

WELCOME

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SESSION : 2020-21

Batch : 49

**Socio-economic conditions of the workers of informal
Sector during Quota Reform movement, 2024:
A sociological study in Barisal city**

Background of the Study

Let's discuss a significant turning point in Bangladesh's recent history: the 2024 quota reform movement. Initiated by students, this movement quickly evolved into a widespread protest against systemic problems in our society. Originating from our universities, it spread nationwide, demanding a fairer system and challenging the existing order. Together, let's examine the origins of this movement, the issues it aimed to resolve, and its impact on informal job sector in Barishal city

Rationale of the Study

Aimed at addressing important social and economic issues. Constitutes a significant portion of the Country's workforce, is particularly vulnerable to economic disruption and social unrest.

- **Understanding the impact of the Quota movement** :Led to closures, reduce business activity and increased uncertain for informal sector workers.
- **Identifying Socio-economic Vulnerabilities** :The informal sector is often characterized by precarious employment conditions, lack of social protection, and limited access to resources. This study can help to identify.

Rationale of the Study

- **Assessing Coping Mechanisms:** Informal sector workers may have employed various coping mechanisms to survive during the disruptions caused by the quota movement. This study we can found it.
- **Policy Implication:** The findings of this study can inform the development of targeted policies and interventions to support informal sector workers in Barisal city and other similar areas.
- **Contributing to Academic Knowledge:** This research can contribute to the existing body of literature on the informal sector, labor economics, and social movements.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the socio-economic conditions of informal workers in Barishal City during the 2024 quota reform movement.
- To evaluate the movement's impact on these workers' livelihoods, employment, and well-being.
- To identify and explore socio-economic challenges faced by informal workers in Barishal City during the movement.

Research Question

- What were the socio-economic conditions of the informal workers during the quota reform movement period in Barishal city?
- How did the quota reform movement impact the informal sector workers in Barishal City?
- What were the socio-economic challenges faced by informal workers in Barishal City during the quota reform movement?

Operational Definitions

Socio-economic Condition

Refers to the economic well-being, social circumstances, and overall quality of life for individuals involved in the informal sector in Barishal City. These conditions are shaped by income, job stability, access to essential services, and social support networks.

Quota Reform Movement 2024

A student-led protest that took place from June to August 2024 in Bangladesh, opposing the reinstatement of a quota system for government jobs.

Operational Definitions

During the Quota Reform Movement 2024

Refers to the period of the movement characterized by shutdowns, political unrest, violence, and crackdowns.

Workers in the Informal Sector

Individuals engaged in economic activities that are often unregulated, lack formal contracts, job security, and typically fall outside of traditional labor laws. These workers may be involved in activities such as street vending, small-scale manufacturing, housework, and daily wage employment.

Methodology

Research Design

This study is descriptive in nature

Research Method

A quantitative research methodology was employed.

Study Area

Barishal City, located in the southern region of Bangladesh, served as the study area. This riverine city, situated on the banks of the Kirtankhola River, lies approximately 180 kilometers south of Dhaka.

Methodology

Study Population

The accessible population consists of informal sector workers present in various locations within Barishal City during data collection.

Sampling Technique

From non-probability sampling, the researcher has chosen purposive sampling technique

Sample Size

In this study, a sample of 20 informal sector workers were interviewed from different sites and locations of Barishal city.

Methodology

Data Collection Technique and tools

Considering the facts and requirements of the survey a questionnaire was also carefully designed in this study; a structured questionnaire has been used to collect data from the selected sample. Respondents have been given 20 minutes on an average to answer these questions

Unit of Analysis

Every single respondent of the research is considered as unit of analysis.

Data Analysis

In this research, data collected through sample survey has been presented and analyzed through software like MS Office, Microsoft Excel and with the help of output tables containing frequency, percentage etc. There is also a presentation with graphs or charts.

