

Seminar Paper

on

Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Industrial Projects Registered with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)

Submitted to

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Abstract

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is an apex Investment Promotional Agency (IPA) in Bangladesh and providing diversified promotional and facilitating services for attracting investment and accelerating industrial development in the country. With a view to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on industrial sector a survey type research work was carried out of those industries which registered with BIDA during the corona pandemic. The study was made through questionnaire comprised with individual questions and then sent to the investors. A total of 748 industrial entrepreneurs responded and number of respondents against each question greatly varied. The differential response of the industrialists might be reason for different types of industries, their activities, assets, liabilities etc. of the businessmen. However, from the all respondents, 638 answered for the question of industrial operation; out of these 350 industries (54.86%) operated partially, 151 (23.67%) operated fully and 137 industries (21.47%) didn't open the doors during COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, out of 590 industries, 336 (56.95%) sales their products or services in local market, 131 (22.2%) in foreign market and 123 industries (20.85%) sales both in foreign & local markets. Among the respondents most of the industrialists faced various types of problems regarding raw materials or finished products issues. For this pandemic situation 39.05% investors (189 of 484 number) desired to access foreign capital loan to survive their industries. The COVID-19 exerted intolerable pressure on finance/liquidity, broke down of supply chain, negative employment generation, sales of the products and services with loss or minimum profit during this crisis period. Compensation of this impact would not be repairable until effective control of the corona virus. Most of the industrialists (257 of 488 respondents) demanded reduce/waiver of fees followed by flexible work arrangement (251 of 488 respondents) of the employees, otherwise could not erectly stand with good quality products and services. Finally, 64.80% (324 of 499 respondents) prayed for debt assistance with temporarily postpone of loan repayment (47.17% of 318 respondents) and suspension of interest payment (37.42%). The great contribution of industries in our national economy and high GDB would be achievable by concurrent efforts of all kinds of stakeholders.

Keywords: COVID-19, BIDA, Industries, Pandemic, Impacts

Introduction

Background

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is contributing to the country's development through the attraction of Foreign investment as well as local investment. The organization is providing various types of services to the investors both in foreign and local industries for enhancing industrialization in Bangladesh. Among all activities, BIDA also collect updated information from registered industrial projects to know about investment and employment generation as well as identify projects facing implementation constraints and provide necessary aftercare services to the industries.

The COVID-19, also known as novel corona virus caused pandemic worldwide was first detected in China and then outbreak throughout the world. The outbreak began from a Wuhan wholesale market where workers slaughter animal like dog, pig, rat, cat, civet and snakes etc. (Chen and Hong 2020). The sudden pause of global economy posed a massive impact on the business environment. Due to uncontrolled outbreak of COVID-19 the world is facing new complexities and challenges every day. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasted remarkable decline of global GDP around 2%. Moreover, the International Labor Organization (ILO) assessed that around 25 million potential people will lose their jobs due to economic crisis created for pandemic of COVID-19. The impact of COVID-19 on economy of our country is the disruption of industrial operation and import-export functions with different counties; eventually faced deferral and cancelation of nearly \$2.00 billion worth export order. The world people are trying to adjust with this pandemic in the name of new normal situation but until production of effective vaccine, the world people will suffer from this corona virus infection in various ways in their lives.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country in the world; therefore, healthcare facilities in the country are too limited for 160 million-plus population. The COVID-19 is not pandemic only for our country, more than 213 countries and territories people are severely infected by corona virus, eventually global economy drastically affected and still it is unable to control the spread of this pathogen. The unprecedented COVID-19 created massive disruption of global trade, business and education and the outbreak of the virus is very tough to check, as a result, global supply chain has been interrupted through shutdown of transportation. About two million workers of different industries and four million people of backward linkage industries, accessories, packaging factories and transportation sector are affected in this pandemic condition. The import-export oriented companies are also at-risk situation.

To overcome the terrible situation due to COVID-19 the different parts of the country were in locked down for a longer period, mass people lived from hand to mouth at this period, eventually inequality in income and asset distribution caused slowdown the GDP growth of the country. The uncertainty for invention of effective vaccine against the corona virus, the world people are compelled to wear mask along with strictly follow the health guidelines but are not the ultimate solution. Even these kinds of preventive measures acted as barriers on normal flow virus during transportation of raw materials, products, services, human capital but ultimately the economic wheel of the world has been shut down (Barua, 2020)

GDP of our country already has been sluggish for rapid outbreak of this novel corona virus. Though some industries became successful to harvest the benefits in this crisis through online groceries, retail marketing chain and technological farms on the individual industrial products and services. The Government has fruitfully addressed the crisis and has taken all possible measures to combat against the life-threatening novel corona virus.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the study are to find out the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on different types of industries in Bangladesh, but details objectives of the survey are stated below-

1. To assess the operating condition of the industries during extreme pandemic of COVID-19.
2. To identify the marketing situation of products and services rendered by the industries.
3. To find out the initiatives taken by different industrialists to overcome the economic damage situation and evaluate level of badly affected stakeholders due to blocked in production- supplier- consumer chain.

