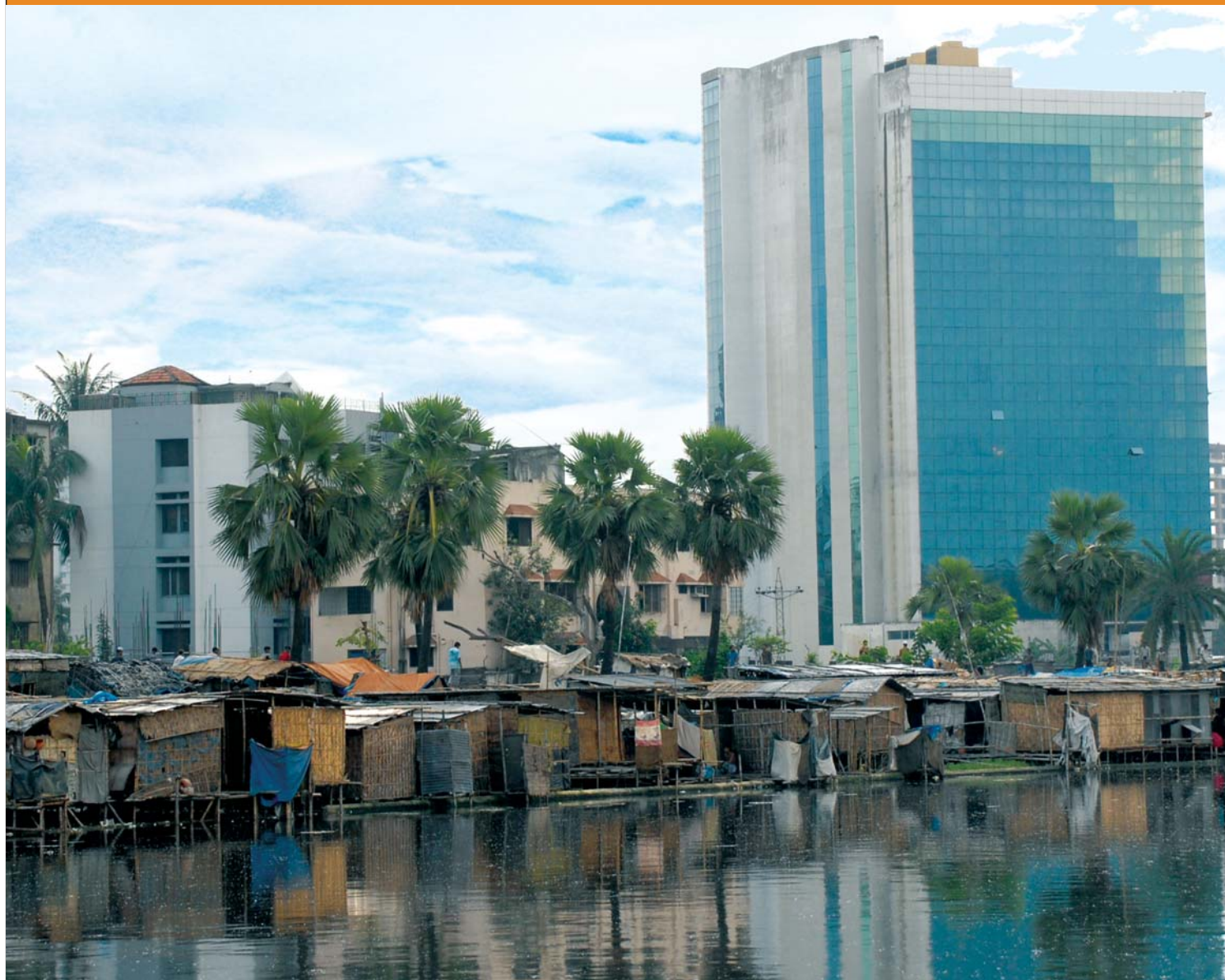


# Kamalapur 2005–2007 Census Results



**Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division**

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**Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division**