Methodology

Validity and reliability

Validity and reliability are crucial in measuring research instruments, ensuring they accurately measure what they are supposed to, and assisting researchers in designing and evaluating their work.

Ethical Issues

The researcher adhered to research rules, upheld ethical practices, protected respondents' privacy, avoided harmful questions, and properly ascribed authorship without any involuntary pressures to participate in the study.

Methodology

Limitations

The survey research faced challenges due to limited resources, a small sample size, difficulty in collecting information, and respondents' doubts about the survey's objective, leading to insufficient representativeness.

Result

Demographic Information of the Respondents			
Age	Category	Frequency	Percentage
	Under 25	5	25%
	25-35	5	25%
	36-45	9	45%
	46-55	1	5%
	Over 55	0	0%
Gender	Male	16	80%
	Female	4	20%

Table-1 shows that the majority of respondents are in their working prime, with 25% under 25, 25% between 25-35, and 45% in the 36-45 age range. Only 5% are aged 46-55, and none are over 55, highlighting a middle-aged focus in the study. Regarding gender, 80% of respondents are male, while only 20% are female.

Result

Educational background of the Respondents

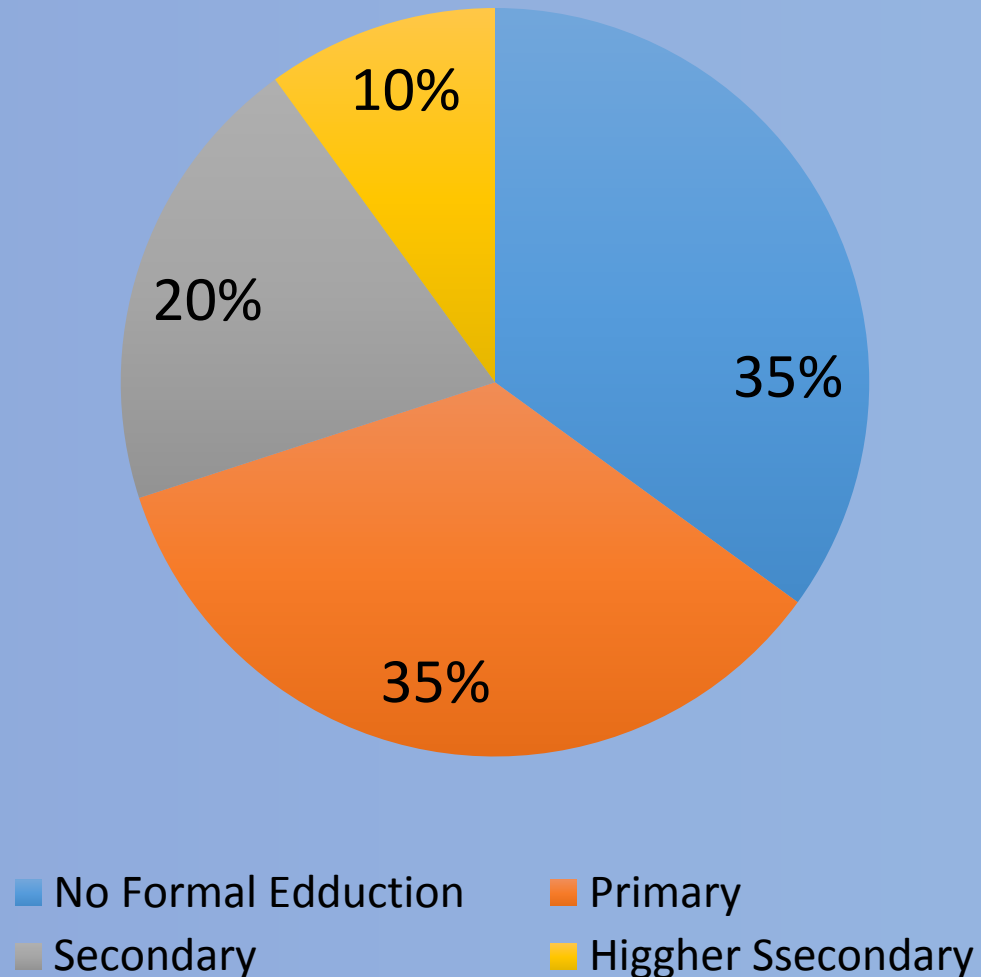


Figure-1 shows that 35% of workers in the informal sector have no formal education and another 35% having only primary education, 15% have completed secondary education, 10% have higher secondary education, and only 5% have a Bachelor of Social Science degree, indicating a trend towards lower education levels in the workforce.

