

WATER PRICING FOR SLUM DWELLERS IN DHAKA METROPOLITAN AREA: IS IT AFFORDABLE?

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“Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice,
because the flow that has passed will never pass again.

Enjoy every moment of your life!”

~Unknown

Roadmap of this presentation

- Objectives of this presentation.
- Bangladesh context
- Water supply scenario in urban areas of Bangladesh
- Methodologies
- Major Findings



Objectives

- To determine the **current water price** in selected slums in Dhaka Metropolitan Area and **compare that with other countries.**
- To determine the **percentage of income** slum dwellers are **spending for water?**



Bangladesh Context

- ❑ **150 million** people live in Bangladesh with annual population growth rate of **1.8%**
- ❑ **40%** of total population live below the poverty level
- ❑ **25%** of the total population are extreme poor
- ❑ **30%** of the total population live in urban areas (**50 million**)
- ❑ Urban population expected to reach **50%** by **2025** having **present growth rate of 6%**
- ❑ Predicted **half of the** urban population will live in urban slums by **2025**
- ❑ Average monthly income of the slum dwellers **BDT 5000-6000 taka.**

Sources: CUS, 2005; UN, 2012



Water supply scenario in Urban slums

- ❑ Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) is the **only water supply agency** in Dhaka city
- ❑ DWASA had written laws that **‘People must have legal ownership document of the house/ land to get water connection’**.
- ❑ By laws it was denied **water right of the slum dwellers** as they do not have any legal document of the land to have water connection.
- ❑ So, slum dwellers were forced to depend on **illegal water supply** or have to beg water to other people who have supply

Sources: CUS, 2005; DWASA, 2015; UN, 2012



continued

- About **3.4 million** people live in slum in Dhaka
- This large number of slum dwellers depend on illegal connection given by the so called **middlemen**.
- DWASA have to face huge amount of system loss of **46% every year**.
- The gross daily water demand will rise from **2460 MLD (million liters per day)** to **7970 MLD** within next 15 years, assuming a system loss of **20 percent**.

Sources: DWASA, 2015; UN, 2012



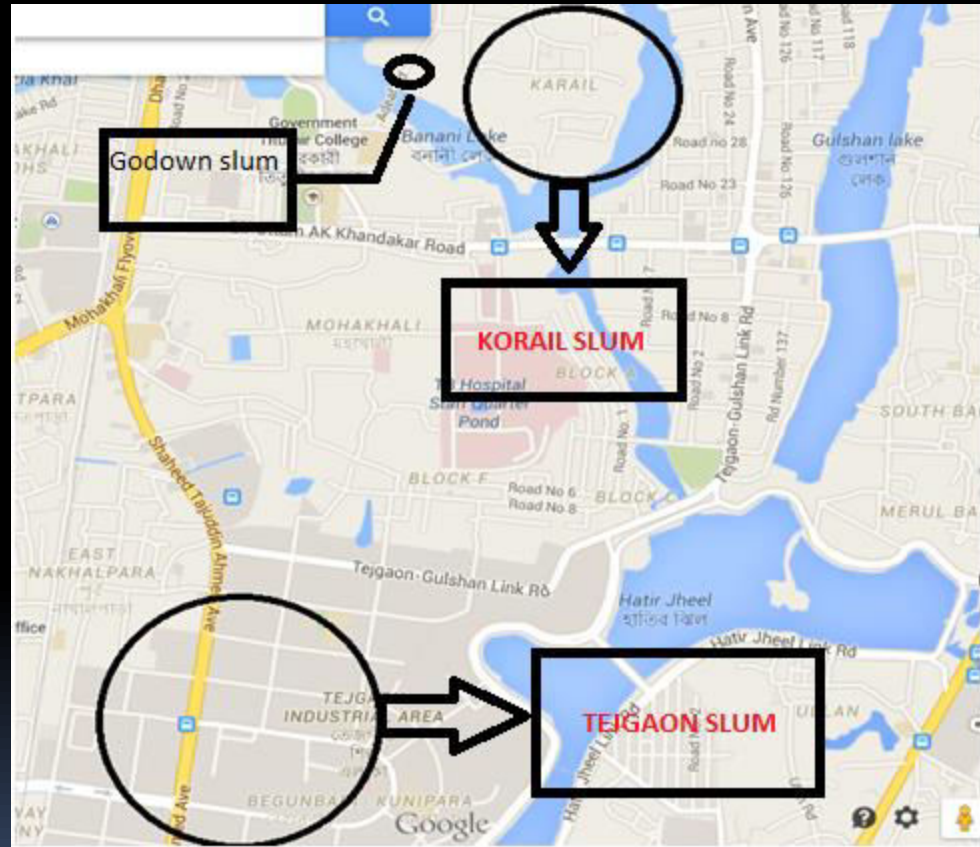
Ground Reality at a glance.

