questionnaire and the use of
Kobo Toolbox application

Data Collection

*Preliminary
Findings &
Final Analysis*

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Sample Profile

Surveyed Households: **8067**

Total number of household members: **33,207** – Males 49.4%, Females 50.6%

Members with no formal education: **13.1%**

Average household size**: 4.07**

Percentage of female-headed households: **15.60%**

Percentage of school-age children (5-18) not in school: **15.5%**

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Housing Profile and Living Environment

The Bangladeshi Household in 2025
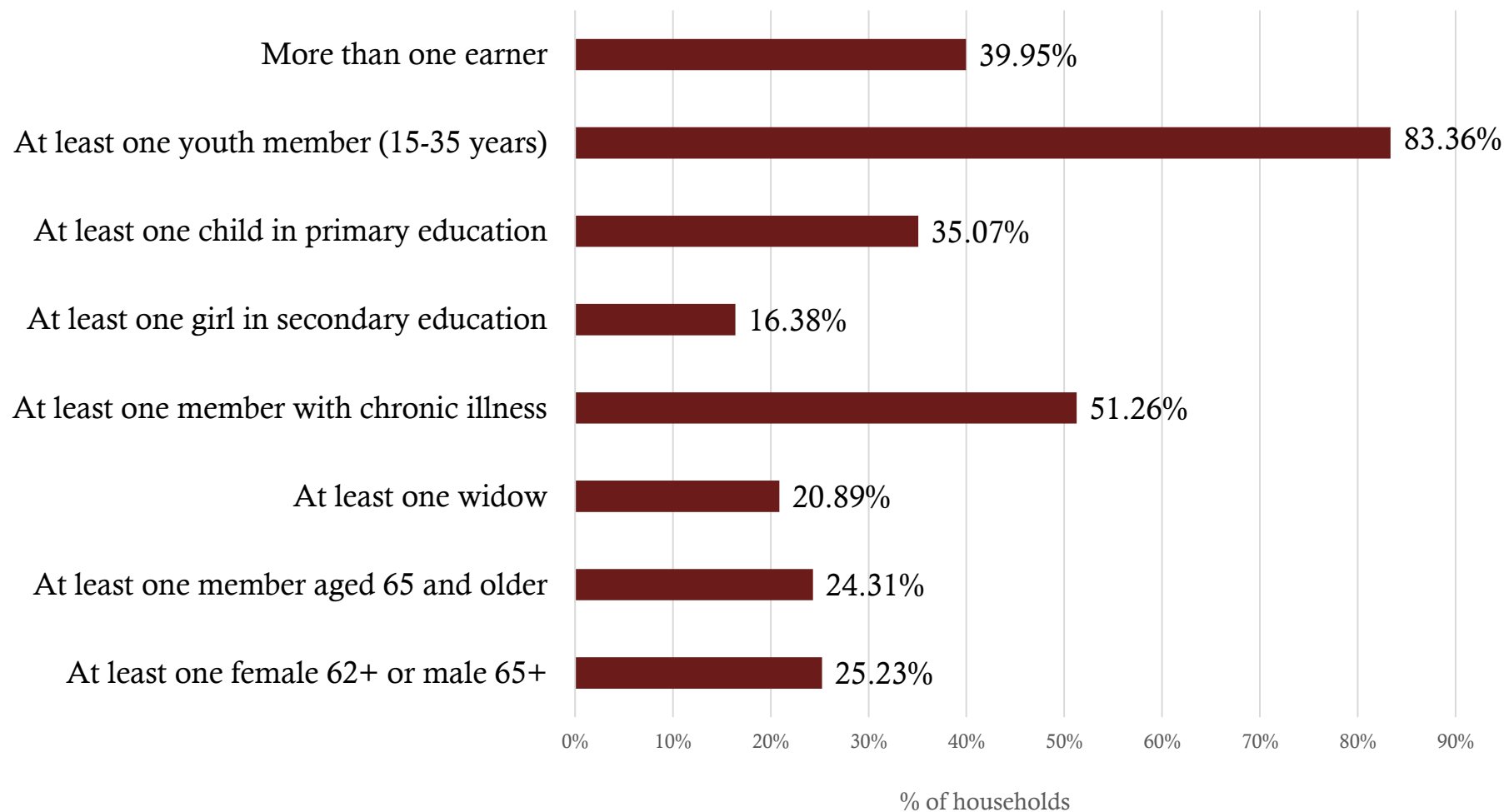
- Nearly half of all households (**51.3%**) have at least one chronically ill member,
- A quarter (**24.3%**) have at least one member 65+,
- **40%** have more than one earner,
- **83.3%** have at least one youth member
- Percentage of households having child in primary education now standing at **35%**

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Living Environment: Housing

Types of Housing

Type of house	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Pucca	23.1	16.6	37.8
Semi-pucca	28.1	28.0	28.5
Tin-shed	39.2	43.6	29.2
Kacha	9.2	11.4	4.2
Plastic/Tarpaulin	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other (specify)	0.1	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Ownership of House by Division

Ownership of the house	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Owned	81.8	91.5	59.8
Rented (sole)	13.6	4.1	35.2
Staying Rent-Free	2.3	2.3	2.1
Rented (shared)	1.5	1.2	2.2
Other	0.8	0.9	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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Living Environment: WASH

Drinking Water

Main source of drinking water	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Tube-well	79.9	88.1	61.4
Piped/Tap water	18.3	10.5	36.0
Others	1.8	1.4	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

- **36.1%** of households still have non-sanitary toilets : hanging latrines+ring-slab without water seal+ open defecation

Sanitation

Type of Toilet Used	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Permanent structure (With water seal)	26.9	24.8	31.8
Ring-slab (Without water seal)	21.8	26.2	11.8
Ring-slab (With water seal)	20.3	23.7	12.7
Sanitary (With water seal and flush)	16.7	10.1	31.7
Permanent structure (Without water seal	12.5	13.2	10.8
Temporary hanging toilet	1.5	1.8	1.1
Open defecation / No toilet	0.3	0.3	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

- For rural areas, percentage is **41.5%** while for urban areas, it is **23.8%**

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Living Environment: Energy

Access to and Use of Energy Sources

Energy Source	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Electricity	98.4	98.3	98.7
Firewood	74.8	86.3	62.9
Biomass (Straw, Leaves, Cow Dung, Sawdust, Husk, etc.)	66.9	80.3	36.5
Cylinder Gas	44.7	46.5	40.5
Piped Gas	12.8	2.8	35.6
Solar Energy	4.8	5.2	3.8
Kerosene	2.8	3.6	0.9
Diesel Generator	0.6	0.3	1.2

Purpose of use of different energy sources (%) (Multiple Response)
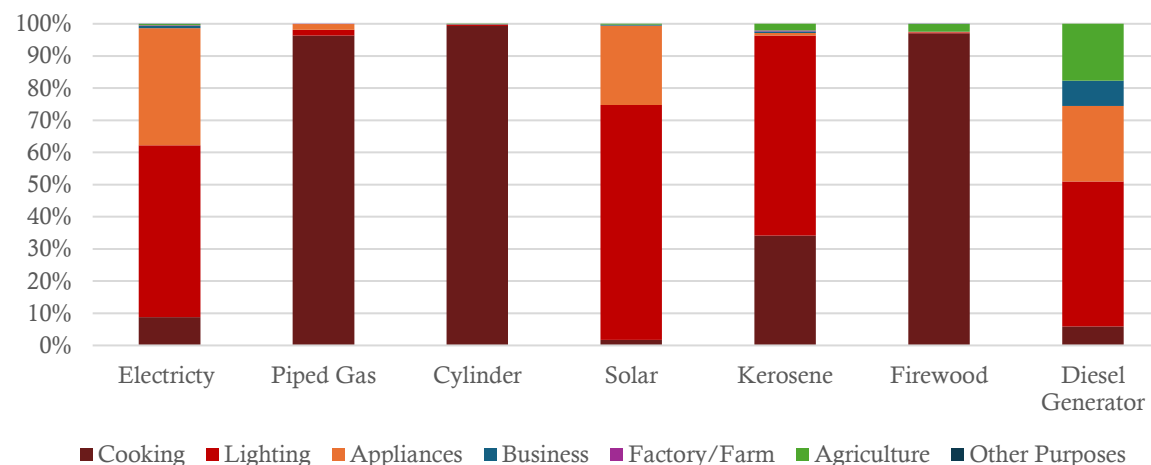
Economic Dynamics at Household Level in Mid-2025

Income and Expenditure

Income Levels & Distribution

Average Monthly Household Income

	National	Rural	Urban
Avg Monthly Income (BDT)	32,685	29,205	40,578
HIES (2022)	*32,422*	*26,163*	*45,757*

Income distribution

Strata	Avg Monthly Income (BDT)
Bottom 10%	8,477
Bottom 20%	11,393
Bottom 40%	14,881
Middle 40%	28,818
Top 20%	78,503
Top 10%	109,390

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Structure of Household Income

Category	Value
Self-employed	1.2
Asset sale	4.6
Interest income	4
SSN (Private Assistance)	18.3
SSN (Public Assistance)	0.9
Rent	0.4
Transport	1.5
Industry	1.1
Foreign remittance	1.7
Domestic remittance	1.3
Business	23.4
Service	19.4
Non-agri labor	12.9
Agri labor	1.5
Agriculture, including subsectors	8