Result

Engaged in the informal sector		
Time Period	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 5 Years	8	40%
5-10 Years	6	30%
11-15 Years	5	25%
16-20 Years	1	5%
Over 20 Years	0	0%

The table-2 highlights the work experience distribution among informal sector workers, showing that 40% have less than 5 years of experience, 30% have 5-10 years, and 25% have 11-15 years. Only 5% have 16-20 years of experience, with no respondents reporting over 20 years. This indicates a predominantly younger workforce with few long-term workers..

Result

Respondents Effected by Quota Reform Movement

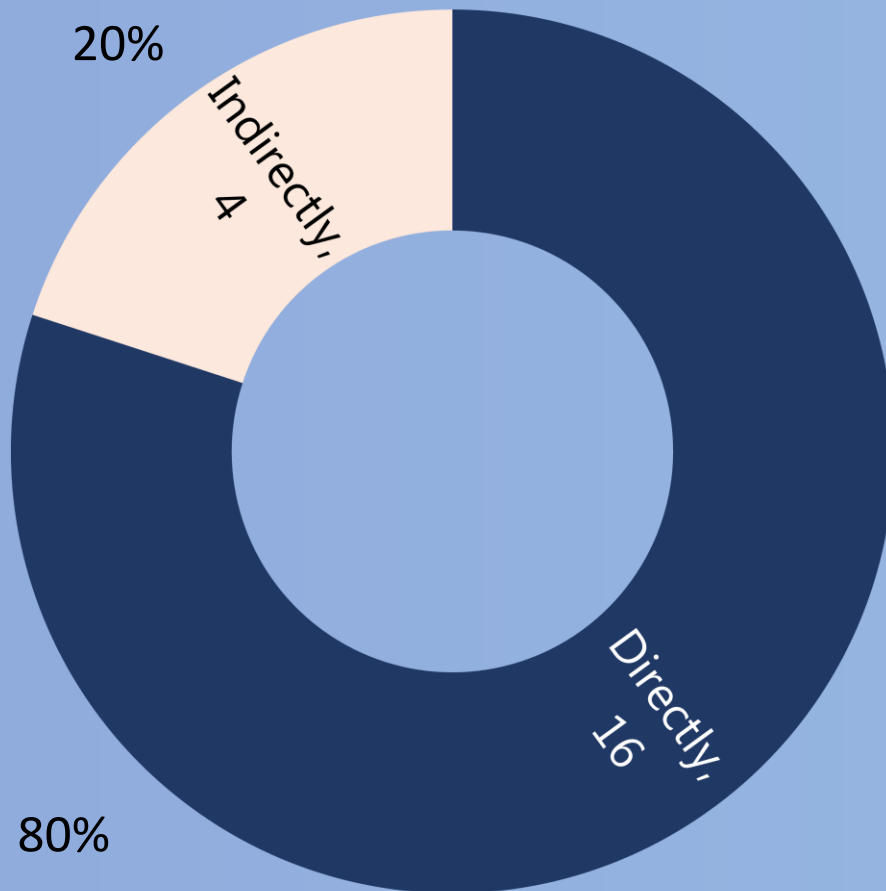
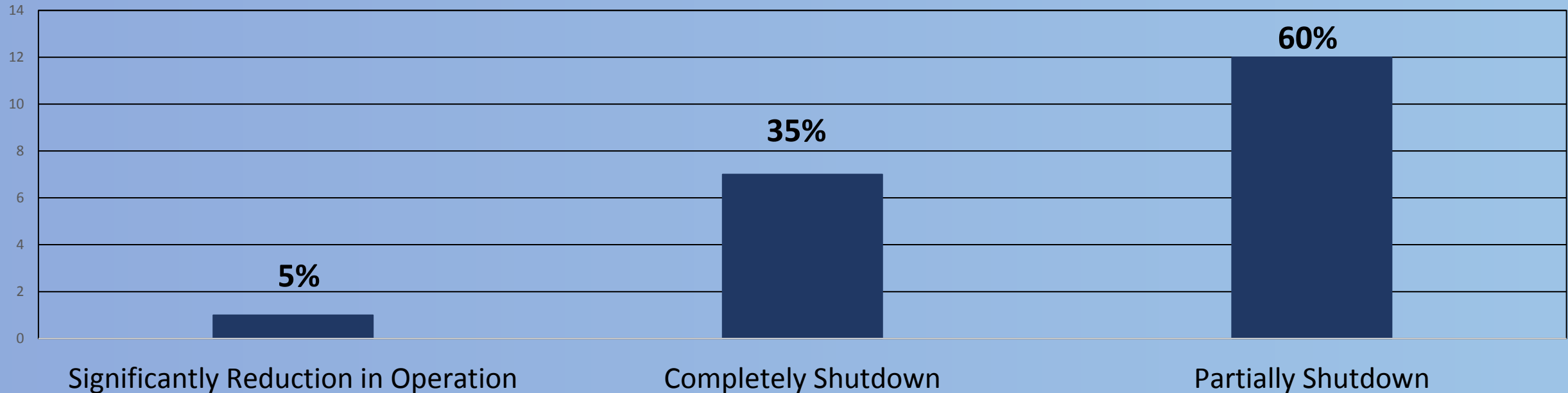