Justification of the study

Though the novel corona virus created unimaginable shock on global economy, the study explored the impact of COVID-19 focusing on the followings-

1. The methods applied by different large and small industries of our country to adjust in disrupted economic condition caused by the virus.
2. Expectations of all investors in the crisis, and the policies to overcome the pandemic if the virus persists for long period.
3. Find out appropriate suggestions to attain employment generation in relation to products and services utilization.

Therefore, the timing of the study offered a way to realize the expectations of the business owners in the critical situation, progression of COVID-19 and the government initiatives to uphold the socio-economic scenario of Bangladesh.

Review of literature

Along with the rest of the world, Bangladesh is preparing to undertake a range of measures to protect its population from the COVID-19 and its long term socio-economic and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 which was declared a pandemic by WHO on 30 January 2020 has already increased the pressure on an already strained humanitarian system, both globally and in Bangladesh in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 the UN Secretary General highlighted the need to protect the most vulnerable communities in society who will be severely affected during this time. This anticipatory need analysis aims to provide timely evidence with which to plan an effective and coordinated humanitarian response focusing on the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh that has been impacted as a result of the fallout from COVID-19 response. It has also supplemented, but not overlap with the national COVID-19 preparedness and response, and Rohingya refugee COVID-19 response plan. The COVID-19 response, including the general and special leaves declared by the government from 26 March to 25 April in Bangladesh were already impacting some of the most vulnerable groups in the country. It is expected that broader socio-economic impacts have been continuing to be felt for several months if not years across the world, and this must also have a significant localized impact on Bangladesh as well. These impacts have also disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups. The impact of the global COVID-19 response was to be far reaching for Bangladesh, as it has impact on both import of essential items and exports, especially related to the RMG sector on which the country relies heavily for income and employment. The most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh primarily rely on daily income sources, and the loss of these income sources has required them to resort to negative coping mechanisms which have long term implications. Further specific needs and vulnerabilities around gender, disability, age, ethnicity indigenous groups returnee migrant workers, income levels and employment type continue to emerge and have increased with time. While it is difficult to predict all downstream impacts of the current situation, early planning and preparation for emerging and known challenges are critical for the humanitarian sector to be prepared to mobilize and respond in a timely manner. While the number of COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh have remained relatively low, they are in an upward

trajectory (Johns Hopkins data). This requires further continuation of lockdown and travel restrictions in order to health response. As the lockdown continues, the socio-economic impact at community level is more prominent. The upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons (and resulting flooding and landslides) are to be further aggravate the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable groups in the coming months if there is any disaster as forecasted by BMD. The Government of Bangladesh has mobilized significant resources to support communities impacted. However, it is likely that a coordinated humanitarian response over a 12 months' period is needed to supplement these efforts, especially to ensure that the most vulnerable groups receive targeted support. This analysis looks at identifying risks for vulnerable communities due to their geographical locations and/or socio-economic conditions. It is provided the basis future planning, including where activities need to be focused, who is most in need and how the programs can be best delivered.

Bartik *et al.* (2020) explored the impact of corona virus disease (COVID-19) on small businesses, they conducted a survey of more than 5,800 small businesses between 28 March and 4 April 2020. Several themes emerged from that survey program. First, mass layoffs and closures had already occurred just a few weeks into the crisis. Second, the risk of closure was negatively associated with the expected length of the crisis. Moreover, businesses had widely varying beliefs about the likely duration of COVID-19 related disruptions. Third, many small businesses are financially fragile: The median business with more than \$10,000 in monthly expenses had only about 2 weeks of cash on hand at the time of the survey. Fourth, the majority of businesses planned to seek funding through the corona virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. However, many anticipated problems with accessing the program, such as bureaucratic hassles and difficulties establishing eligibility. Using experimental variation also assess take-up rates and business resilience.

Agrawal *et al.* (2020) reported that at present time world is facing from the corona virus disease known as Covid-19. The first case of the corona virus was reported in the December 2019 in the Wuhan city of China which is known as the major transportation hub of China. After the spread of Covid-19 many countries have shut down their sea ports and airports. They have banned the import and export activities. Also, China is the major distributor of the raw materials which affect the manufacturing activities across the globe due to lockdowns. India is the developing country due to the Covid-19 spread the cases reported in the India

government has lockdown the country for 41 days which affected the manufacturing activities and majorly it affects the supply chains and economy of the country. In the present paper discussed the effect of Covid-19 on Indian economy and on supply chains in India. There are total of 18 critical barriers are found out which affected the supply chains in the India. It is expected that this study will helpful the researchers to develop the conceptual models to overcome from this issue.