**Abhoynagar, Mirsarai and Kamalapur HDSS is member of INDEPTH  
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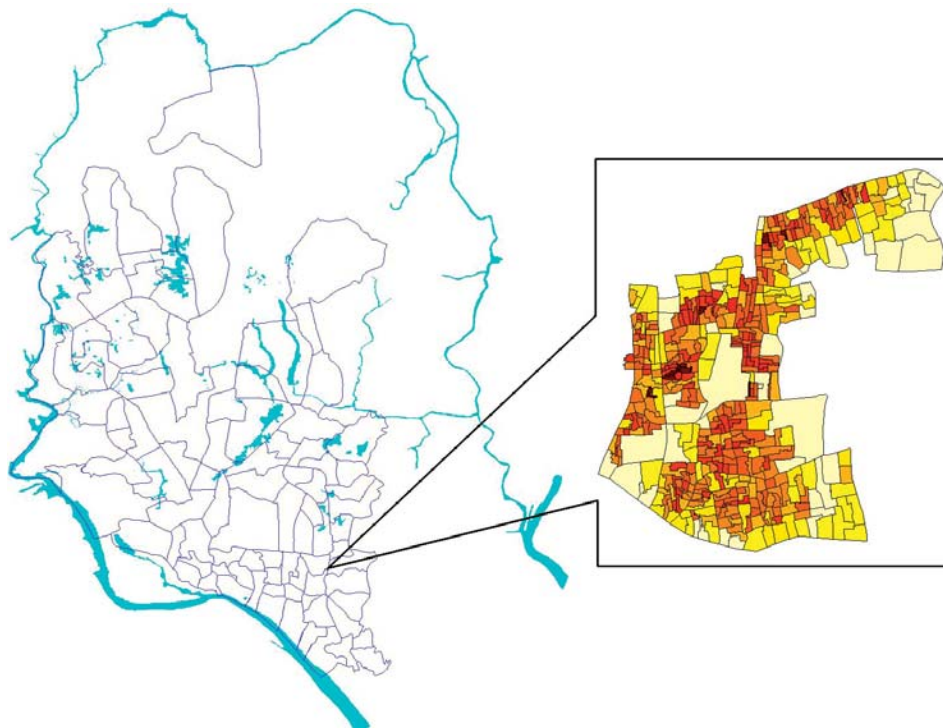
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# Introduction

This paper provides a brief description of the Kamalapur study population and area. The Kamalapur study site was set up in 1998, with the main purpose to conduct a population-based zinc trial. Kamalapur is situated in the south-eastern part of Dhaka Metropolitan area. The study site is located between a train terminal and a bus station (Map 1). For research and sampling purposes, the study site was divided into seven strata, and within each stratum, clusters were identified. Demarcation of the strata was based primarily on seven communities that the site comprised but included demarcation based on physical infrastructure, such as roads, railroads, tracks and water bodies. Stratum 1 and 2 are mainly congested slum areas, residence of 4<sup>th</sup> class employees, such as cleaners and sweepers of the Dhaka City Corporation. The populations of the other clusters are a mix of upper-, middle- and lower-class social groups.

**Map 1.** Location of Kamalapur in Dhaka city



Information for this document was collected in a census held in the area, starting in 2005 and ending in April 2007. Whenever worthwhile, comparisons will be made with the 2003 census.

## Population densities and population growth

Kamalapur is an urban area with high population density, partly consisting of slums. Based on digitized maps, the total size of the study area is estimated to be 2.04 sq km; the 2005-2007 census counted a population close to 166,000 [The 2005-2007 census counts do not refer to a single date, which means that characteristics of the households and individuals refer to the data

from interview. No corrections or adjustments were made for changes within the period the census was conducted in. Also, there is suspicion of under-registration in the non-randomized cluster (clusters not randomized for zinc trials). Comparing populations of randomized and non-randomized clusters, non-randomized clusters seem to be smaller in general. Due to absence of household members at the time of field visit, smaller households are more likely to be missed than larger households. Comparison of the distribution of household sizes within the randomized and non-randomized clusters did not show major differences. Based on the area size and total population, the overall population density was 81,338 per sq km, ranging from 111,325 per sq km in Stratum 1 to 18,547 per sq km in Stratum 4. At the cluster level, the population densities almost reach 300,000 per sq km (within Stratum 3).

Table 1 and Map 2 provide greater details on the population distribution and densities within the Kamalapur study site.

Kamalapur, a relatively young urban area, serves as a railhead for trains and terminal for buses from rural Bangladesh to Dhaka city, which makes Kamalapur the first point of contact for the first-stage rural-urban migrants. Current population composition is mainly the result of migration over the past decade. Comparison of population counts, based on the 2003 ICDDR,B census and the one held from 2005 till 2007, results in an annual increase of around 14%.

**Table 1.** Population and population densities by stratum, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

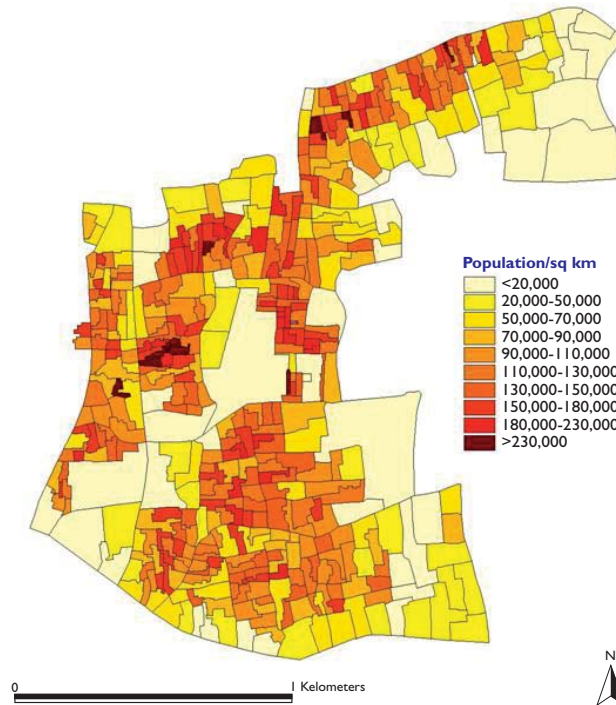
Stratum	Size of area (in sq km)	Population	Population density (in population per sq km)		
			Overall	Cluster minimum	Cluster maximum
1	0.07	7,756	111,325	16,155	221,368
2	0.06	5,575	98,290	15,693	230,435
3	0.82	69,208	84,678	4,440	296,226
4	0.13	2,376	18,547	1,306	168,750
5	0.34	34,214	100,638	19,358	214,235
6	0.18	16,736	95,362	29,530	267,123
7	0.45	29,939	66,359	3,048	207,451
Total	2.04	165,804	81,338	1,306	296,226