Slum dwellers pay **7 to 14** times more than the legal residence..
But they actually get very **poor quality water!!**



Introduction to study area

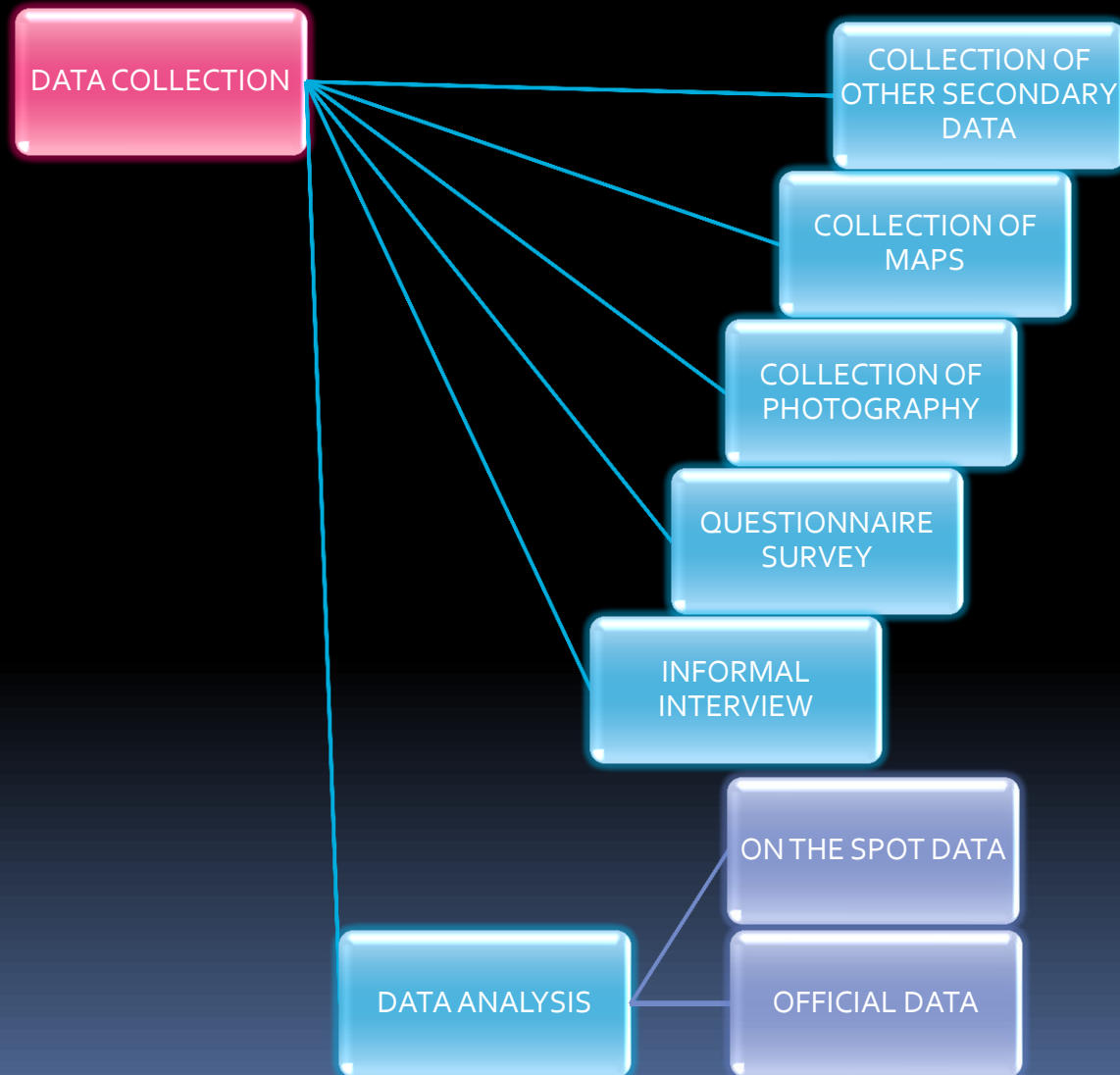
- Tejgaon Slum
- Korail Slum
- Godown Slum