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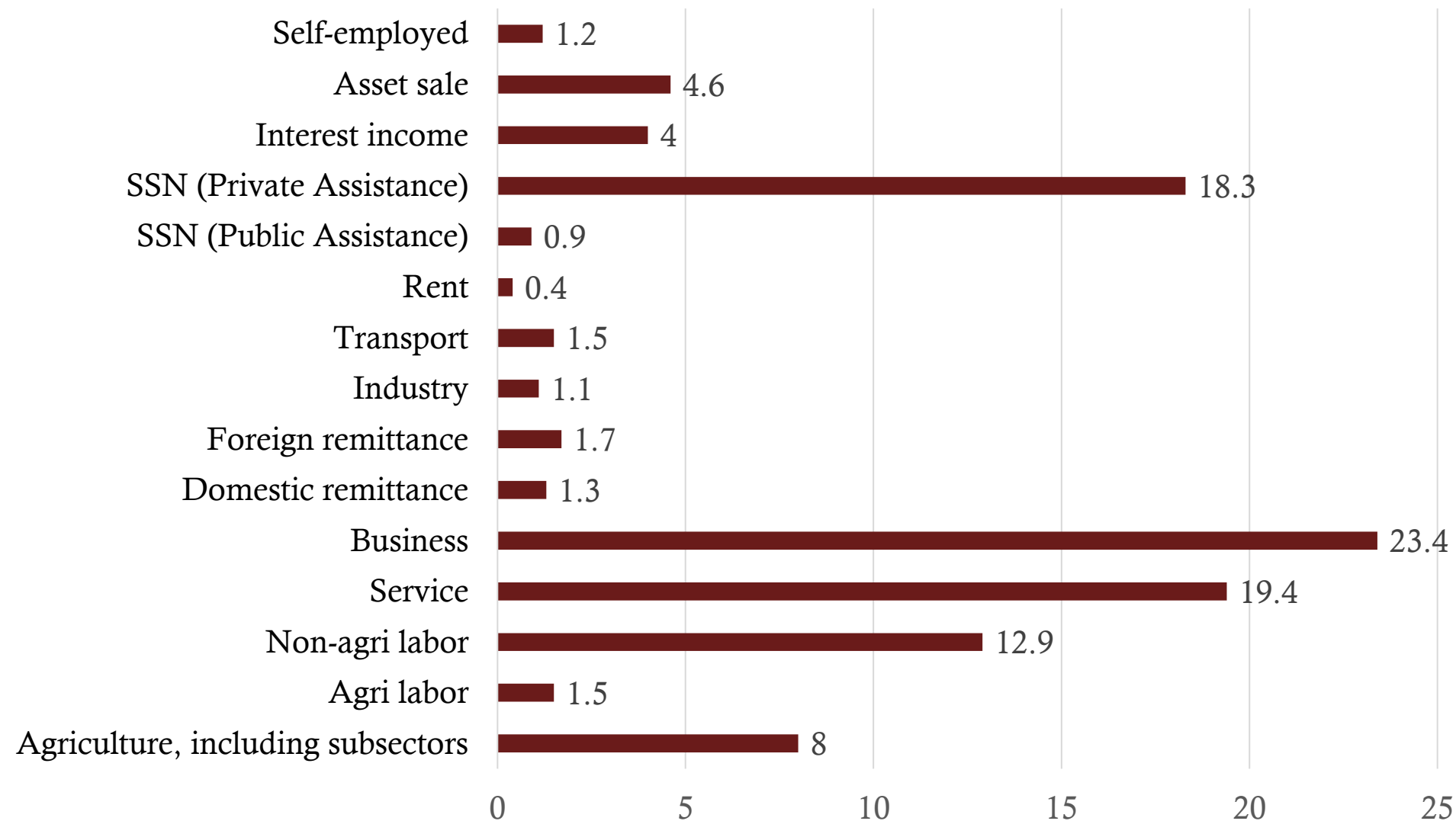
Income vis-a-vis Expenditure

Average Monthly Household Income and Expenditure

	National	Rural	Urban
Avg Monthly Income (BDT)	32,685	29,205	40,578
Avg Monthly Expenditure (BDT)	32,615	27,162	44,961

Income Expenditure Distribution

Strata	Avg Monthly Expenditure (BDT)	Avg Monthly Income (BDT)
Bottom 10%	12,294	8,477
Bottom 20%	14,578	11,393
Bottom 40%	17,387	14,881
Middle 40%	29,727	28,818
Top 20%	70,770	78,503
Top 10%	101.163	109,390

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Expenditure Pattern on Monthly Items

Monthly Expenditure Category	Average Monthly Expenditure (BDT)	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Food	10,614.45	54.9	57.35	49.34
House Rent	1,089.92	3.41	1	8.88
Utilities	853.15	4	3.83	4.39
Fuel	709.3	3.79	4.08	3.14
Education	1,822.14	7.29	7.31	7.25
Transport	1,478.89	6.44	6.34	6.66
Medical	1,556.86	7.51	8.05	6.29
Toiletries	707.43	3.29	3.31	3.23
Remittance	400.67	1.21	0.88	1.97
Addictive Items	664.35	3.35	3.42	3.18
Comms & Media	634.21	3.04	2.99	3.15
Others	689.03	2.34	2.08	2.91

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Expenditure Pattern on Annual Items

Annual Expenditure Category	Average Annual Expenditure (BDT)	Share of Total Annual Expenditure (%)
Clothing (clothes, shoes, sandals, etc.)	9156	3.9
Furniture (bed, cot, wardrobe, etc.)	5444	2.3
Electrical and electronic items	3471	1.5
Asset purchases (land, house, flat, shop, etc.)	118202	50.5
Mortgage or leasing of assets	5287	2.3
Recreation, travel, foreign trips	2805	1.2
Religious festivals (Eid, Puja, etc.)	13607	5.8
Family events (weddings, aqiqah, etc.)	5979	2.6
Home repair and construction	18539	7.9
Legal/court/police-related expenses	1120	0.5
Extortions/donations	331	0.1
Tax payments	941	0.4
Agricultural production expenses	42747	18.3
Donations	2110	0.9
Social expenses (gifts, hospitality, etc.)	2973	1.3
Others (Please specify)	1323	0.6
Total Average Annual Household Expenditure	234,036	100

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Employment

Employment and Under-Employment

Employment & Under-Employment

	National	Male	Female
% of 18+ household members who worked last week (ILO definition: at least 1 hour a week)	52.33	81.15	25.55
Of those who worked, % who worked for less than 40 hours a week	37.7	28.1	65.5

Modes of Employment (multiple responses)

Type	%
Employer	3.1
Self-employed	44.9
Assisting in family income-generating work	12
Salaried employee	21
Day laborer	18.1
Apprentice	0.1
Domestic Worker	2.5
Contract-based	4.3
Others	0.5

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Occupational profile of household members

Occupation	National (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Farmer	18.5	19.7	12.6
Business	15.9	18.3	4.4
Private job	11.5	11.6	10.9
Non-agricultural labour	9.6	9.1	12.1
Agricultural laborer	7.3	7.7	5.4
Factory worker	6.5	4.5	15.9
Artisan	4.7	4.9	3.4
E-bike/battery-powered rickshaw driver	4.0	4.8	0.4
Household work	3.6	0.3	19.4
Skilled laborer	3.5	4.2	0.3
Government job	2.7	2.5	3.8
Professional	2.6	2.3	4.0
Self-employed	2.5	2.1	4.8
Mechanical transport	2.4	2.9	0.0
Non-mechanical transport worker	1.5	1.8	0.2
Working abroad	1.3	1.6	0.2
Pensioner	1.2	1.1	1.4
Rental income	0.4	0.4	0.7
Freelancer	0.2	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Top 5 **male** occupations*

- Farmer
- Business
- Private job
- Non-agricultural labour
- Agricultural labour

*Top 5 **female** occupations*

- Unpaid family labour
- Factory worker
- Farmer
- Non-agricultural labour
- Private job

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Financial Capacity

Savings vis-à-vis Debt

Income Decile	Current Household Savings (BDT)	Current Household Debt (BDT)	How bigger is debt compared to savings? %
D1 (Bottom 10%)	19,737	62,767	218
2	26,077	55,222	112
3	17,105	69,749	308
4	49,419	143,934	191
5	48,856	90,848	86
6	81,739	136,431	67
7	75,470	179,037	137
8	120,963	288,722	139
9	151,651	220,533	45
D10 (Top 10%)	716,265	643,083	-10
All	*130,728*	*189,033*	*44.6*

Bottom 40% of households showed a 7% net increase in debt over the preceding 6 months

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Purposes of Debt

Purpose	%
Household Consumption	29.33%
Medical Expense	10.75%
House construction/repair	10.13%
Shop credit (consumption)	9.23%
Business/industrial investment	8.96%
Farming expenses	8.46%
Repayment of previous loan	7.22%
Educational Expense	5.16%
Migration abroad	3.88%
Purchase of immovable property	2.46%
Mortgage/release land	2.36%
Wedding expenses	2.30%
Purchase of movable property	1.79%
Renting agricultural equipment	1.68%
Paying house rent	0.65%
Dowry payment	0.52%
Legal expenses	0.30%
Mobile phone purchase	0.26%
Bribe for job placement	0.19%
Cost of electricity connection	0.14%
Extortion/donation payment	0.05%
Other	1.42%