Although comparison of the 2003 census with the 2005-2007 census is difficult, data suggest a high turn-over of population during this period. Of the 165,804 people counted during 2005-2007, only 34% was also counted in 2003; 64% was not present during 2003; and just less than 2% was born after 2003. These figures, of course, do not include those who entered Kamalapur after the 2003 census and left again before the 2005-2007 census. The low recount of Kamalapur inhabitants of 2003 in the 2005-2007 census may partly be explained by internal (within Kamalapur) migration.



According to the 2005-2007 census, 9% of the population moved into the Kamalapur research area within the timeframe of less than one year [Children aged less than one year were considered to be born in Kamalapur and, therefore, non-recent migrants].

**Map 2.** Population density in Kamalapur field site, 2005-2007



Almost 80% of these migrants originated from rural areas. The distribution of migrants by stratum resembles quite well the distribution of general population; so, there is, in fact, no concentration of migration to specific strata.

## Sex and age composition

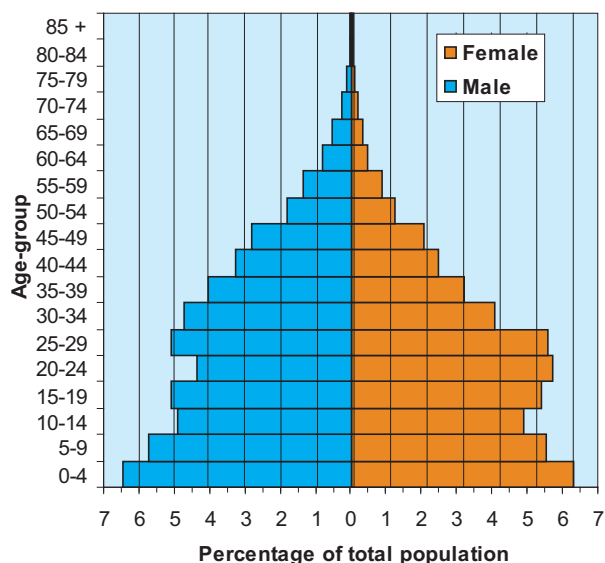
The population pyramid displayed in Figure 1 shows, overall, a higher presence of males over females; only 20-24 years age-group shows a substantially large proportion of women compared to men. In fact, all age-groups, except for the range of 15-29 and 75<sup>+</sup> years show a higher number of men compared to women. As mentioned above, the population and its composition at Kamalapur is mainly the result of migration. The excess of women over men between the ages of 15 and 29 years is mainly the result of the age difference between husband and wife (older male in-migrants are married to younger wives). Husbands of married women aged 15-29 years were, on average, 7.9 years older; more than 75% of recent female migrants in this age-group were married. The over-representation of young females of reproductive age again may explain the relatively large number of children aged less than 5 years.

The elderly population aged 60 years and above seems to be under-represented. Only 1.8% of the population belongs to this age-group, with slightly more than 1.6% observed in 2003 [According to the 2001 population census, 6.1% of the population was aged 60 years and



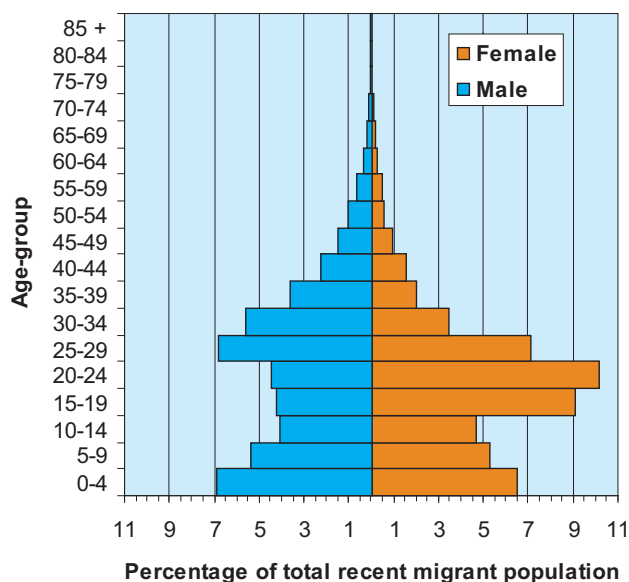
above], which most likely is the result of over-representation of young in-migrants and the return or out-migration of the elderly to their villages as well as high mortality [Verbal autopsy data indicate substantial cardiopulmonary disease-related mortality, beginning in the late 1940s].