The entire world is in the clutch of corona virus stated by **Rakshit and Paul (2020)**. The dissemination of the virus is so colossal that it compelled the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare it as pandemic. The outbreak of the virus has unprecedented implications on the global economy. Severe economic burden and grave consequences have to be borne by the Indian industries in this backdrop of declining economic situation due to corona virus. Thus, this article is intended to study the consequences of corona virus on different sectors of Indian economy and to highlight the reasons for which India can be benefitted in the post pandemic period and mainly to specify the business survival strategies which is the key to overcome this tough situation.

Begum et al. (2020) reported that the COVID-19 has caused gigantic negative effects on populace wellbeing, society, education, and the economy in Bangladesh. The aim is to deliver a comprehensive overview of the observed and the possible impacts that could appear in the coming days. The study is based on secondary information. During the early period, due to a lack of accurate facts about the case affected and death tension up-and-down among the nations. The total number of confirmed cases is increasing following geometric patterns in Bangladesh. Dairy farmers, vegetable producers, pharmaceuticals, poultry farmers are in deep crisis due to lower prices. Also, the pandemic has seriously affected educational systems, banking, FDI, ready-made garments, remittances etc. Finally, it is not possible to mitigate the effects of pandemic individually but the integrated effort from the state authority as well as concern people of all sectors need to come forward.

Shimanta et al. (2020) studied the outbreak of Corona Virus affected negatively on the world's economy which has already touched the maximum sectors. Readymade garments sector has the large contribution in Bangladesh's economy. For increasing the locked down period, it is hitting badly by stopping production and cancellation of orders with some issues.

This paper will represent the brief scenario and impacts of garments sector in recent days and the economy status of Bangladesh for the pandemic. The study is based on secondary data, collected from different authentic journals and web portals etc. Bangladesh's garments earnings mostly depended on export but on these days, the buyers are cancelling their orders and the factories are being failed to give payments to the worker, some are being shut down also. As the duration of locked down is increasing, there is a huge chance to get unemployed and Bangladesh can be faced an undisciplined condition in near future. BGMEA and BKMEA are taking necessary steps to support the worker. Ensuring health security, the authorities are trying to reopen the factories limitedly to meet up the immediate needs. The government has taken the situation on most priority and introduces some improvement packages to run the economy smoothly and reduce the losses of the country for the pandemic.

Sen *et al.* (2020) explained COVID-19 as a pandemic, affects the global economy. ILO declared this virus as a labor market and economic crisis. This study has been conducted for understanding the effect of COVID-19 on the apparel industry and the apparel manufacturing workers. This is a descriptive study, following the inductive procedure. The relevant information has been collected from the current academic literature, newspapers, reports publications, and relevant web pages. An online interview with the manufacturers, policymakers, trade unions, researchers, and academicians has been conducted for primary information collection. This study has found that the apparel industry is one of the most affected industries among the other industries by COVID-19. The retailers' shops are being closed with having zero turnovers which leads to ordering cancelation to the manufacturing factories. Bangladesh's apparel manufacturing industry is also drastically affected due to COVID-19. The factories can't pay the workers' salaries in this critical situation. Therefore, millions of workers have been sent home without their wages. Sometimes, it has predicted that the workers would lose jobs due to factory closure. The Government took lots of initiatives i.e. tax rebates, reduce VAT, financial support to the owners to pay the workers' wages, loan installment rescheduling, etc. Albeit, these initiatives were taken for the welfare of the factory owners and the workers remain oppressed. So, a proper policy strategy is indeed an emergency to support the destitute workforce during the COVID-19 as well as in future financial crises that can happen due to this kind of epidemic or any reason. This study will be supportive to the stakeholders of this sector to learn the impact of COVID-19 on the workers and make the necessary adjustment for the future betterment.