%

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Assets

Type of Asset	Owns Asset (%)	Mean Asset Market Value (BDT)
Livestock (cow/buffalo, goat/sheep, etc.)	32.18	56,632
Poultry (duck/chicken, pigeon/birds, etc.)	44.8	1,945
Furniture (bed, cot, wardrobe, etc.)	96.92	35,910
Non-motorized vehicle (rickshaw/van, pushcart, boat, bicycle, etc.)	17.64	1,753
Motorized vehicle (auto-rickshaw/tempo/e-bike, trawler, motorcycle, etc.)	13.7	19,185
Television	49.98	5,804
Fridge	66.05	13,309
Fan	98.9	3,561
Mobile (Smartphone)	74.84	11,836
Mobile (Feature/button phone)	77.09	952
Laptop, computer, tablet	4.98	2,373
Sewing machine/loom	8.85	474
Shop/business capital/goods	13.84	65,017
Jewelry (gold, silver)	75.11	90,289
Financial assets (cooperative, bank, cash savings)	39.35	63,599
Residential/homestead land in rural area	84.27	829,004
Agricultural land in rural area	37.9	809,438
Residential/homestead land in urban area	7.95	683,766
Others (Please specify)	2.13	10,409
All		**2,725,256**

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Remittances

Remittance receiving households

Locality	Household has at least one member abroad (%)
National	14.3
Rural	15.5
Urban	11.5

Remittance-receiving households on average received BDT 29,762 per month in the first quarter of 2025

Households with Remittance Earners by Deciles

Decile	(%)
D1 (Poorest)	3.5
D2	4.2
D3	3.1
D4	9.0
D5	4.9
D6	10.4
D7	10.3
D8	19.7
D9	17.2
D10 (Richest)	17.8

Top 10 Destination Countries of Migrant Workers

Country	National (%)
Saudi Arabia	40.3
Malaysia	12.1
UAE	10.9
Oman	8.6
Kuwait	5.3
Qatar	5.0
Singapore	3.9
USA	1.5
UK	1.5
Italy	1.2

Social Assistance

Percentage of households received SSN support by poverty status

Social Safety Net Coverage

23.52% of surveyed households were covered one or other social safety net programs of the government
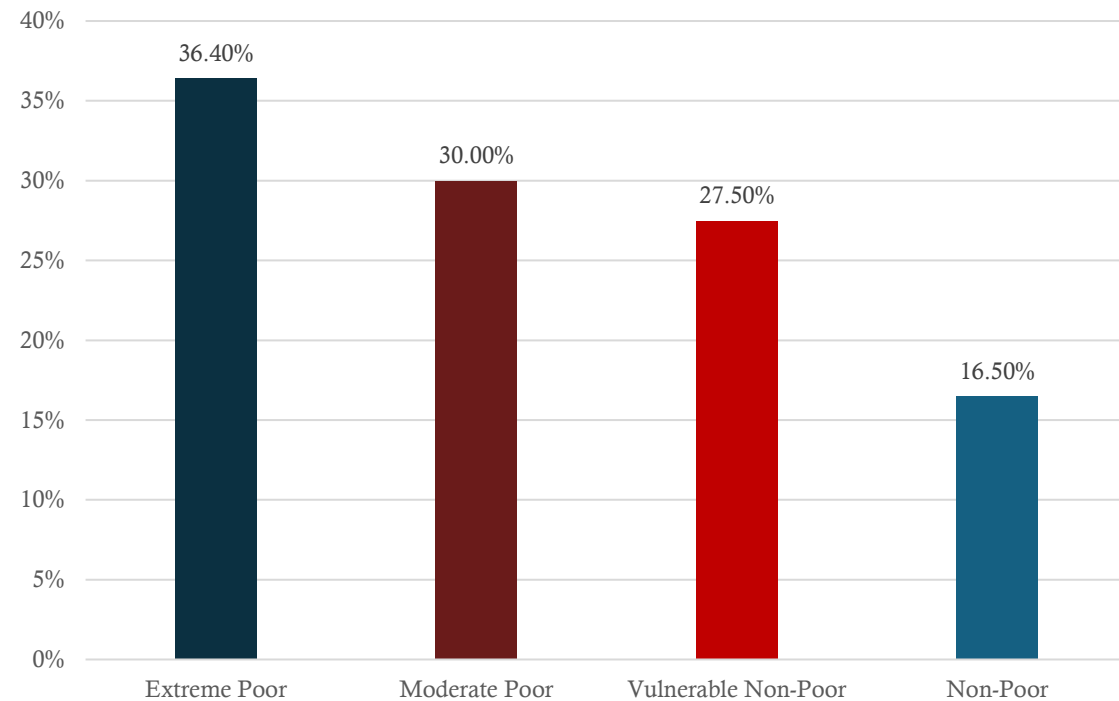
Of those covered by social safety net programs, relative coverage by type of program (n= 1,897)

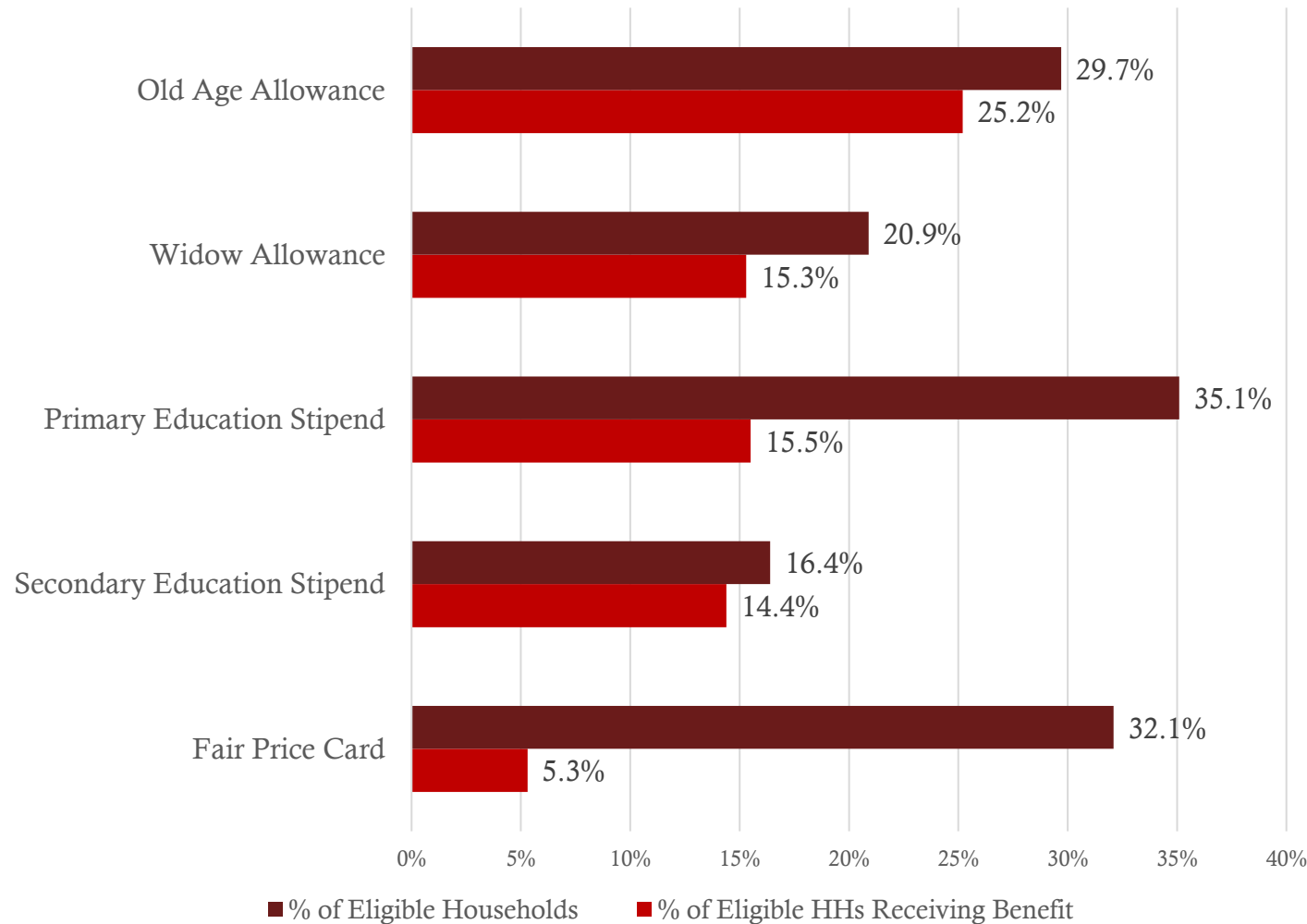| Safety Net program	%
Old age allowance	32
Widow allowance (widowed/divorced/needy women)	14
Insolvent freedom fighter allowance	1
Insolvent disability allowance	9
Stipend for disabled students	1
Stipend for underprivileged cultural workers	0
Primary education stipend	23
Secondary education stipend	10
Maternity allowance for low-income mothers	1
VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding)	5
VGD (Vulnerable Group Development)	5
Food assistance in hilly areas	0
OMS (Open Market Sales)	8
Fair price card/Food-friendly program	17
GR (Relief during disasters)	2
Agricultural rehabilitation	1
Medical assistance for victims of July movement	0
Financial aid to families of those killed in July movement	0
Welfare support for acid victims	0
Alternative livelihood support for fishers	1
Housing support / Shelter projects / Cluster villages	1
Legal aid	0
Others	3

Top 5 SSNPs in terms of coverage of the surveyed households

- Old Age allowance
- Primary Stipend
- Fair Price Card / Food-friendly program
- Widow Allowance
- Secondary Stipend

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Safety Net (SSN) Program Coverage Among Eligible Households

% of Eligible Households — **% of Eligible HHs Receiving Benefit**

Program	% of Eligible Households	% of Eligible HHs Receiving Benefit
Old Age Allowance	29.7%	25.2%
Widow Allowance	20.9%	15.3%
Primary Education Stipend	35.1%	15.5%
Secondary Education Stipend	16.4%	14.4%
Fair Price Card	32.1%	5.3%

While **eligibility is high** for several programs (esp. education stipends), the **actual benefit receipt among eligible households remains low**, especially for:

Widow Allowance: only 15.3% coverage among eligible.