Figure 1. Population pyramid of Kamalapur, 2005-2007



The population pyramid presented in Figure 1 shows the relative distribution of the Kamalapur population by 5-year age-groups for 2005-2007. The pyramid shows clear signs of in-migration of younger people, which is confirmed by Figure 2 that shows the age and sex distribution of

Figure 2. Population pyramid of recent in-migrants, Kamalapur, 2005-2007



recent migrants. The age-groups in the range of 15-24 years show high representation of women. As mentioned earlier, recent migrants make up around 9% of the total population; for the female age-group of 15-24 years, this is over 14%.

## Housing characteristics

The 2005-2007 census collected basic information on housing characteristics. Using this information, Table 2 summarizes housing quality and tenure of the residential unit.

In Kamalapur, houses were constructed mainly using materials of high- or semi-high quality for walls. Compared to 2003, the use of construction-material slightly changed in favour of materials of high- or semi-high quality (pucca or semi-pucca) (70.2% in 2003) and tin (8.9% in 2003) at the expense of less-quality materials, such as bamboo and other materials (13.9% in 2003).

As Table 2 shows, most (80.7%) residential units were rented. Almost 14% of the households owned their dwellings. About 5% of the households were squatted units without a legal status. The proportion of the households in the squatter slightly decreased from 7.3% in 2003.

**Table 2.** Building and housing characteristics, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Wall materials of house	Percentage
Pucca/semi-pucca	73.7
Tin	12.0
Tin in combination with bamboo or other materials	5.8
Bamboo and other materials	8.4
Other materials	0.1
Ownership of house	
Self-owned	13.6
Rented	80.7
Squatter	5.1
Other	0.7
Amount of rent paid	Taka
Actual	
Mean	1,779
Range (minimum-maximum)	100-16,500
Median	1,350
In 2007 prices	
Mean	1,884
Range (minimum - maximum)	106-17,439
Median	1,434

Those who rented a house paid, on average, Tk 1,779 per month during 2005-2007, which was about Tk 260 more than the rent in 2003. However, in real terms, the increase was only Tk 60 per month [Observed prices have been inflated using the annual inflation rates for housing provided by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics].

## Household characteristics

The Kamalapur research area is dominated by nuclear families. A nuclear family is defined as a family where the head of household lives with a single spouse with or without children. Children also include both step and adopted ones. Extended family includes family members other than

the single spouse or children. Table 3 shows that, according to the 2005-2007 census, 67% of the households had nuclear families. Only 1.4% of the households had a single member, which is remarkably low within an urban setting. This means that single in-migrants tend to move into an existing household rather than establishing his or her own household.

The average household size observed during 2005-2007 was 4.5 members per household. Table 3 shows that nuclear families had, on average, 4 members whereas extended families had, on average, 6.2 members, including non-relatives.

**Table 3.** Household composition, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Household composition	Percentage	No. of family members
Single person	1.4	1.0
Nuclear family (single spouse)	67.0	4.0
Extended family	27.3	5.7
Extended family (including non-relative members)	3.4	6.2
Non-relative members (mess)*	0.9	4.2
Total	100	4.5

\*Real messes were not included in the actual census; so, what is said 'mess' in the table was not identified as such during enumeration

Table 4 lists some characteristics of the heads of households. Only 10.5% of the households were headed by a female member. The mean age of the household heads was 41 years, with the highest concentration of heads in the age-groups of 30-39 and 40-49 years. The presence of child-headed households is rare (0.2%). Almost 90% of the household heads were currently married.

In terms of educational attainment, the 2005-2007 census observed that around 35% of the household heads did not have any education whereas more than 45% had had some secondary education. Less than half a percent only had religious education.

Unemployment rates among household heads were very low; less than 2% reported to be unemployed [Since employment status is based on self-assessment of the respondents, those who are only marginally employed might not consider themselves unemployed]. The vast majority of the household heads is privately employed either self-employed or wage-employed. Less than 10% held a government job. Within the private sector, self-employment dominates (businessman, rickshaw/cart puller and craftsman). Table 5 provides more details on private-sector employment of household heads. Since no information was collected on time-use, it was not possible to distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

Comparison of education and employment data for 2003 and 2005-2007 shows only minor differences. The proportion of household heads without any education decreased by 2 percentage points (37.3% in 2003). The proportion of household heads with at least some secondary education increased by a little less than 3 percentage points (42.6% in 2003). In terms of employment, the share of private-sector workers increased by almost 4 percentage point (78.8% in 2003) whereas the proportion of government employees slightly dropped (10.9% in 2003).