Hafsa (2020) stated the article tries to find out the impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism and Hospitality industry in Bangladesh and presented some recovery plans for minimizing those negative impacts. This study is carried out based on the secondary data sources, various literature, newspapers, organizational and government publications, website materials and other sources are used to find out and complete the analysis. COVID-19 has created an anxiety around the globe. Bangladesh has already started to face its horrible look. The economy of Bangladesh is just sunk and like other industries tourism industry is facing most awful situation ever before. Due to lockdown people cannot move from one place to another. As the number of COVID-19 positive cases increasing day by day, government bound to take this hard decision (lockdown). All international flights have been cancelled and stopped for long days; accommodation business (hotels/motels/resort owners) already started to face a countless loss. Small hotels/motels/restaurants/travel agencies already closed their businesses; thousands of people working in tourism industry have started to become jobless. Already government of Bangladesh offered different special packages for recovery and ensuring sustainability of different sector. Tourism industry also needs to offer different stimulus and discount packages for attracting domestic tourist which will help to recover the losses. This study also presents the real scenario of tourism industry during COVID-19 pandemic which will help to know the update knowledge regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on tourism and hospitality industry and to take proper recovery steps.

Sen *et al.* (2020) reported the pandemic COVID-19 affects the global economy which can be called a cause for the labor market and economic crisis. The study has been conducted to understand the impact of COVID-19 on apparel workers. The relevant academic literature publication, reports, newspapers, webpages, have been used for data collection. The study has found that the apparel workers in Bangladesh Garments Industry are in the highest vulnerability situation due to the COVID-19. Due to the shortage of raw materials, the factory owners have to close down the factory. Moreover, global brands and retailers canceled production orders and deferred the payment. As a result, the apparel workers have to go back to their house without any payment. Moreover, during the lockdown, a few factories continue their production without ensuring safety. So, the study has found that the apparel workers in Bangladesh are in the most vulnerable situation. Some of them do not have a job while some of them have to continue the work in a risky environment. A few initiatives have been taken by different stakeholders which seems not effective to the workers.

Methodology

To understand the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the operation, production, investment, activity, staff salary, stimulus allocation etc. of industrial projects in Bangladesh, a set of relevant selective/multiple choice type and open-ended questions were developed and then sent the questionnaire to different types of industries to collect data in corona virus pandemic situation. The industrial operational activities, socio-economic situation, industrial working environment and possible obstacle emerged issues were considered during data collection. In the questionnaire all the questions were developed according to the guidelines of the experts and consultants of BIDA and then sent to the industries those are registered. The questions that selected for research work from the questionnaire are stated below-

- a) Are you able to operate your business during the COVID-19 pandemic?
[Operating/Partially operating/Cannot operate]
- b) Your product or services are for: [Export/ Domestic market/Both]
- c) What problems are you facing regarding raw materials or finished products?
[Custom delay due to backlog, Port clearance, Problems with transportation, Shortage of supply, Loss of usual supplier, Inadequate access to bonded warehouse facilities, Order cancellation, Inadequate workforce, Contract related problems & Issues with shipping companies]
- d) What are the impacts of COVID-19 on your business?
[Availability of finance/Liquidity, Supply chain, Investment, Employment, Worker productivity, Revenues/Sales and Net income/Profit]
- e) How long do you think you can pay employee/staff/worker salary?
[Pay salary within 1-6 month/Disburse salary without disruption]
- f) During the COVID-19 pandemic, which facilities can help your business?
[Flexible work arrangements, Waiver of licensing requirements, Extension of submission deadlines, Reduce/waive fees]
- g) During the COVID-19 pandemic, should be a system to access working capital loan from foreign sources? [Yes/No/Not relevant]

The questionnaires were sent to the different BIDA registered foreign and local industries through mail in June 2020 and completed the data collection by July 2020. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from the industries through using survey monkey

software. The Data I have used in my research work was collected through BIDA's survey program. From the questionnaire only seven important questions with respective answers were selected to assess and analyze in my works. Afterward the collected data were interpreted by specific statistical tools.

- Through survey monkey software the collected data were accumulated and analyzed to estimate, mean and percentage on individual question basis by MS Excel and other necessary software.
- The estimated means and percentages were presented according to individual question both in bar diagram and table.

Data Analysis and Results/Findings

COVID-19 is potentially catastrophic for millions who are already hanging by a thread. It is a hammer blow for millions more who can only eat if they earn a wage. Lockdowns and global economic recession have already destroyed their nest eggs. It only takes one more shock like COVID-19 to push them over the edge. We must collectively act now to mitigate the impact of this global catastrophe.