- **Fair Price Card**: just 5.3% of poor households receive it.

A significant share of recipients of the **Fair Price Card** are **non-poor**, indicating inclusion errors.

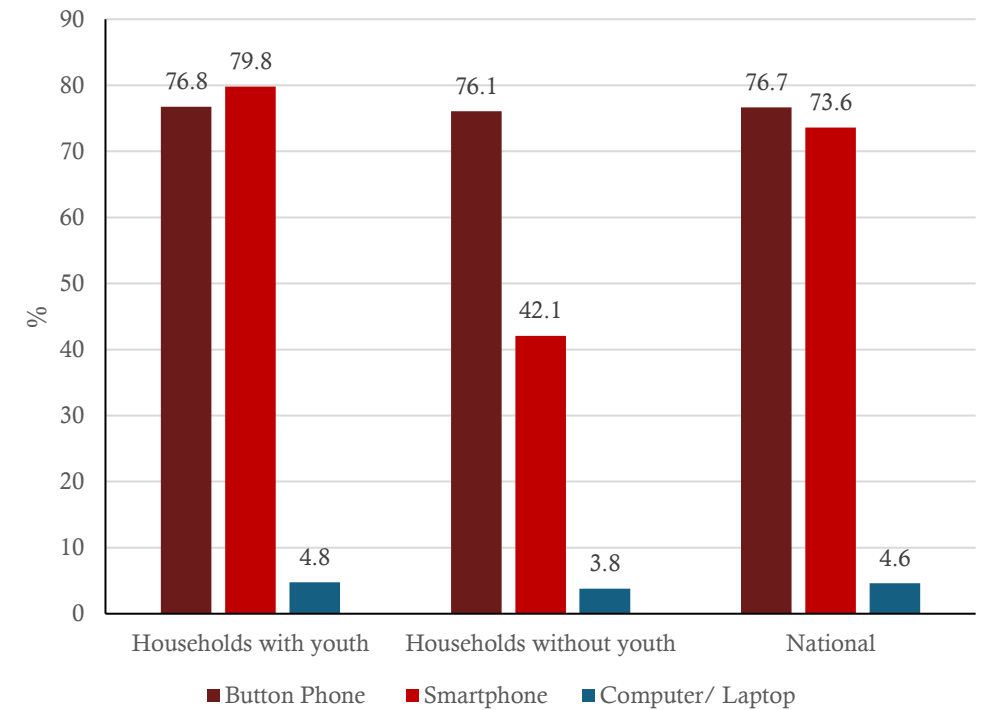These figures reflect both **under coverage** and **targeting inefficiencies**.

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Digital Stake

Rural-Urban Disparities in Access to Digital Devices
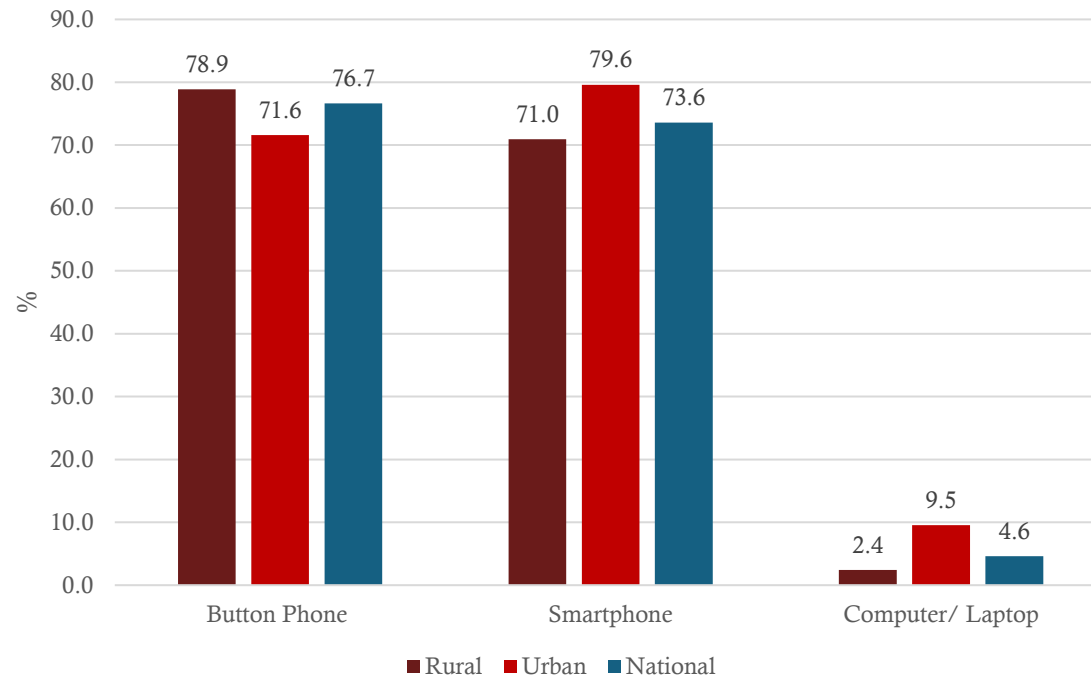
Ownership of Digital Devices by Presence of Youth in Households

Ownership of Digital Devices by Income Deciles

Income Decile	Feature Phone	Smartphone	Laptop
D1 (Bottom 10%)	12.1	4.9	1.8
2	12.0	8.0	1.1
3	10.3	8.6	1.6
4	9.7	9.5	1.4
5	8.5	8.3	1.7
6	10.8	11.9	3.8
7	8.8	11.2	5.0
8	11.0	14.0	10.9
9	8.3	10.9	17.4
D10 (Top 10%)	8.5	12.9	55.5
All	100.0	100.0	100.0

Purpose of Digital Device Use by Type of Device (Multiple responses)

Digital Device Use Purpose	Button Phone (%)	Smartphone (%)	Computer/Laptop (%)
Communication / Calling	99.9	99.6	35.5
Education / Study	0.6	20.0	49.4
Entertainment / Gaming	2.3	82.5	59.7
Online Business	0.0	1.7	8.3
Content Creation	0.0	0.2	2.0
Mobile Transactions (bKash/Nagad/Rocket)	26.0	56.2	11.0
Paying Educational Institution Fees	0.1	4.4	1.4
Receiving Stipends	3.1	2.9	0.4
Receiving Social Safety Allowances	4.0	1.5	0.5
Outsourcing	0.0	0.3	4.4
Official Work	0.1	4.5	43.7
Others (Please specify)	0.0	0.2	1.7

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Internet Access

Internet connection	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households with Internet Connection	63.89	59.34	74.2
Type of Connectivity			
Mobile Network (Data Purchase)	79.61	81.1	76.93
Wi-Fi	44.25	38.0	55.6
Wired Broadband	1.31	1.1	1.76
Whether Household Members Are Internet Users			
Use of Internet	68.84	65.41	76.63

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Trends of Concern

Growing Burden of Chronic Illness

The burden of chronic illness and the routine expenditure it entails is not limited to any one group but is a cross-group phenomenon

Income Decile	HH Has At least 1 Chronic Patient
1 (Poorest)	55.30%
2	49.20%
3	53.00%
4	46.40%
5	54.00%
6	53.80%
7	47.80%
8	48.60%
9	54.40%
10 (Richest)	63.10%
Total	*52.50%*