**Table 4.** Characteristics of household heads, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Characteristics	Percentage/Amount
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	89.5
Female	10.5
<b>Age distribution (years)</b>	
10–19	0.4
20–29	14.1
30–39	32.6
40–49	28.6
50–59	15.9
60–69	6.4
70+	1.8
Mean age	41.4
<b>Marital status</b>	
Never married	1.9
Currently married	90.5
Separated/divorced	1.4
Widowed	6.2
<b>Education by type*</b>	
No education	35.3
Primary	18.4
Secondary	25.6
Higher secondary	7.0
Vocational	0.4
Higher	12.7
Madrassa	0.4
Non-formal	0.1
<b>Employment status (primary)</b>	
Working (private)	82.4
Working (government)	9.1
Unemployed	1.8
Student	0.2
Domestic worker	4.8
Retired	1.4
Disabled	0.3
<b>Income per month (Taka)</b>	
Reported: mean (median)	7,643 (5,000)
In 2007 prices: mean (median)	8,225 (5,360)

\*Education categories contain both incomplete and completed levels of education

At the lower part of Table 4, the reported income of the household heads is presented. On average, household heads earned Tk 7,643 per month during 2005-2007. Compared to 2003, this was about 13% more in nominal terms. However, after accounting for inflation, the income of household heads showed a decrease of around 6% in real terms [Reported mean income in 2003 was Tk 6,769 (median: Tk 5,000), in real terms, Tk 8,763 (median: Tk 6,473)].

**Table 5.** Private-sector employment of household heads: occupation, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Occupation	Percentage
Businessman	15.4
Small businessman	16.3
Rickshaw/cart puller	15.1
Employee–accountant	4.9
Employee–clerk	1.1
Employee–messenger	1.2
Employee–driver	7.2
Employee–other	9.4
Semi-skilled labourer	5.0
Craftsman (not labourer)	4.0
Day-labourer	3.3
Landlord	3.1
Garments worker	1.7
Maid/servant	1.6
Hawker/sweeper	1.3
Teacher	1.0
Cook	1.0
Electrician/lineman	0.9
Professional (doctor, engineer, etc.)	0.8
Other	5.7
Total	100.0

## Population characteristics

Following the household heads, this section looks into some available population characteristics in more details, focusing on education and employment.

Table 6 shows that, among the population aged 15 years and above, almost 31% did not receive any education. However, close to 50% had had formal education beyond primary schooling (i.e. secondary, higher secondary, or higher education). Educational attainment of women in the same age-group still falls short of that of men. Substantially more women go without any form of education (36.7% versus 25.3%). Also in higher education beyond secondary level, there is a substantial gender gap.

Looking at educational attainment of the younger generation, the differences by gender seem to have been reversed. Figure 3 displays the mean years of education by age, both among boys and girls. The gender gap in years of education seems to widen up to the age of 14 years in favour of girls; however, beyond the age of 14 years, the gap is narrowing again. At the age of 17 years, girls had had about 0.3 years more schooling compared to boys.

**Table 6.** Type of education by sex (age 15 years and above), Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Employment status (Primary)	Percentage		
	Male	Female	Overall
No education	25.3	36.7	30.8
Primary education	20	20.2	20.1
Secondary education	30.4	29.5	30.0
Higher secondary education	8.3	6.3	7.3
Vocational education	0.5	0.2	0.3
Higher education	4.2	6.3	10.4
Madrassa education	0.7	0.3	0.5
Non-formal education	0.7	0.6	0.6

\*Education categories contain both incomplete and completed levels of education; 70% of both male and female had completed or nearly completed primary education; 50% of both male and female had completed or nearly completed secondary education