Under the new normal situation created by pandemic COVID-19 every sector of the state affected and the industrial sector has been seriously affected because huge number of manpower's of different categories are required to run an industry. Healthcare, production of products, creation services, transportation of products and deliveries of services have badly affected, even in some cases damaged due to this uncontrolled corona virus. Different countries of the world are trying to control this highly contagious virus though wearing mask, maintaining social distancing and washing hands with a disinfectant for at least twenty minutes. It was very tough to follow the healthcare processes in industrial environment. however, the actual conditions of the industries during this terrible situation were assessed by a questionnaire. The questionnaire was comprised with twenty-six questions. None of the industry answered all the questions but a total of 748 industrialists answered most the questions sited in the questionnaire. Seven important questions with respective answer were selected from questionnaire to assess the current scenario of the industries. The results of question wise are stated below-

1. Operating scenario of industries during COVID-19 pandemic:

For the question of operating scenario of the industries a total of 638 industries were responded in the questionnaire, of which 151 industries (23.67%) successfully operated their industries in full strength, followed by 350 industries (54.86%) operated partially during COVID-19 pandemic. From Fig.1 it is also shown that among all respondents 131 industries (21.47%) were fully closed and could not run during this pandemic situation. The results suggest that products and services were badly affected, and a considerable portion of workers suffered from due to jobless condition and their families were subjected unmentionable sufferings.

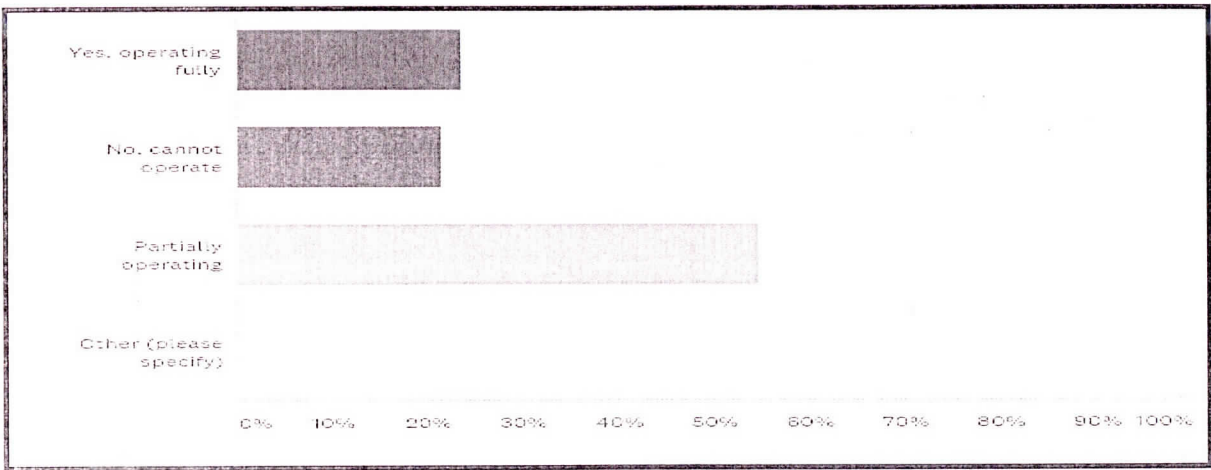


Fig.1: Operating scenario of industries during COVID-19 [Answer: 638, skipped: 110]

The industrialists who fully ran their business were possible due to necessary precautions and measures were taken with changing environment of the industries with corresponding increase of virus infection.

2. Selling information of industrial products/ services:

Out of 748 industries there are 590 industries responded about their products or services sales. A total of 336 industries (56.95%) sales their products in local market, 131 industries (22.2%) sales their products or services in foreign market and 123 industries (20.85%) both in foreign & local markets. (Fig. 2). The result shown that most of the industries sales their products or services in domestic markets. Such option during corona virus spread save them to effectively run their business.

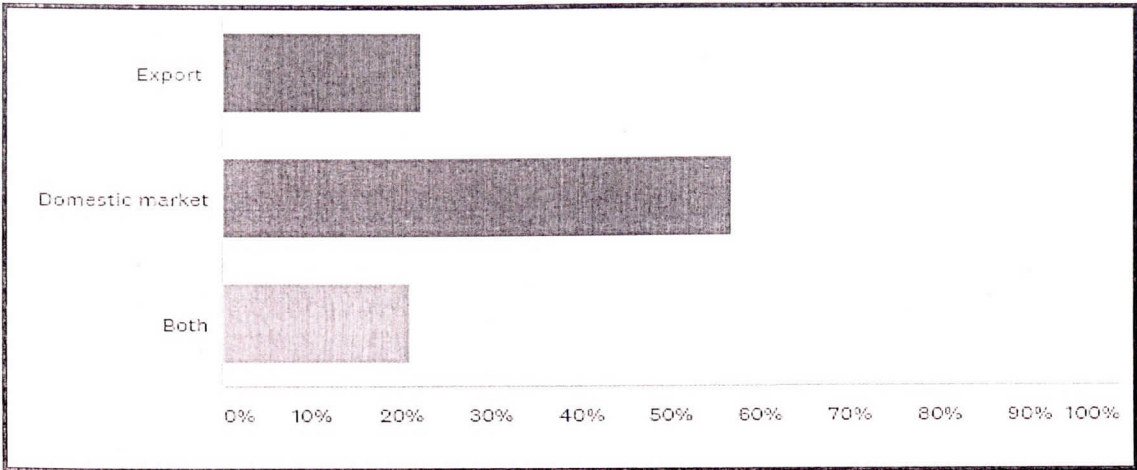


Fig. 2: Products or services selling markets [Answered: 590 Skipped: 158]