Figure-2 depicts the impact of the quota reform movement on informal sector workers, showing that 80% were directly affected and 20% experienced indirect effects. This contrast emphasizes the substantial direct impact of the reforms on most workers.

Result

Impact on work

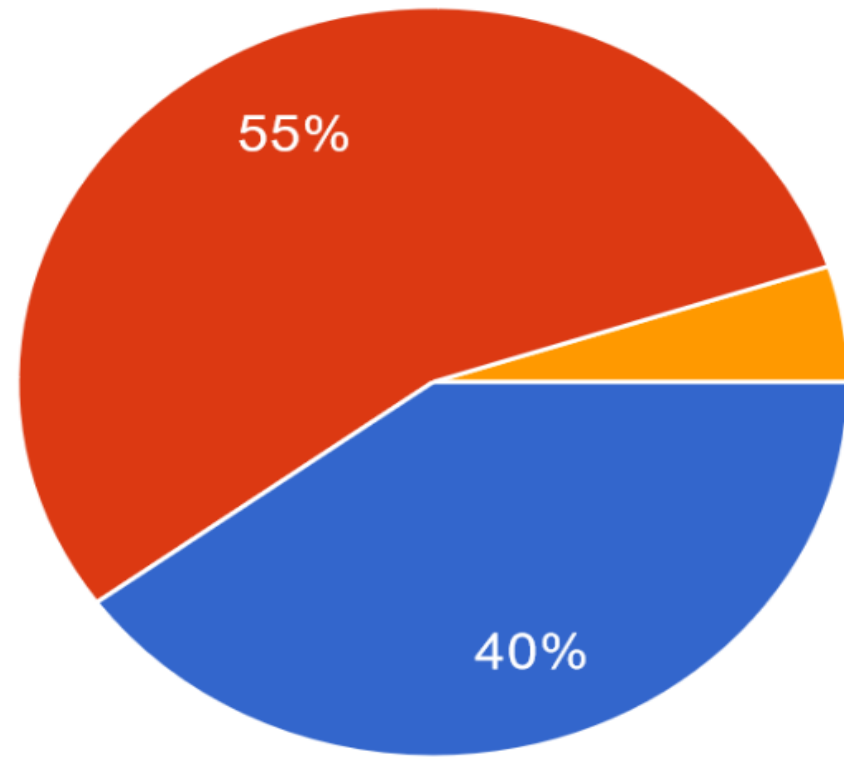


The Figure-3 illustrated by impact of quota Reform movement on business or what among informal sector workers a significant portion 60% experienced a particular shutdown another 25% of business or work completely shut down manual 5% faces a significant reduction in operations though not a complete shutdown, notably there was no recorded minimal this disruption.

Result

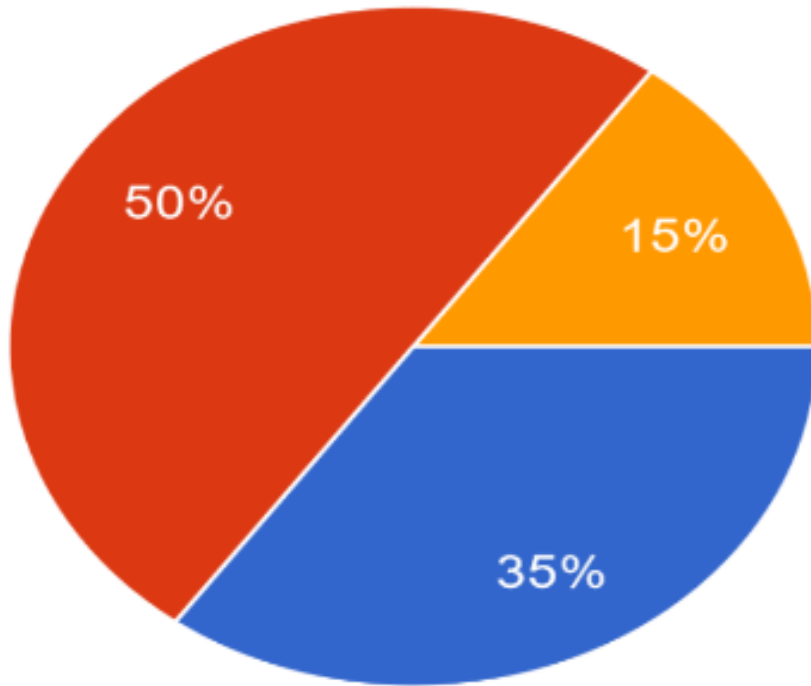
Impact on Income

In the Figure-4, We see in that most of the respondent claim that their income is substantially impacted, the percentage is 55%, besides, 45% respondent says their income is moderately impacted.