Top 10 Chronic Illness
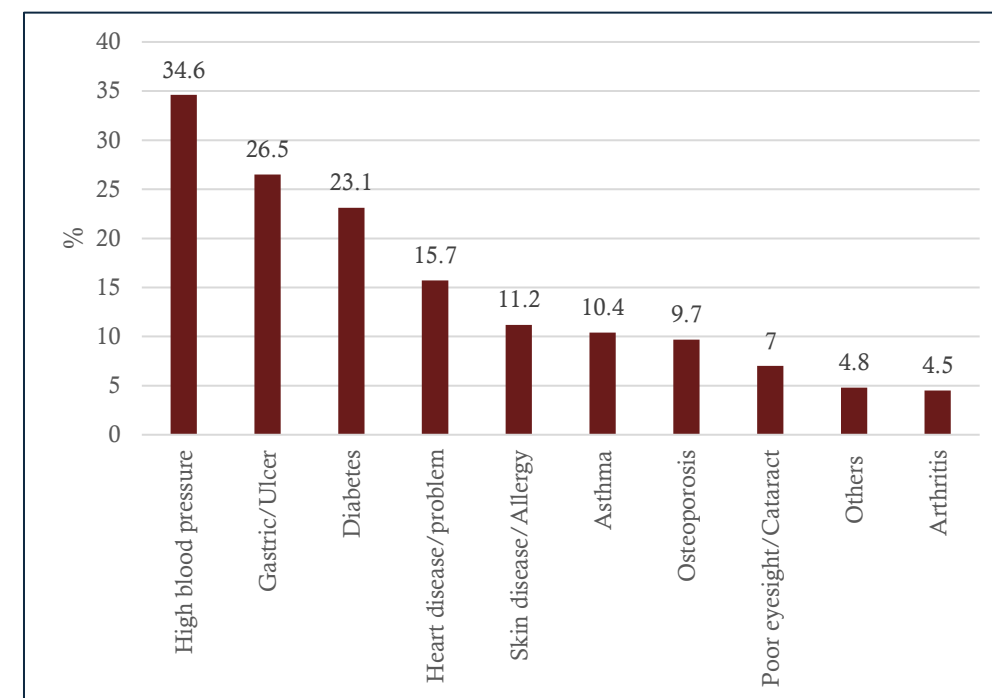
The Double Burden of Female-Headed Households and Poverty

Income Decile	% of Female-Headed HHs in each decile
1 (Poorest)	23.75
2	7.90
3	5.62
4	8.47
5	6.72
6	10.33
7	7.51
8	11.78
9	8.36
10 (Richest)	9.57
All	*15.5*

Highest % of female-headed households – 23.8% - is in the poorest decile

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Food Insecurity

Weekly Food Consumption behavior

Days	Vegetables	Rice/Roti	Broiler Chicken	Beef/Mutton	Eggs	Fish	Lentil	Milk	Sweets
0	0.2	1.3	35.7	76.5	8.6	2.8	8.8	57.1	72.3
1	1.0	-	37.7	19.1	11.4	7.0	13.7	7.1	17.6
2	6.2	0.4	20.8	3.5	29.5	21.4	31.1	10.0	6.9
3	14.8	0.4	4.6	0.4	21.1	24.7	20.2	5.9	1.8
4	14.9	0.5	0.6	0.1	13.1	22.1	12.6	3.5	0.7
5	17.5	0.3	0.1	-	7.7	13.1	8.2	2.7	0.3
6	8.7	0.3	-	-	1.6	3.5	1.6	0.7	0.0
7	37.0	96.8	0.6	0.4	6.9	5.3	3.7	13.0	0.5

Food Security Indicators by Income Decile

Income Decile	% Skipped Meals (Last Week)	% Went Without Food a whole day (Last Month)
1 (Poorest)	12.2	8.8
2	5.3	4.0
3	4.4	1.5
4	2.7	1.9
5	1.4	1.6
6	2.5	0.9
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	0	0
10 (Richest)	0	0
All	3.4	2.4

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Household-Reported Crises Faced in the Past Year (May 2024 – April 2025)

Type of Crisis	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Financial crisis	19.8	19.8	19.8
Natural disaster crisis	7.0	8.2	4.2
Police/court issues	2.3	2.4	2.1
Family crisis	1.7	1.6	1.9
Other types of crises	1.0	1.0	1.1

Types of Financial Crisis

Category	%
Medical Expense	67.4
Loan Repayment	27
Education Expense	8.3
Others	6.7
Migration Cost	6.5
Leg/Court Expense	5.9
Donation/Charity	2.2
Bribe for job	1.2

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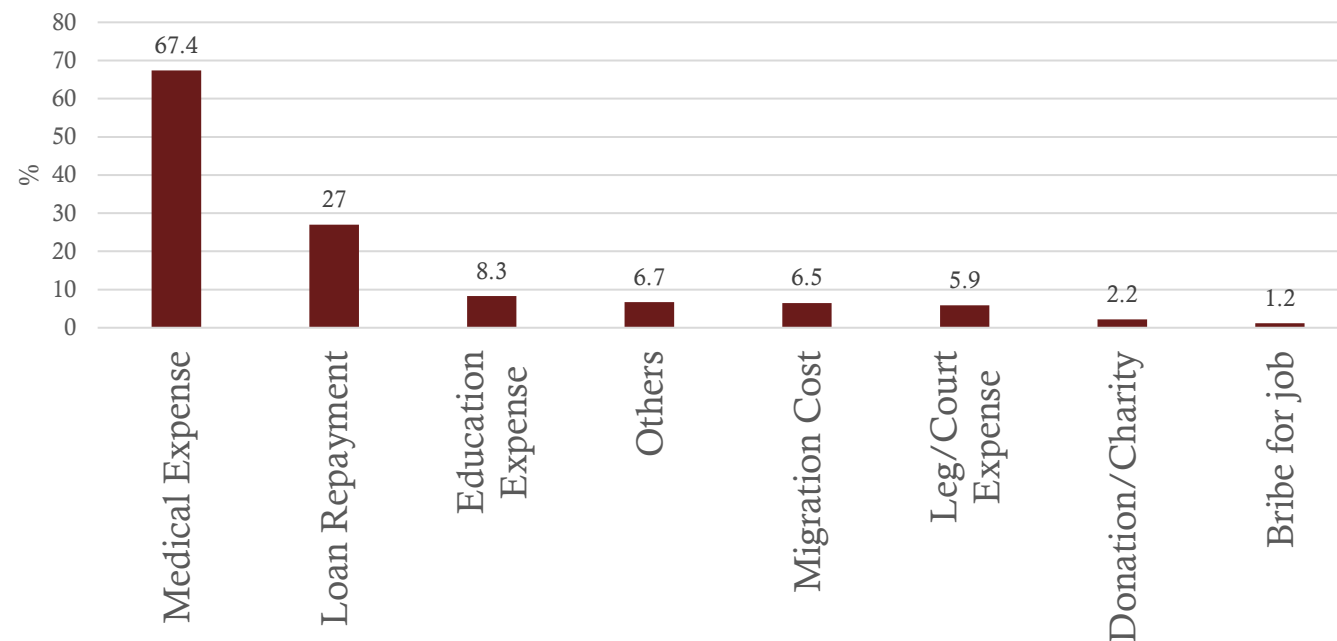
Experiential Crisis: HOIRANI

Hoirani experienced by households in various experiential domains

Legend: National, Rural, Urban

Domain	National	Rural	Urban
Living Environment	11.9	10.5	15.3
Street	17.9	13.4	28.2
Market	41.5	36.7	52.3
Workplace	15.3	11.8	23.3
Government Services	21.6	19.8	30.1
Education Institutions	18.4	15.8	24.3
Health Services	48.9	47.9	55.7
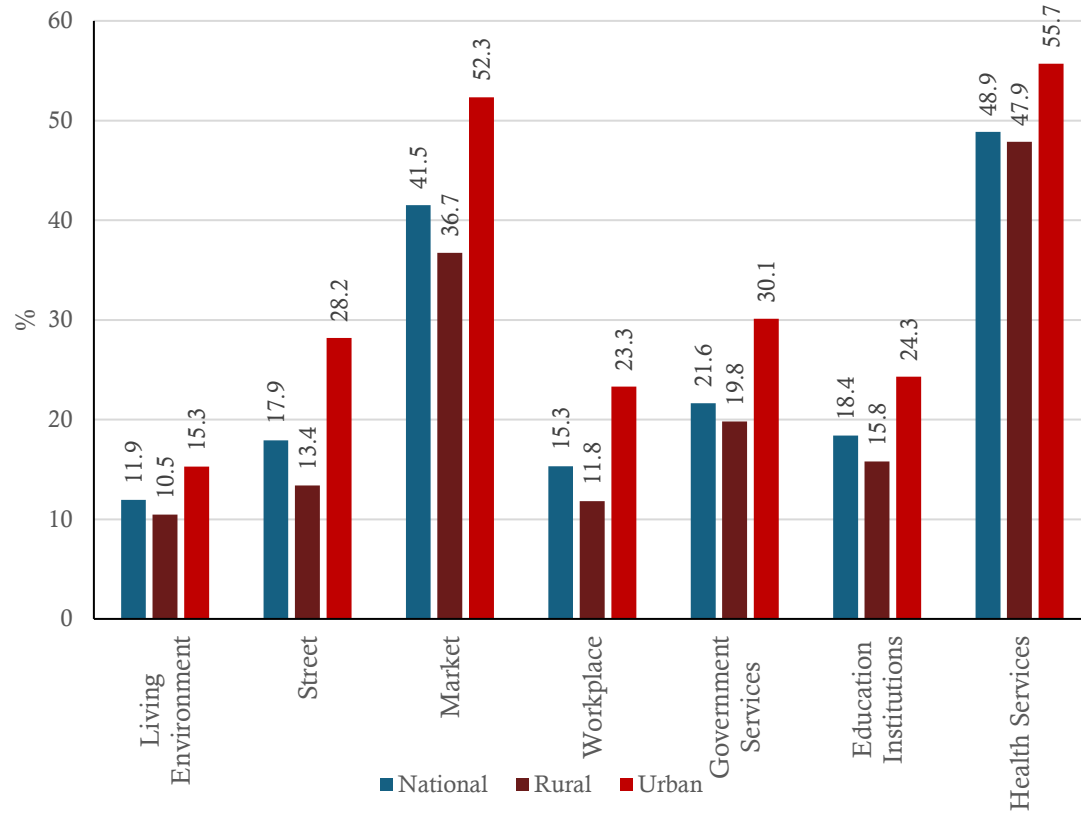
Most Representative Types of Hoirani