3. Facing problems regarding raw materials or finished products during COVID-19:

Regarding above question, out of 748 number of industries, only 363 answered and rest of the industrialist were skipped the question. Among the respondents most of them said they faced various problems at the time of corona pandemic regarding raw materials and finished products issues. They faced difficulties on transportation (60.6%), shortage of supply (60.06%), order cancellation (46.01%), loss of usual supplier (43.53%), custom delay (42.7%), inadequate workforce (34.44%), port clearance (32.78%) and many other business operational issues. Due to the above obstacles their industrial production drastically hampered, and shortage or inadequate raw materials created problem on production and ultimately the industries loss their profit.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Customs delay due to backlog	42.70%	155
Problems with transportation	60.61%	220
Port clearance	32.78%	119
Shortage of supply	60.06%	218
Loss of usual supplier	43.53%	158
Inadequate access to bonded warehouse facilities	8.54%	31
Order cancellation	46.01%	167
Inadequate workforce	34.44%	125
Contract related problems	34.44%	125
Issues with shipping companies	12.59%	46
Other (please specify)	19.28%	70
Total Respondents: 363		

Table 3: Facing problems regarding raw materials or finished products

4. Impact on business operation:

The impact of COVID-19 on business was partitioned into seven items viz. availability of finance/liquidity, supply chain, investment, employment, worker productivity, revenues/sales and net income/profit. Table 4 revealed that out of 748 respondents 511 answered to the above seven criteria. Most of the respondents said they faced negative situation during the pandemic period to run their industries and few of them are enjoyed positive impact on their business.

Select	-100%	-80%	-60%	-40%	-20%	NO IMPACT	+20%	+40%	+60%	+80%	+100	TOTAL
Availability of finance/liquidity	8.98% 44	15.92% 78	18.98% 93	23.27% 114	14.29% 70	10.82% 53	2.65% 13	2.45% 12	1.84% 9	0.41% 2	0.41% 2	490
Supply chain	6.68% 31	10.99% 51	17.46% 81	23.49% 109	19.61% 91	14.22% 66	2.37% 11	1.94% 9	1.51% 7	1.08% 5	0.65% 3	464
Investment	9.07% 42	12.53% 58	12.96% 60	18.14% 84	13.82% 64	23.11% 107	2.81% 13	2.38% 11	3.24% 15	1.08% 5	0.86% 4	453
Employment	5.48% 25	5.70% 26	10.75% 49	15.79% 72	20.61% 94	30.92% 141	4.39% 20	1.54% 7	1.97% 9	1.10% 5	1.75% 8	456
Worker productivity	5.11% 24	8.51% 40	16.81% 79	20.00% 94	19.15% 90	17.66% 83	3.40% 16	2.77% 13	3.40% 16	1.91% 9	1.28% 6	470
Revenues/sales	8.57% 39	12.75% 58	19.78% 90	20.44% 93	16.04% 73	10.11% 46	4.40% 20	3.74% 17	1.76% 8	1.76% 8	0.66% 3	455
Net income/profits	10.87% 51	14.29% 67	15.57% 73	19.62% 92	20.68% 97	11.51% 54	3.20% 15	1.71% 8	1.71% 8	0.43% 2	0.43% 2	469

Table 4: Categorization of industries based on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic

[Answered: 511 & Skipped: 237]

Among the 511 respondents only 141 respondents said they did not face any problem in this situation on employment, 107 respondents said faced no obstacle on investment, 83 respondents on worker productivity, 66 on supply chain and very few respondents (54) said they did not face any obstacle on net income or profit to run their industries. From above discussion it is clear that the most important factor i.e. net income/profit of the industries was tremendously hampered by corona virus spread.

5. Employee/staff/worker salary capability

Data on employee/worker/salary capability of businessmen were collected from 487 industries (Fig. 5). Only 17.45% industries were capable of disbursing salary for their employees/staffs/workers without any disruption and only 10.80% industries will be able to pay the salary for maximum six month.