- Substantial decrease
- Moderate decrease
- No change
- Slight increase

Result

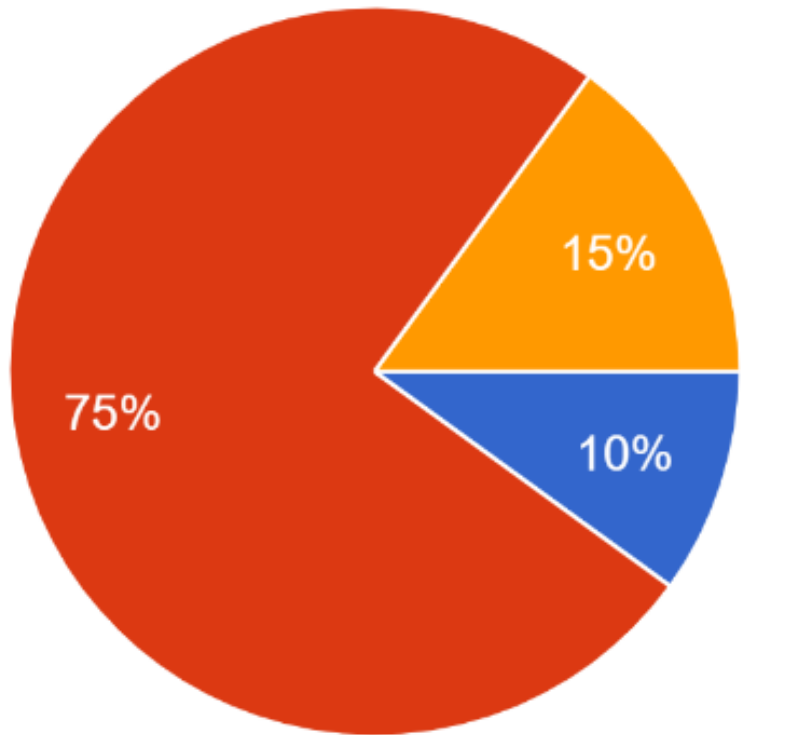


- Severely disrupted
- Moderately disrupted
- Minor disruptions
- No impact

Disruptions in the supply chain

In the Figure-5, When it comes to disruptions in the supply chain or access to raw materials, levels of disruption can be categorized as Severely Disrupted (35%), Moderately Disrupted (55%), Minor Disruption (15%)

Result

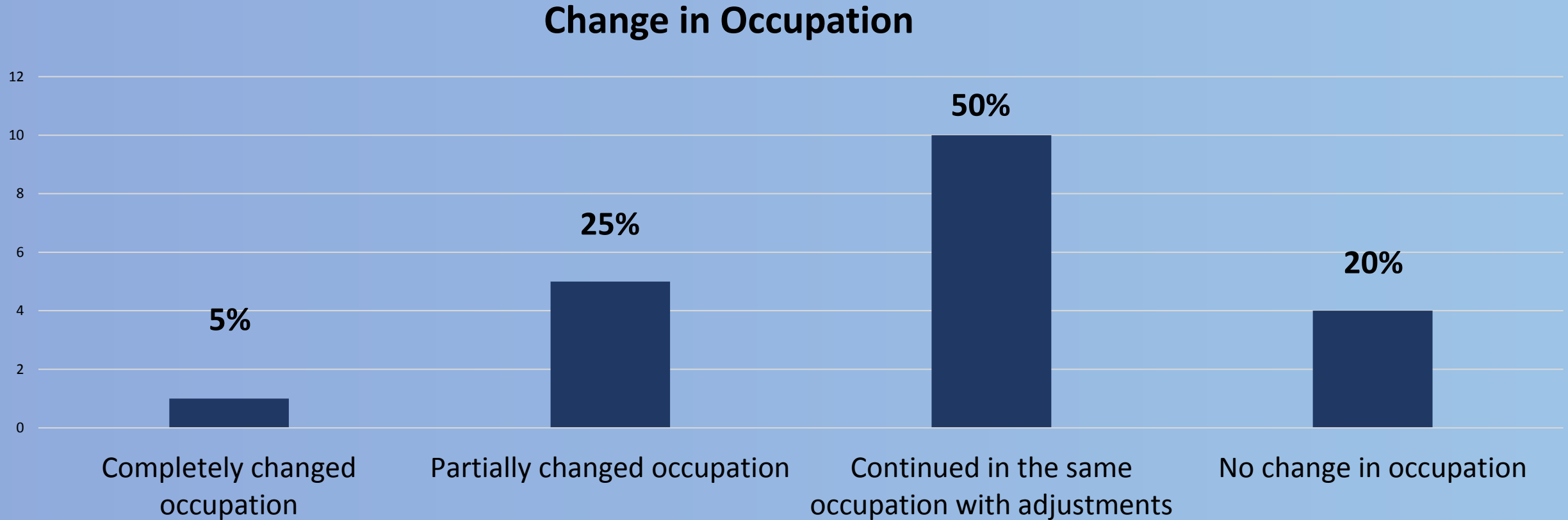


- Found customers
- Faced challenges in finding customers
- Unable to find customers

Finding customers

The pie chart illustrates the distribution of customer acquisition outcomes during the quota reform movement. The largest portion, represented by 75%, consists of those facing challenges in finding customers., 10%, represents those who were able to find customers successfully despite the challenges posed by the reform. The final 15% segment highlights those who were completely unable to find any customers.