Type	%
Nothing works without money	74.6
Bureaucratic hassle	36.4
Lack of clear service path	22.3
Delays/indecision	21.8
Inattentive officials	19.5
Busy with other work	17.1
Greedy attitude	14.0
Lack of ethics	12.1
Lack of helping attitude	12.0
Unequal rule enforcement	10.0
Lack of accountability	9.7
Lack of proper systems	7.5

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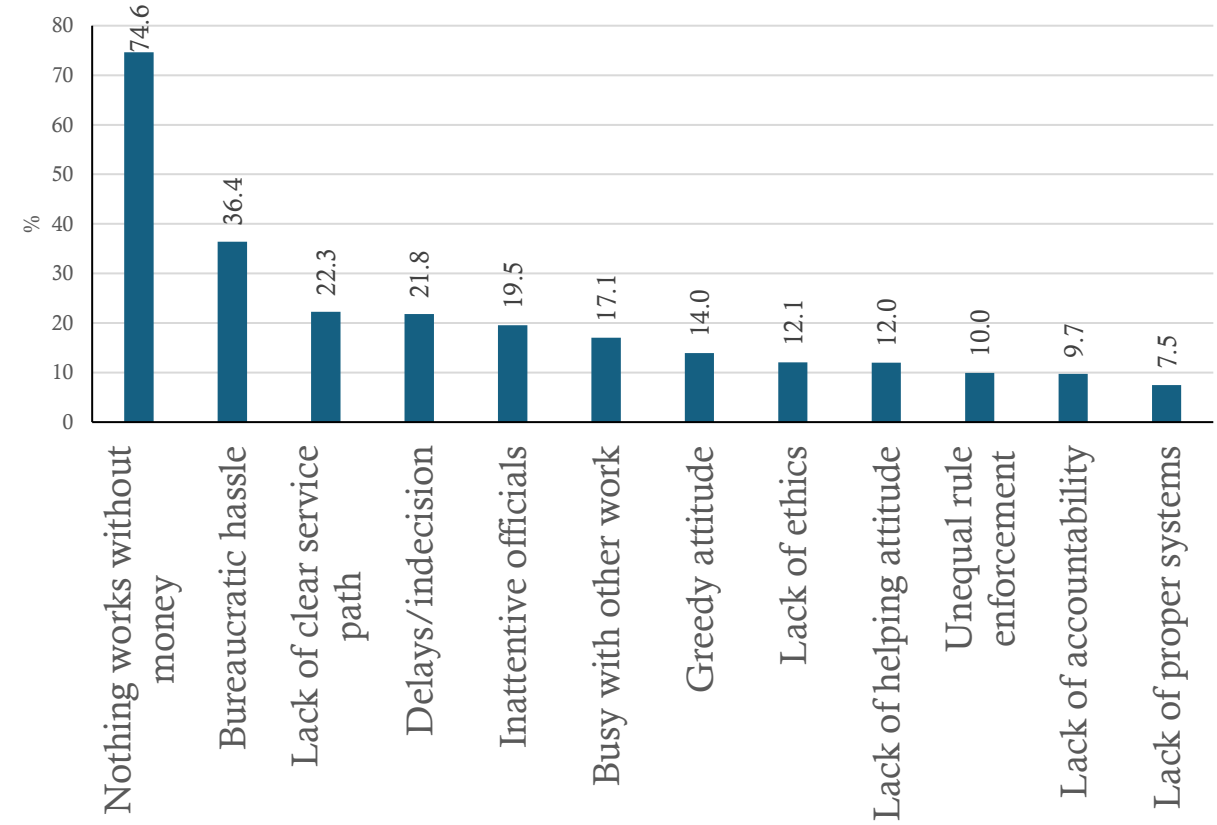
Household members willing to say they paid a bribe or extortion for any service
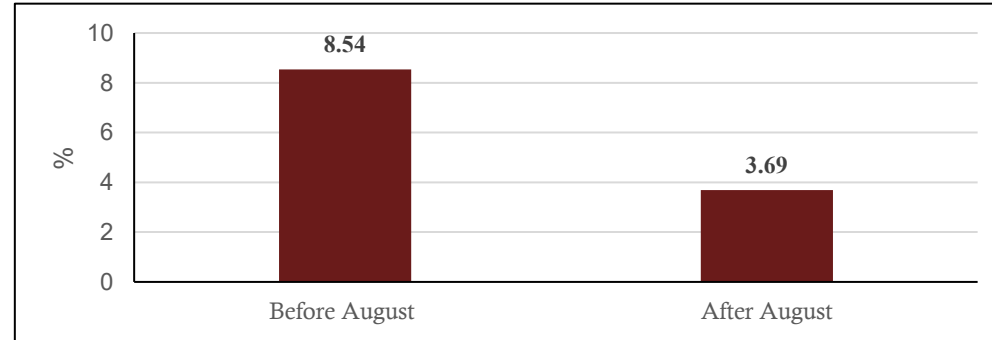
To whom was the bribe paid (Before and After August)

To whom was the bribe paid	Before August 2024 (%)	After August 2024 (%)
Local thug	12.71	16.11
Political leader/activist	24.98	33.13
Police	31.77	39.37
Government office	52.34	46.76
Court	7.73	8.96
Local government representative	28.81	13.22
Others	0.71	0.91

Reason for bribe payment (Before and After August 2024)

Reason	Before August 2024 (%)	After August 2024 (%)
Faster service	57.65	52.08
Avoid legal/process hassle	21.51	30.79
Fear/pressure	33.19	30.96
Traditional/customary	10.22	19.81
Peer pressure	16.61	21.86
Confusion/rules unknown	8.59	21.09
Lack of influence	5.93	12.69
Demand	36.86	40.74
Systemic issue	11.45	7.36
Others	0.48	0.55

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Poverty Estimates

Poverty Estimates

Poverty Line Thresholds

Threshold Type	HIES 2022	Adjusted to May 2025
Lower Poverty Line (LPL)	2,755	3,115
Upper Poverty Line (UPL)	3,832	4,333
Median Per Capita Monthly Income	4,838	5,470

PPRC Survey Poverty Estimates using Adjusted HIES Thresholds

	Poverty Line Measure	Rate (%)	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval
Adjusted HIES 2022 thresholds	Below Lower Poverty Line (LPL)	9.35	0.00445	[9.34, 9.36]
	Below Upper Poverty Line (UPL)	27.93	0.00685	[27.92, 27.94]

Comparison of Poverty Rates (HIES 2022 vs PPRC 2025)

	HIES 2022	PPRC 2025
Poverty Measure	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
Below LPL	5.6	9.35
Below UPL	18.7	27.93

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Distribution of Households by Poverty Status

Household Distribution by Poverty Status (Expenditure Method)

Poverty Status	Definition	Percent (%)
Extreme Poor	Below LPL	9.35
Moderate Poor	Between LPL and UPL	18.58
Vulnerable Non-Poor	Above UPL and Below Median Per Capita Monthly Income	17.97
Non-Poor	Above Median Per Capita Monthly Income	54.1
Total	42,863,573	100

NB. LPL, UPL and Median Per Capita Monthly Income values have been inflation-adjusted using CPI data from BBS

Spatial Disparities in Poverty

Poverty Headcount by Rural-Urban Area

Area	*Below LPL (%)*	*Below UPL (%)*
Rural	10.77	31.58
Urban	6.12	19.66

Depth and Severity of Poverty

Indicator	Estimate	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval
Poverty Gap Index (PGI)	1.76	0.00112	[1.76, 1.76]
Squared Poverty Gap (SPGI)	0.57	0.00058	[0.57, 0.57]

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Inequality Trends

Expenditure Gini

	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Gini Coefficient (PPRC 2025)	0.436	0.347	0.532
Gini Coefficient (HIES 2022)	0.334	0.291	0.356

PPRC 2025 estimates reveal a growing inequality divide, especially in urban settings since the covid pandemic. The national expenditure Gini coefficient stands at 0.436, with rural areas showing lower inequality (0.347) and urban areas markedly higher (0.532). Compared to HIES 2022 (national Gini of 0.334), this represents a sharp rise in overall expenditure inequality and deepening disparities in household consumption patterns.