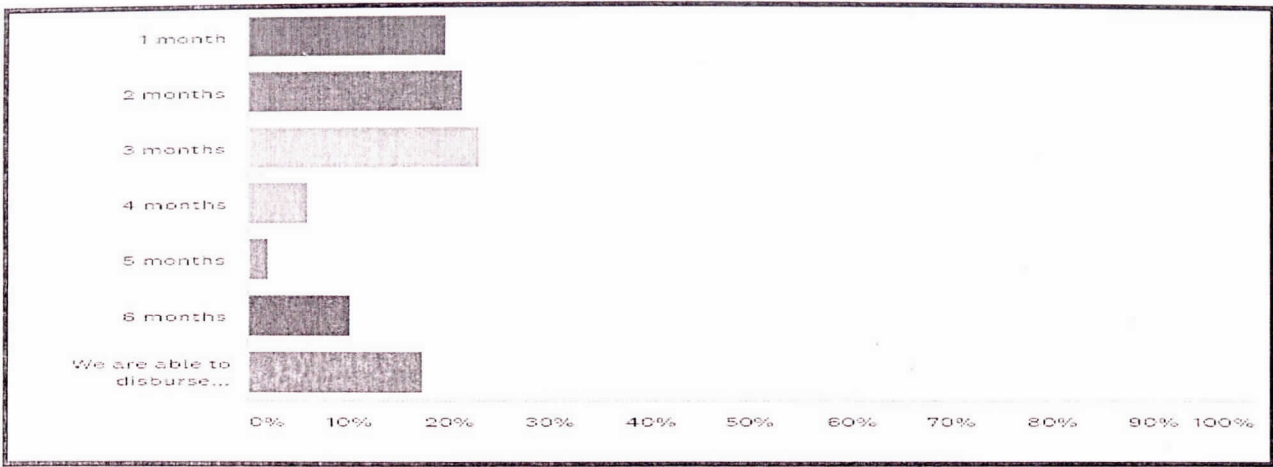


Fig.5 Capabilities of industrialists to pay the salaries during COVID-19

It is noted that 24.72% industries have no ability to pay the salary not more than three months. The results suggest that long length prevalence corona virus in pandemic situation, most of the industries of our country would suffer from survival.

6. Facilities needed to run the industries in COVID-19 pandemic

During COVID-19 flexible work arrangements assisted the maximum opportunity (52.10%), followed by reduce/waiver fees accounted for 50.42% (Fig. 6). Only 13.47% industries (47 industries) didn't require any extra facility to run their business smoothly. Other miscellaneous factors were integrated during operating the industries and it was accounted for 16.53% which included 59 industries.

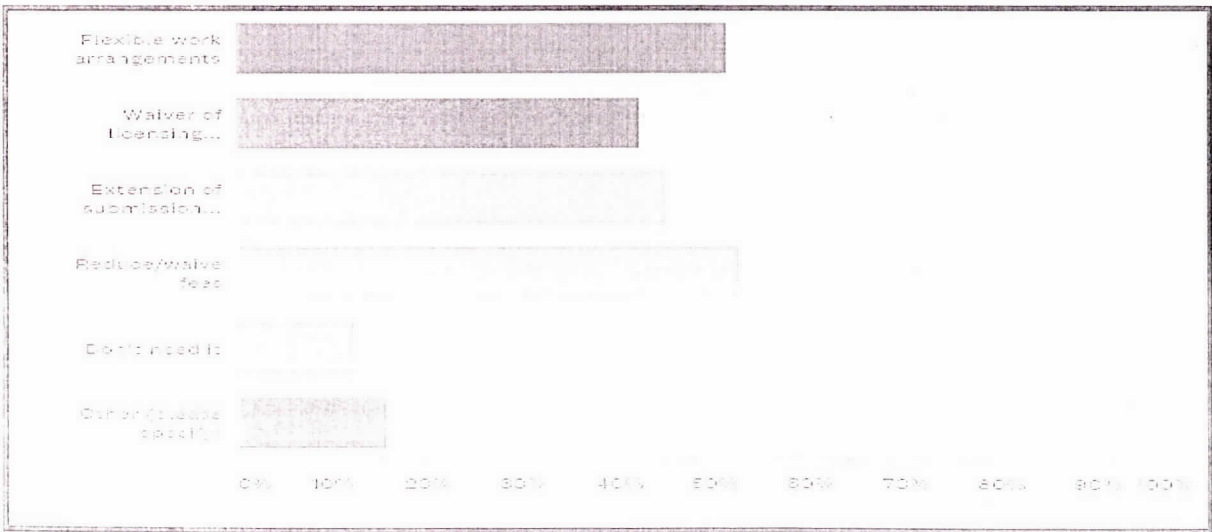


Fig. 6: Assistance facilities needed by the industries during the crisis period

7. Working capital loan from foreign sources

Other issues like working capital both from foreign and domestic sources were minimum during operating the industries under COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country.