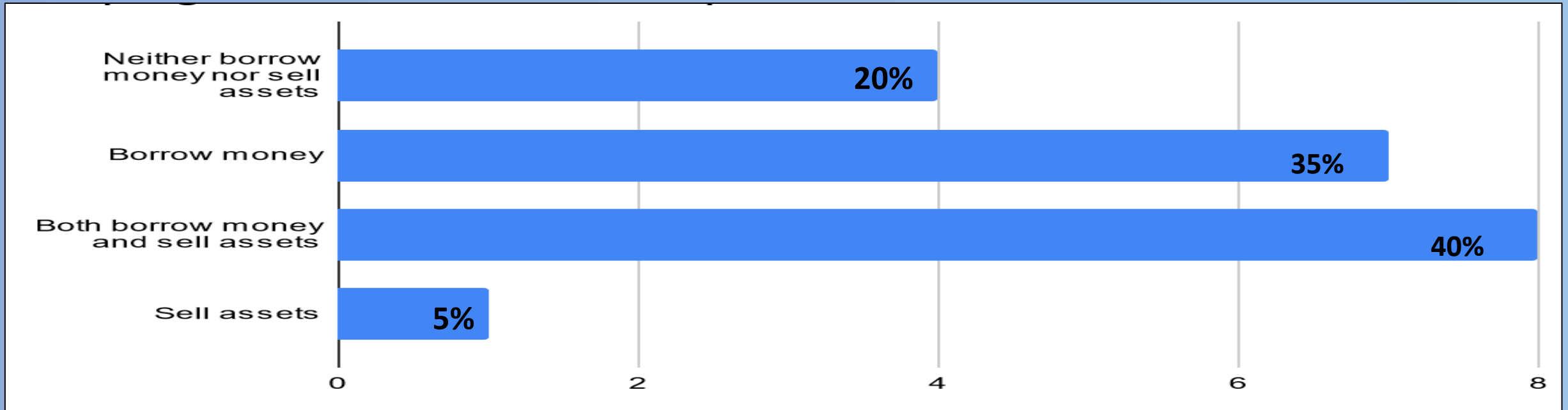
Result



Half of the population adapted their current roles, a quarter switched careers, and 20% remained unchanged. No one made a complete career overhaul.

Result

Coping with the financial impact of the Quota Movement



To depict coping with the financial impact of the quota movement using a bar chart, you can categorize different coping strategies or measures taken and their effectiveness. Here's a suggested structure: The bar chart follows the coping with the financial impact of quota movement neither borrow money nor sell assets is 20%, borrow money 35%, both borrow money and sell assets 40%, and sell assets 5%.

Discussion

- **Impact of Quota Reform Movement:** The movement had a significant impact on the informal sector, leading to business closures, income reduction, and supply chain disruptions.
- **Psychological Impact:** The economic hardships caused by the reform have negatively affected the mental health and well-being of respondents.
- **Coping Mechanisms:** Respondents have employed various strategies to cope with the financial impact, including borrowing money and selling assets.
- **Future Outlook:** While there is hope for economic recovery, many respondents are uncertain about their future plans and are considering alternative occupations.

Conclusion

The 2024 Quota Reform Movement negatively impacted Barisal City's informal sector workers, leading to decreased business, income, and job security. Supply chain disruptions, reduced demand, and increased costs worsened their situation. The movement also took a psychological toll, causing stress, anxiety, and isolation. Targeted support like microcredit, skills training, and social protection is crucial. Policymakers should prioritize the needs of this vulnerable group in future policies. This study highlights the importance of considering the impact of social movements on marginalized populations and the need for inclusive development strategies.

Thank You