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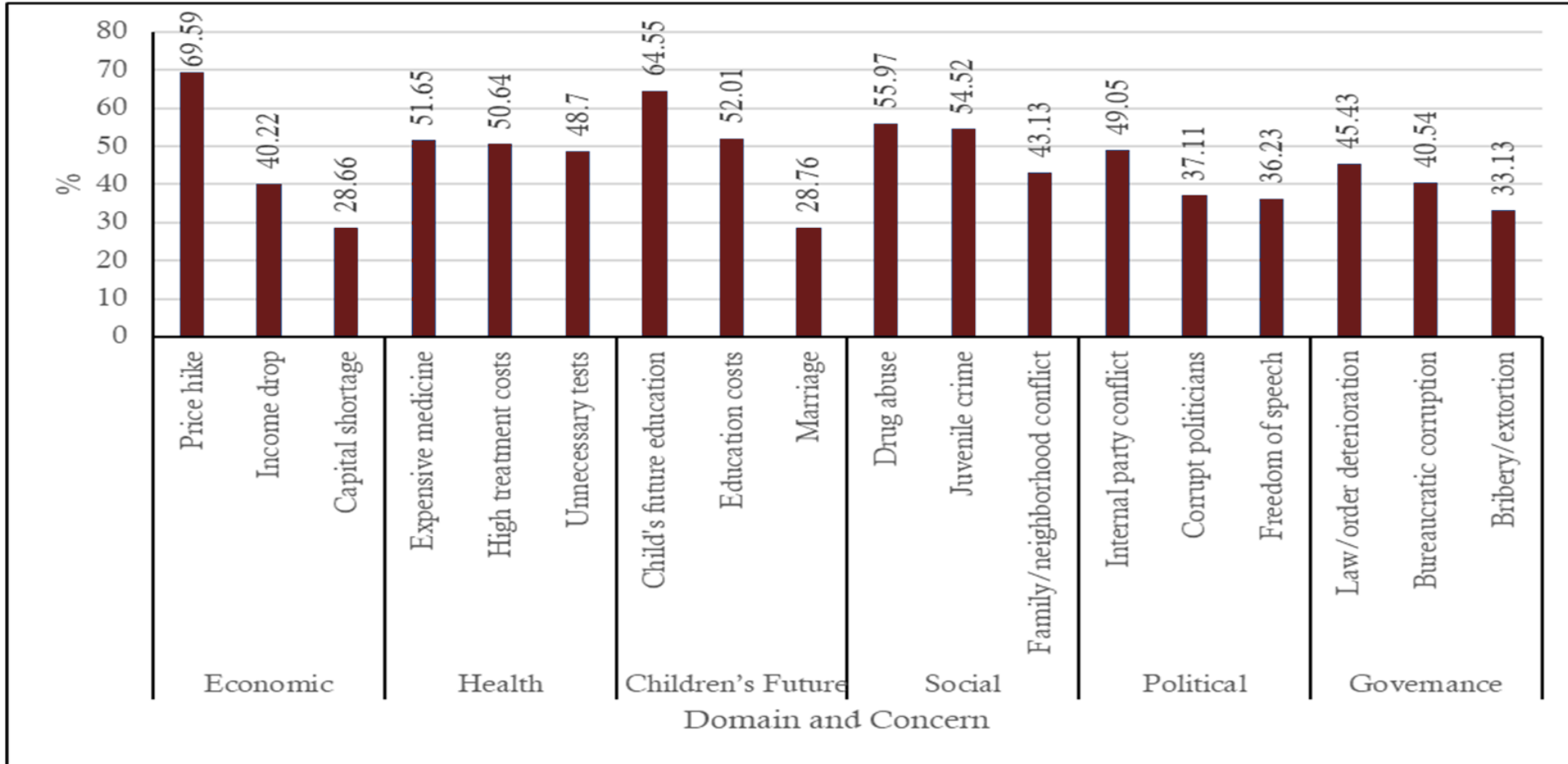# Mood at Household Level one year from July Uprising

Household Self-Perception on Household's Own Well-Being by Income Classification

Households' Current Condition	Bottom decile (D1)	Bottom 2 decile (D1–D2)	Bottom 4 decile (D1–D4)	Middle 4 decile (D5–D8)	Top 2 decile (D9–D10)
Always in shortage	26.1	18.1	12.7	3.6	1.1
Occasionally in shortage	38.8	37.9	33.4	17.2	6.5
Manageable	27.6	34.7	43.8	54.2	35.4
Doing well	6.9	8.9	9.8	22	45.8
Very well off	0.5	0.5	0.4	3	11.2
All	100	100	100	100	100

Household Self-Perception on Household's Own Well-Being by Rural-Urban

Household's current condition	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Total (%)
Always in shortage	6.93	7.1	6.98
Occasionally in short	22.84	19.92	21.95
Manageable	47.65	43.44	46.37
Doing well	19.62	24.96	21.26
Very well off	2.95	4.57	3.45
All	100	100	100

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Concerns of the Households by Domain

Aspirations

Personal aspirations (Multiple response)

Category	%
A good job/income opportunity	35.55
Completing education	14.09
Starting own business	19.49
A respectable social position	53.07
Going abroad or working abroad	9.07
A safe and stable life	51.73
Good health and mental peace	50.69
Owning a house/property	17.05
Living life on own terms	14.17
Personal development/skill acquisition	5.13
Other (please specify)	0.12
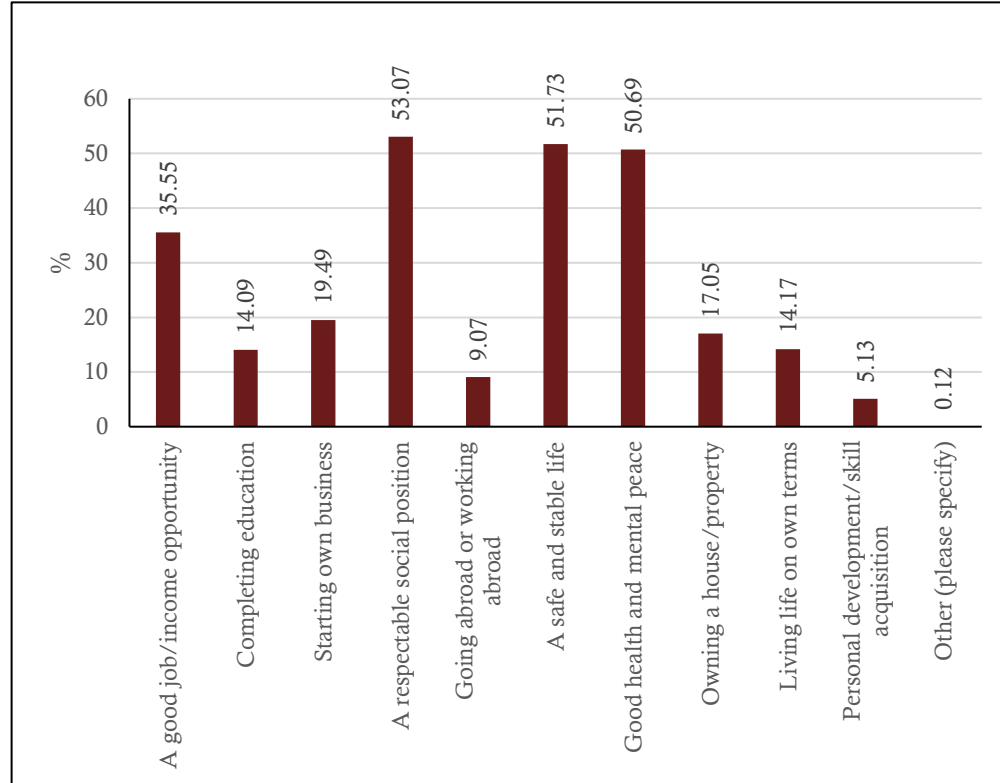
Aspirations for family (Multiple response)

Category	%
Improved education for family members	35.86
Financial stability of the family	61.58
House/land for the family	25.6
Safety and good health for the family	60.34
Respectable position for the family	36.95
Securing children's future	45.76
Access to good healthcare for the family	16.6
Other (please specify)	0.09

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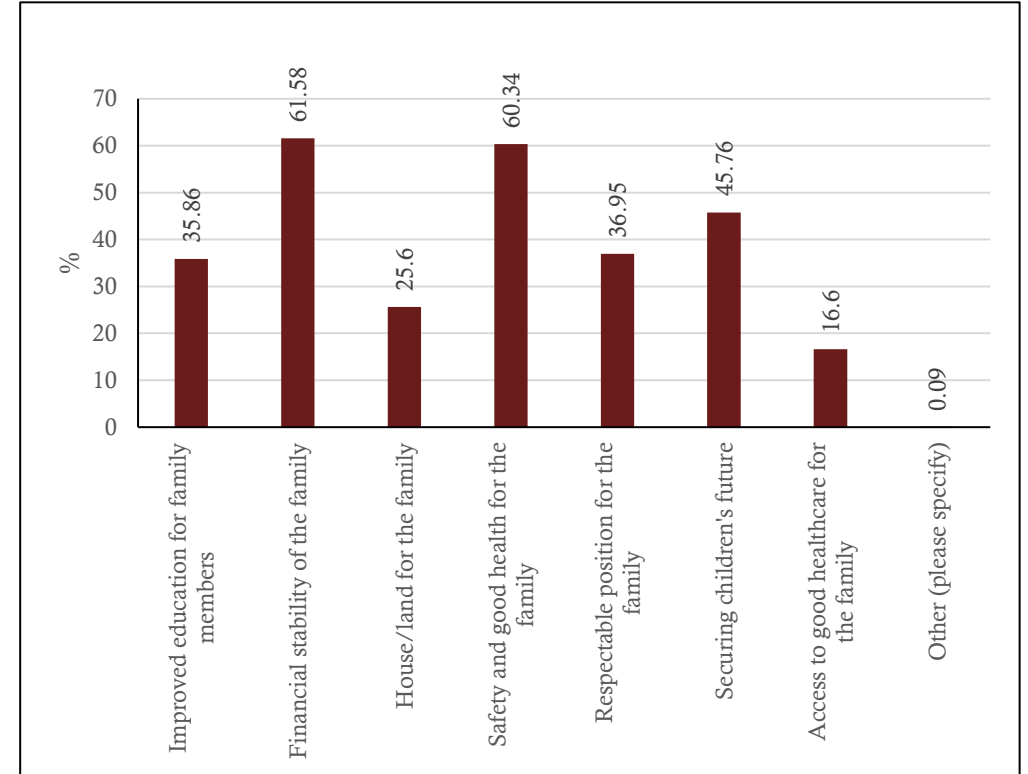
Aspirations