Profile of study area

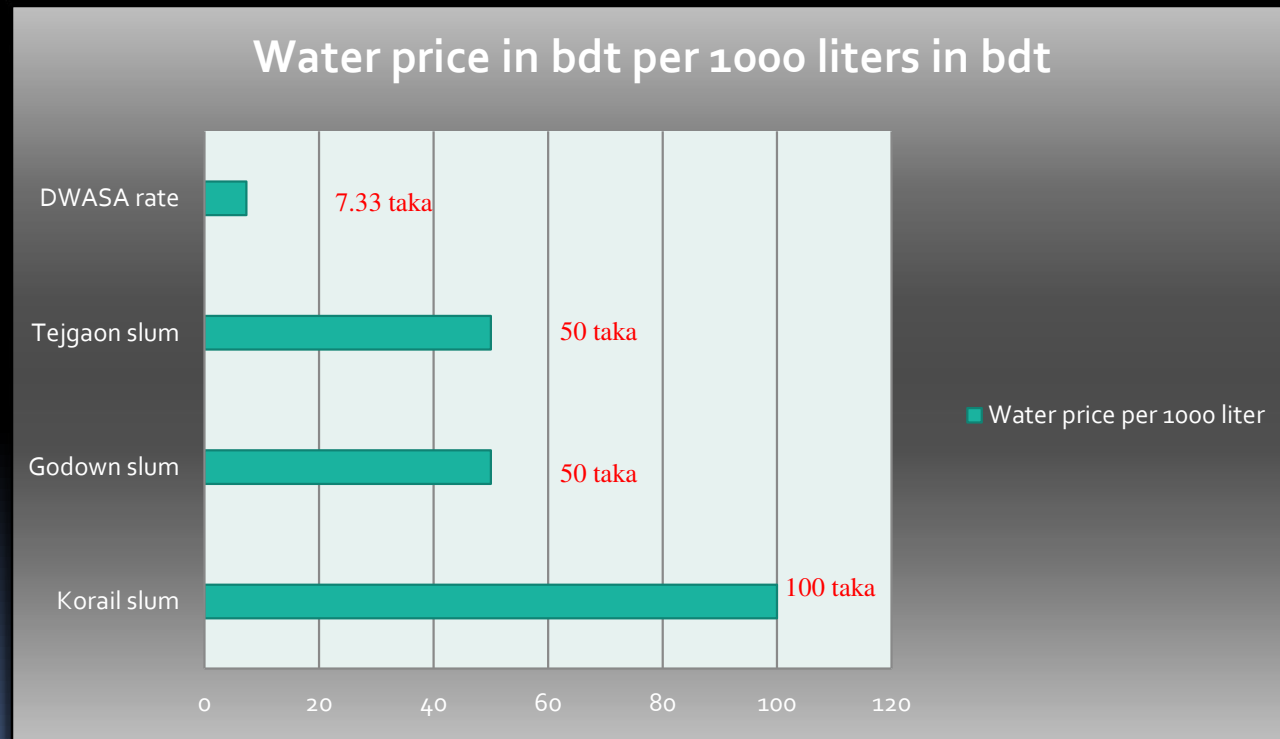
Name of Slum	Water source	No. of respondents observed	Average age of respondents	Average Income of respondents	Average educational background of respondents
Korail	Illegal water house	50	35-40 years	6000-7000	illiterate
Godown	DWASA pump house	50	40-45 years	6000-7000	illiterate
Tejgaon	Mosque	50	40-50 years	5000-7000	illiterate

