

## **Urbanization and Equitable Service Delivery: An Analysis of Water Supply in Korail Slum, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

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In the Summer of 2017, I conducted my field practicum in Dhaka, Bangladesh working with BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and the Urban Development Programme (UDP) sector of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). My study location was Korail Slum, an informal settlement located in the urban hub of Dhaka City. My objective was to perform a comparative assessment of the provision of drinking water within two wards of Korail Slum: Korail Unit Ward 19 (receives legal, adequate water supply) and Beltola Unit, Ward 20 (receives illegal, semi-adequate water supply).

Through country visitation in Bangladesh, ethnographic observation of the two different wards of Korail slum, and data collection from the semi structured interviews with Korail slum inhabitants, I observed the degree of autonomy and agency of the different zones in relation to their accessibility, affordability, and safety with regards to adequate drinking water. I then effectively communicated some of my comparative findings with the different stakeholders involved in the initial process of bringing a formal source of water resource provision to the slum community. During this sharing of information, I conducted semi structured interviews with the multiple stakeholders involved including 1) Dhaka Water Supply and Sewage Authority (DWASA), 2) NGO: Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) 3) NGO: WaterAid, 4) Community Based Organizations of Ward 19, and 5) a short conversation with Community Based Organization of Ward 20; this primary data was used to clarify secondary data and research collection. The main objectives were to better understand the sustainable development challenge of drinking water supply in urban slums and how this impacts the livelihoods of slum dwellers. And additionally, how future sustainable programs can be implemented within the slum to meet the developmental commitment of DWASA to provide legal water supply connections to all the slums of Dhaka City by December of 2018, by motivating and encouraging creative collaborative efforts between stakeholders.