**Figure 3.** Mean years of education by age and sex, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

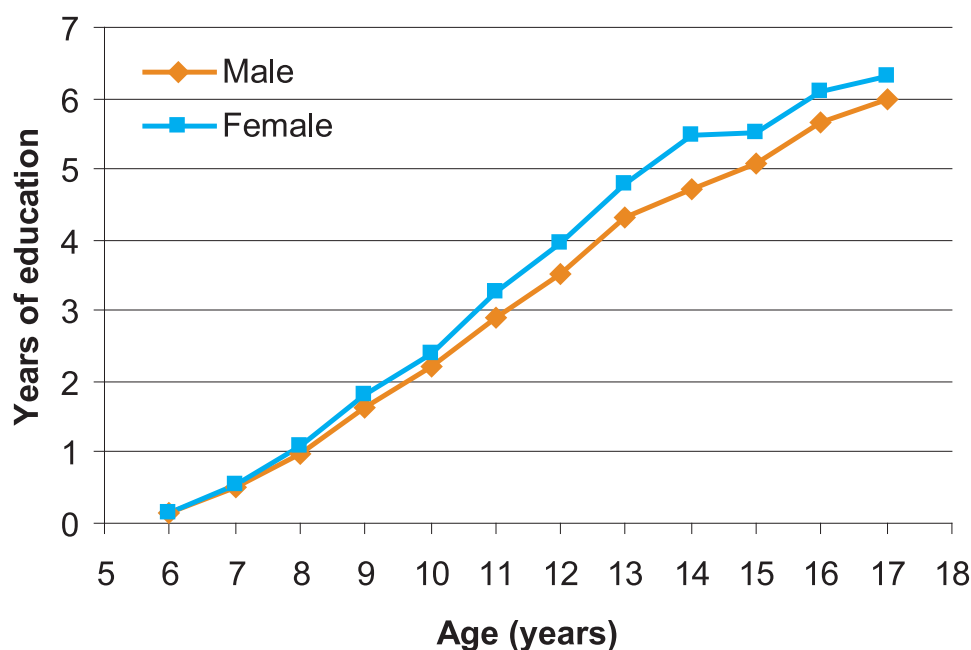


Table 7 displays the (primary) employment status of the Kamalapur population from the age of 10 years. The table clearly shows the large gender differences. Almost 60% of the women are working as ‘housewife’ [This category does not include domestic workers (servants) who are classified as working in the private sector]. The remainder of the women are almost equally divided into students and private-sector workers, predominantly employed as garments workers and domestic servants. Of the men aged 10 years and above, about 71% work in the private sector, mainly as self-employed (small) businessmen and rickshaw/cart-puller and undefined wage-employee. Almost 6% of the men are engaged within the public sector. The proportion of school-going men in this age-group is slightly below the proportion of school-going women.



**Table 7.** Employment status by sex, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Employment status (Primary)	Percentage	
	Male	Female
Working (private)	71.3	17.7
Working (government)	5.8	1.2
Unemployed	5.7	2.8
Student	15.9	16.7
Domestic worker	0.0	59.2
Retired	0.8	0.1
Disabled	0.5	0.4
Income per month (Taka)		
Reported: mean (median)	6,392 (4,000)	2,274 (1,500)
In 2007 prices: mean (median)	৳8,878 (4,595)	2,455 (1,608)

In addition to primary employment/economic activity, the census asked for data on additional employment. Only 5% of men had reported secondary employment (private or public sector). This was most common among those men who reported to have retired (46%) and are still government employees (20%). Only 3% of the women held a secondary job (in the private or public sector). Secondary employment among women was most frequently reported among those who were retired (7%) and those working within the government sector (4%).

In terms of wages, men earn about 2.8 times more than women, on average. The average income of working men was Tk 6,392 compared to Tk 2,274 by women.

Surprisingly, when comparing the incomes reported in the 2003 census, it seems that the income of men, in real terms, has decreased with about Tk 300 per month whereas the income of women remained more or less constant (men: Tk 7,188; women: Tk 2,474 in 2003).

## Poverty

The availability of information on monthly income made it possible to do some preliminary assessment on poverty. For the analysis of poverty, two approaches were adopted. In the first approach, the proportion of people living below a pre-determined poverty-line was calculated. The poverty-line used in 2004 was set at Tk 906 per-capita income for urban areas, adjusted for annual inflation. The second approach stratified the population of Kamalapur in five more or less equal-sized groups, poverty/wealth quintiles based on per-capita household income. The poverty/wealth quintiles were used in assessing some household and population differentials. Both approaches implicitly assume that all household members have equal access to income, whoever is the income-earner.

According to the 2005-2007 census, 25.2% of the population in the research area lived below the poverty-line, which is about 5 percentage points above the urban average as reported for Dhaka division [Report of the Household Income & Expenditure Survey 2005 (BBS, 2007)]. Calculations based on the 2003 census show a poverty rate of 22.9%, which suggests that poverty increased by about 2.3 percentage points since 2003. Table 8 displays the differences in poverty-levels within the Kamalapur research area, ranging from 50% of the population below

poverty-line in Stratum 2 to about 13% below poverty-line in Stratum 7. As mentioned in the Introduction, the Stratum 1 and 2 are slum areas that house, among others, the low-class government employees.

**Table 8.** Percentage of the population below poverty-line by stratum, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Stratum	Percentage of population below poverty-line
1	48.9
2	50.1
3	28.8
4	21.5
5	21.0
6	22.5
7	12.8

## Poverty differentials

When re-examining the housing, household and population characteristics previously discussed from a poverty perspective, the results are, in most cases, in agreement with what can be expected. Poorer households tend to live in poorer-quality houses compared to the better-off households. For example, the use of materials of high- or semi-high quality for wall construction increased from 50% among the poorest households to just over 95% for the least poor households, and the use of bamboo and other materials dropped from almost 18% to just over 1%. The poorest and poorer households more frequently rent a house and less frequently own a house compared to the better-off households. Poorest households have, on average, five household members; households belonging to the three better-off poverty groups have, on average, 4.2-4.3 members.

Table 9 displays the level of education of individuals aged 15 years and above by household poverty status. Members from the poorest households are 5.5 times more likely to have had no education than members from the least poor households. On the other hand, members from the least poor households are over 9 times more likely having had higher secondary education and 28 times more likely to have had higher than secondary education.