Political aspirations (Multiple response)

Category	%
Establishment of good governance	51.97
Prevention of corruption	55.94
Freedom of expression for all	25.7
Peaceful and participatory elections	39.72
End to political violence	43.7
Youth leadership participation	15.77
Transparency and accountability	30.88
Politics guided by religious principles	15.78
Keep schools/colleges free from politics	11.14
Other (please specify)	0.37

Aspirations for the country (Multiple response)

Category	%
Economic development	61.4
Poverty reduction	58.68
Improvement in health and education systems	37.42
Ensuring law and order and security	54.82
Environmental protection and sustainable development	16.01
Building an equitable society	27.68
Efficient and accountable administration	27.59
Elections after necessary reforms	14.1
Others	0.16
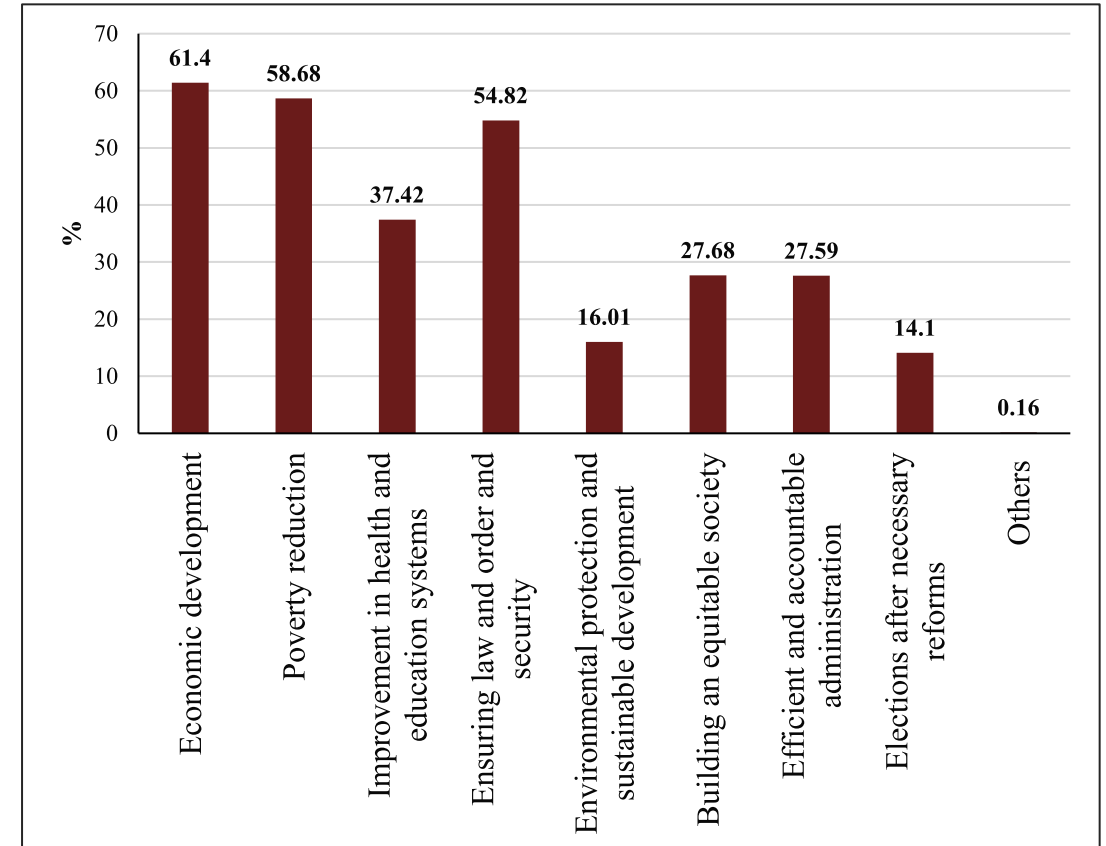
Household Optimism

Households' Optimism about Future	Bottom decile (D1)	Bottom 2 (D1–D2)	Bottom 4 (D1–D4)	Middle 4 (D5–D8)	Top 2 (D9–D10)	All
Not optimistic at all	10.7	7.3	4.4	0.5	0.4	2.1
Not optimistic	22.3	16.7	12.3	3.7	1.2	6.8
Somewhat optimistic	49.4	55.2	59.8	55.2	36.4	53.6
Optimistic	16.1	19.5	22.3	35.5	47.6	32.2
Very optimistic	1.6	1.3	1.3	5.2	14.4	5.3
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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One Year from July Uprising and On the Cusp of LDC Graduation, State of the Real Economy

7 Highlights

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Highlight 1

A **continuity of crisis** – Covid (2020-22), Inflation (2023), Politico-Economic Uncertainty (2024-25)

Highlight 2

Poverty Reversal – nearly 10% rise in Poverty

Highlight 3

Vulnerability above Poverty Line: 18% of Total Households

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Highlight 4
Five New Vulnerabilities in Focus:

- Growing health and financial burden of **chronic illness** – 51% of households have one or more members with chronic illness

- Nearly a quarter – 24% - of extreme poor (bottom decile) are **female-headed households**

- Poverty associated with a **rising debt burden**: Bottom 40% have debt burden at least twice savings, Bottom 40% saw a net 7% increase in debt levels over the last 6 months

- **Creeping food insecurity** among the poorest: 8.8% of bottom decile went 1 whole day without food last month, 12% of extreme poor households skipped meals last week

- **Stalled SDG progress**: 36% of households still use non-sanitary latrines

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Highlight 5
An Employment Emergency

- 38% of those reporting to be in work are **disguised unemployed** - working less than 40 hours a week

- **Female labour force participation** rate at 26%

- 45% of those working are **self-employed**

-

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Highlight 6
Four Sources of Resilience

- 15% of households received on average monthly **remittance** of BDT 29,000 but most of these flowed to the top 50% of the income distribution

- With average combined annual household expenditiure of BDT 625,416, the **domestic consumer market** stands at 211Billion USD

- **Universality of Digital Preparedness**: 74% of households and 80% of households with youth have smartphone

- **Adaptive Consumer Behavior**: 45% of households are using cylinder gas, Consumers customizing energy source for specific household need

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Highlight 7
A Class Divide in Optimism

- 33% of bottom 10% and 24% of bottom 20% are pessimistic compared to 62% of top 20% who are optimistic

- However, 54% overall refuse to give up

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Policy Messages

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Policy Recommendations:
Strengthening Economic Democracy from the Ground Up

Expand Direct Support to Vulnerable Households:

- Design a short-term *Emergency Family Assistance Package* targeting households with irregular income, high dependency ratios, and members affected by protest-related injuries.

Introduce Education Continuity Grants:

- Support re-enrollment and retention of children and youth through conditional cash transfers for dropout-prone households—especially where marriage, income needs, or school distance have interrupted education.

Stabilize Essential Commodity Prices:

- Reinforce open market sales (OMS) and community-based distribution channels for essentials (rice, oil, lentils, gas cylinders) to protect low- and middle-income consumers from inflationary shocks.

Introduce a new SSNP on Households burdened with chronic illness expenditures

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Policy Recommendations:
Strengthening Economic Democracy from the Ground Up

Governance and Trust-Building

Make Policy More Participatory:

- Create mechanisms for community-level consultations on policy priorities, particularly involving youth, women, and marginalized occupational groups.

Ensure Transparency in Reform Implementation:

- Publish progress updates on the reforms under the interim government—especially banking, tax, subsidy, and safety net reforms—to build credibility.

Bridge Macro-Micro Disconnects:

- Establish a *Household Resilience Task Force* to oversee implementation of household-centric policy actions informed by this study

A Public-Private Task Force on strategic support package for identified sectors with high employment potential

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Policy Recommendations:
Strengthening Economic Democracy from the Ground Up

Institutionalize Real-Time Household Data Monitoring:

- Establish a *Household Economic Monitoring Cell* to routinely track expenditure patterns, food insecurity, education status, and migration trends.

Address Regional Inequalities in Service Access:

- Ensure equitable allocation of development resources across divisions, with emphasis on housing, water, sanitation, education, and energy access in under-served areas like Barishal, Mymensingh, and Sylhet.

Mainstream a "People's Lens" in Economic Planning:

- Adopt a rights-based, distributive justice framework in budget formulation—moving beyond GDP growth to prioritize equity, voice, and citizen well-being.

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