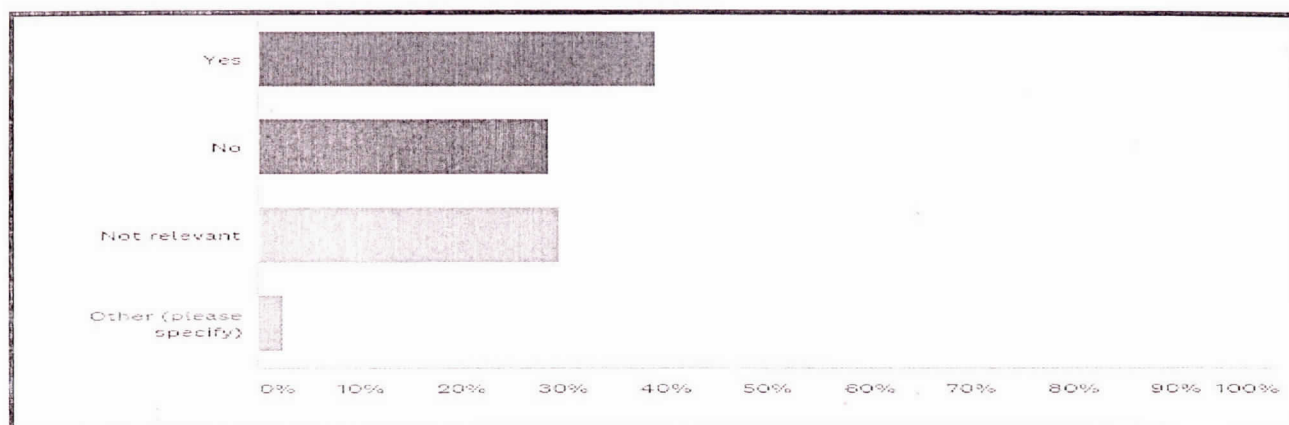


Fig.7: Working capital loan from foreign sources

When the industrialists were asked to get working capital loan from foreign sources, the answers were not satisfactory. Out of 484 industries, 189 industries showed their eagerness to access in foreign financial support from foreign sources and 139 industries did not show any desire to access in foreign loan. From this information it is clear that most of the investors need financial support for working capital of their industries.

Recommendations:

In this research the impact of COVID-19 on industrialists and workers livelihood have been analyzed and this was a monitoring indicator, one of its uses as a diagnostic tool: identified the areas in which investors were easily approachable with less resources (time, money, labor etc.) consuming and effective manner especially in a crisis like COVID-19 pandemic situation, so that in the industrial activities were targeted for further improvement ensuring without compromising means of livelihood. This implied that, depending on local context, different programs and policies needed to be put in place to better support services to the businessmen alike. This, in turn, helped the policymakers to pay attention to issues that are needed to be focused for sustaining the livelihood opportunities of the entrepreneurs. Better effective promoting services remained an important goal for policy in addressing of industrial sector in blue print, one that was not only important in itself, but also contributed to the attainment of other development objectives, such as focus on the benefit of the industrial communities from their efforts. This research highlighted the policy issues and recommended

a roadmap for ensuring the livelihood improvement in industrial sectors considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Equitable policies set the framework for equitable development of the citizens. A closer look at the factors of the research revealed the issues needed to be highlighted such as, the traditional versus modern business paradigm, prevalent across most of the regional industry sector works related to communities' development considering pandemic situation, allocated access to vital resources and development potentials along communal lines instead of needs and potentials of individuals for low emission. Thus, the research formulated and suggested some policy guidelines for industrial development of Bangladesh considering the COVID-19 issues. Following the guidelines by the concerned authorities might build a roadmap for the national industrial development to address the COVID-19 pandemic situation and would help to achieve industry community development of the country.

Conclusion

The threat of the coronavirus for Bangladesh is far from over, but the need for the economy to start functioning must go on. Yet, it is now understood that business-as-usual is a thing of the past. As we build the "new normal", we will need to be innovative in our thinking, and ensure that our efforts to rebuild are sensitive to the needs and circumstances of different industries. In this way we can protect and support the resilience of products and services supply both in domestic and international markets, while also taking steps to ensure future systemic shocks can be handled quickly and effectively. Since COVID-19 situation is still uncertain worldwide and the pandemic affected the economic growth of Bangladesh. The people of our country are gradually mitigating their damages happened due to corona virus spread. Most of registered industries of BIDA are now in almost full operation. The broken chain between national and international trades is being almost repaired, the industrialists are promoting their products and services both in domestic and international markets. Therefore, the industrial sector will potentially contribute in GDP of our country in very near future.

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