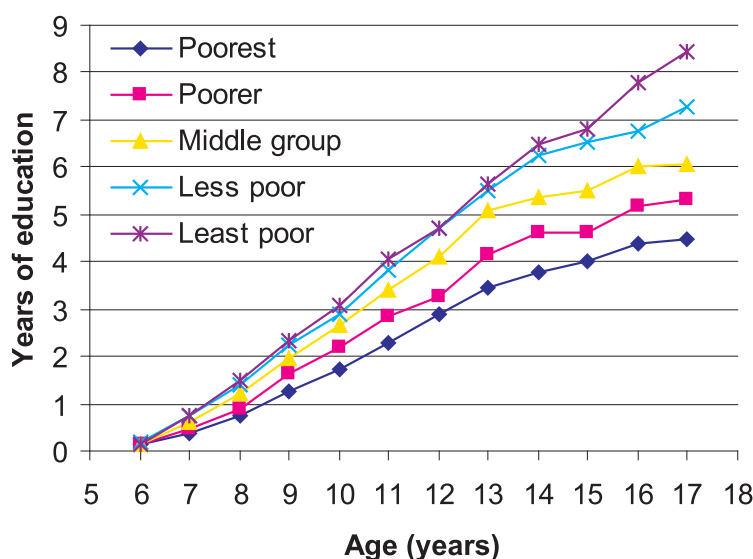
**Table 9.** Type of education of population aged 15 years and above by poverty status, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Education*	Poorest	Poorer	Middle	Less poor	Least poor
No education	53.8	42.0	30.5	19.5	9.8
Primary education	24.0	26.3	23.5	17.3	10.2
Secondary education	18.0	25.3	33.2	37.9	35.1
Higher secondary education	1.6	2.9	6.1	10.7	14.8
Vocational education	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8
Higher education	1.0	1.9	5.5	13.3	28.9
Madrassa education	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5
Non-formal education	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.1

\*Education categories contain both incomplete and completed levels of education

Figure 4 shows an assessment of whether education has a relationship with poverty in the population aged 15 years and above in the younger generation. Whereas the poverty-education relationship is expected to be reciprocal in the older generation (i.e. higher education leads to higher income, and higher income leads to higher education), poverty might determine the level of education in the younger generation. The figure clearly shows the effect of poverty on educational attainment of children aged below 15 years. From the second year of primary school enrolment, the gap in accumulated years of education between the poor and the better-off widens. At the age of 14 years, children from the poorest group had, on average, 4.5 years of education compared to 8.4 years for children from the least poor households. As Figure 4 shows: all five groups behave consistently; the poorest doing worse than the poorer; and the poorer doing worse than the middle group.

Figure 4. Mean years of education by age and poverty/wealth status, Kamalapur, 2005-2007



Assessment of employment status by poverty/wealth status does not reveal specific patterns. The proportion among the poorest working in the private sector is about the same as observed

Table 10. Employment status by poverty/wealth status, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Employment status (Primary)	Percentage				
	Poorest	Poorer	Middle	Less poor	Least poor
Working (private)	45.8	49.5	46.9	45.7	44.1
Working (government)	2.2	2.9	3.8	4.6	4.5
Unemployed	7.6	4.7	3.4	2.9	2.4
Student	14.4	14.1	15	17.7	20.2
Domestic worker	29.2	28.1	30.3	28.3	27.5
Retired	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.0
Disabled	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3

in the least poor group. Government employees show slightly higher representation in the least poor group than in the poorest group. Although the percentages are low, the poorest seem to be 3 times more likely to be unemployed compared to the least poor income-group (Table 10).

## Migrants

As mentioned before, migration is the main source of population growth in Kamalapur. About 9% of the population came to Kamalapur within less than one year, most of them originating from rural areas. The age-group of 15-24 years dominates among female migrants; male migrants are concentrated in the age-group of 25-34 years.

Table 11 shows that just over 50% of the recent migrants came from only 7 districts, the largest single part originating from other parts of Dhaka district. These districts vary in distance from Dhaka; Barisal, the third largest supplier of migrants, is far from Dhaka. The population of Barisal faces problems of land-loss due to salinity and floods, which may be important push factors. Mymensingh is also far from Dhaka; it is poor but is well-connected to Dhaka.

There has only been little variation over the years in terms of areas of origin of the migrants; since four years ago, Comilla, close to Dhaka district, was the main origin of migrants to Kamalapur.