Methodologies

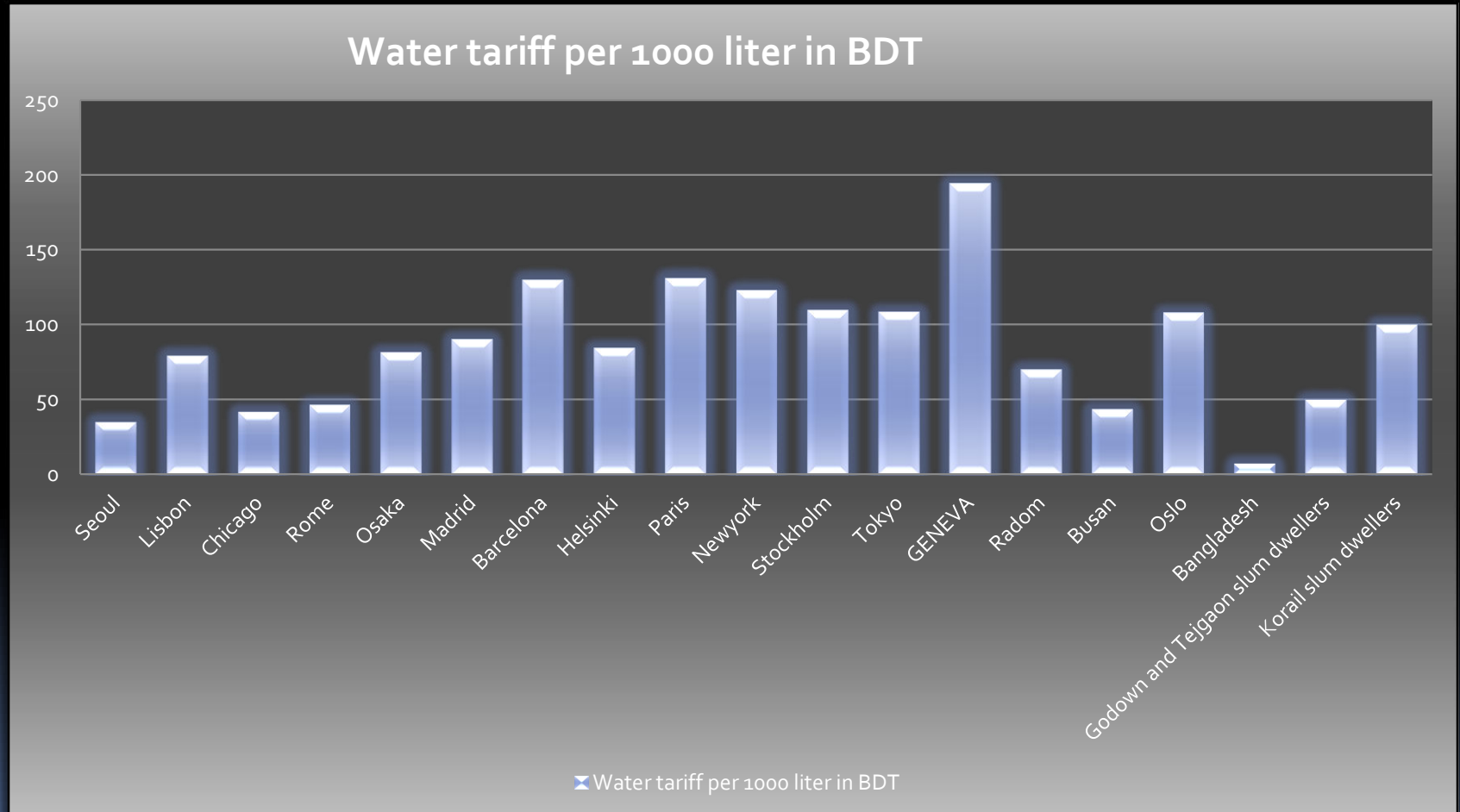


Findings

- Combined pricing scenario of study area:



Water tariff comparison with other countries

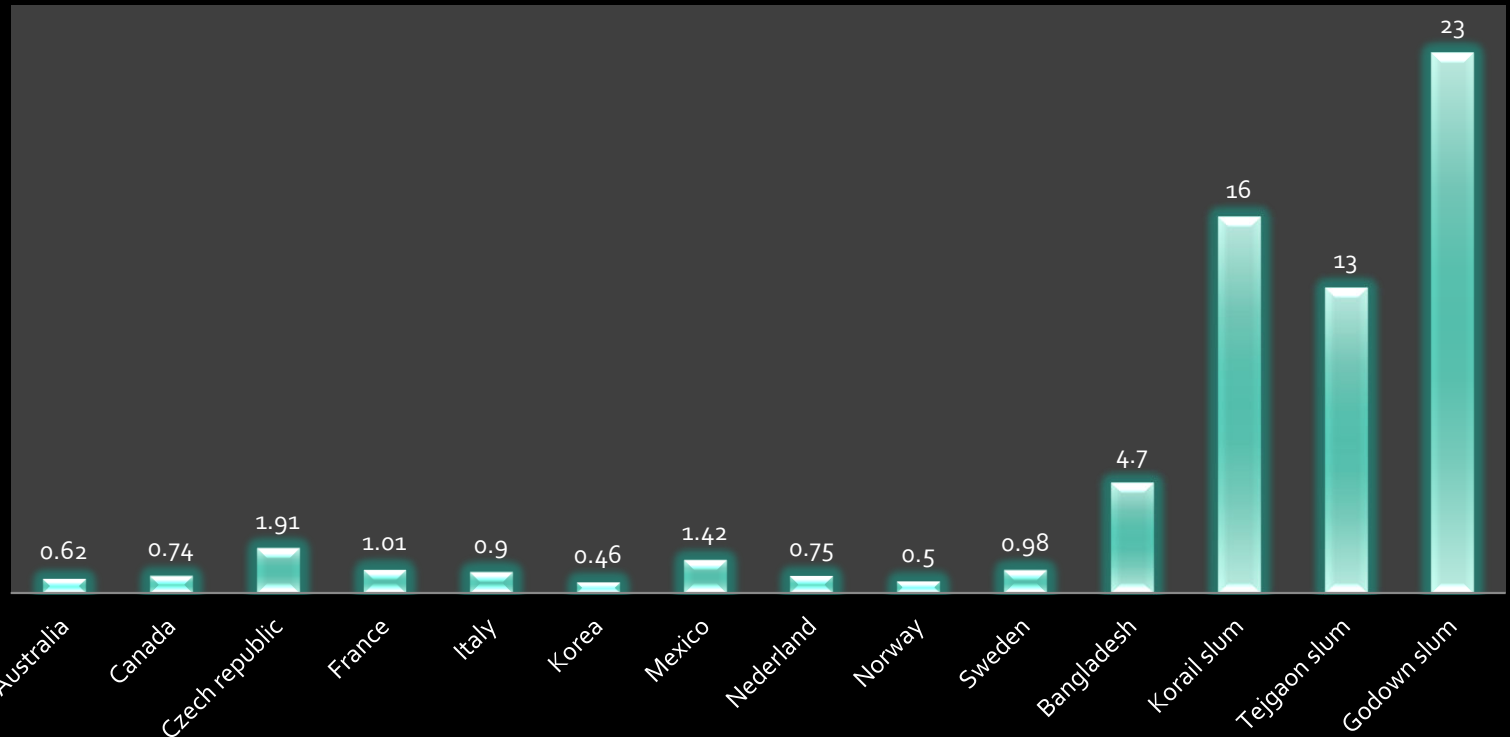


Source: OECD, 2013


Percentage of income paying for water

% of income paying for water

■ % of income paying for water



Source: Quentin, Kompas, Ho, Ward (2009: 46)

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- Result shows that, for water **slum dwellers are paying about 7 to 14 times higher price than legal connection holders** covered by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA)
 - Slum dwellers **are spending about 13% to 23% of their average monthly income for domestic water supply**, whereas in most of the countries, legal connection holders are spending less than 5% of their average monthly income for the same purpose.

ITS THEIR FUTURE..... THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HAND



- **“Don’t fix the Pipe, fix the organization.
That organization will fix the pipe”**
- Or do whatever we can do for them
- Choice is ours



THANK YOU

Questions?