**Table 11.** Percentage of migrants by year since arrival and district of origin, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

District	Years since arrival in Kamalapur research area				
	0	1	2	3	4
Dhaka	16.3	15.2	16.3	15.6	17.4
Comilla	11.1	10.0	12.5	12.8	13.0
Barisal	7.2	8.3	8.3	7.8	8.0
Narayangani	4.5	5.3	5.4	4.7	5.6
Chandpur	3.8	4.1	3.2	4.2	4.4
Munshinganj	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.0
Mymensingh	3.6	3.9	3.2	2.9	3.7
Other	49.7	49.0	46.9	47.1	42.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As mentioned earlier, Stratum 3, 5 and 7, which are the most-populated strata, attracted most migrants. As Strata 3, 5 and 7 are the main destination for the recent migrants, this implicitly means that migrants do not move into the poorer or the poorest areas. Comparing poverty-levels of recent migrants with poverty among non-recent migrants show that, on average, 26% of the recent migrants are classified as poor, and 25% of the non-recent migrants are poor [Non-recent migrants include non-migrants and those who migrated to Kamalapur more than one year ago].

Since majority of the people currently living in Kamalapur are migrants, a distinction was made for analytical reasons between those who recently arrived (recent migrants) within a timeframe of less than a year prior to the census and those who have been living in Kamalapur for more than one year (non-recent migrants).

Table 12 displays characteristics of the recent and non-recent migrants. As indicated earlier, a large proportion of recent migrants are young women, resulting in a lower average age of recent migrants and a smaller proportion of males.

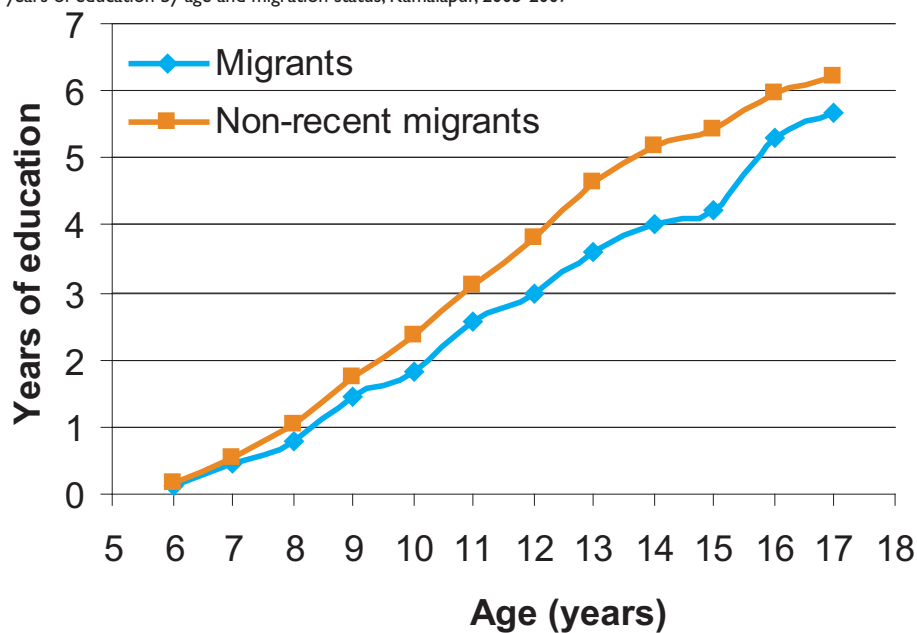
**Table 12.** Characteristics of recent and non-recent migrants, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Characteristics	Recent migrants	Non-recent migrants*
Male (%)	47.2	51.7
Age (mean) in years	21.3	24.2
Marital status (%)		
Never married	46.1	50.2
Married	51.2	46.0
Separated/divorced	0.9	0.9
Widowed	1.8	3.0
Education by type for those aged 15+ years (%)		
No education	28.9	31.0
Primary	20.6	20.0
Secondary	31.8	29.8
Higher secondary	7.7	7.3
Vocational	0.4	0.3
Higher	10.0	10.4
Madrasa	0.5	0.5
Non-formal	0.2	0.7

\*Include all who did not migrate to Kamalapur within one year of the census, with both migrants and non- migrants

Although educational characteristics of the recent migrant population aged 15+ years do not significantly differ from that of the non-recent migrant population, the educational attainment of recent migrant children aged 6-17 years seems to lag behind the educational attainment of non-recent migrant children. As Figure 5 shows, at all ages, schooling of the recent migrant children is below that of the non-recent migrant children, which partly maybe selective migration of poorer rural families with overall lower levels of education at the place of origin.

**Figure 5.** Mean years of education by age and migration status, Kamalapur, 2005-2007



Finally, Table 13 compares the employment characteristics between recent and non-recent migrants for both male and female populations. Recent migrants seem to be more frequently engaged in the private sector (either as employee or self-employed), and female migrants more

**Table 13.** Employment status (%) by migration status and sex, Kamalapur, 2005-2007

Employment status	Recent migrants		Non-recent migrants	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Working (private)	76.9	22.1	70.8	19.5
Working (government)	5.7	0.8	5.8	1.3
Unemployed	5.7	2.7	5.7	2.8
Student	11.1	8.5	16.3	17.6
Domestic worker	0.0	65.7	0.0	58.4
Retired	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.1
Disabled	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4

frequently work within the households. On the other hand, both male and female recent migrants are less engaged as student, which is also shown in Figure 5 for the age-group of 15 years and above.

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