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## Social capital and accessing services and support during COVID-19 in informal settlements of Dhaka, Bangladesh: A cross sectional study

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Inspiring Excellence



ARISE is a multi-country Hub with partners in the UK, Sierra Leone, India, Bangladesh and Kenya.

# Social Capital

## Social Capital

(1) Structural networks & relationships (2) Cognitive values & perceptions

Micro (Individual)

Meso (Community)

Macro (Civic/ State)

Bonded Social Capital

Strong homogenous relations & networks

Bridged Social Capital

Weaker heterogenous relations & networks

Linked Social Capital

Connections with Civic organizations & Government

Formal

Informal

Ref: Lewis, J. M., DiGiacomo, M., Lockett, T., Davidson, P. M., & Currow, D. C. (2013). A social capital framework for palliative care: supporting health and well-being for people with life-limiting illness and their carers through social relations and networks. *Journal of pain and symptom management*, 45(1), 92-103.

Pichler, F., & Wallace, C. (2007). Patterns of formal and informal social capital in Europe. *European sociological review*, 23(4), 423-435.

## Objective of the study

To explore different forms of social capital networks, exist in urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh and how these social capital networks were helpful during the pandemic



Kallyanpur pora bosti

Dholpur

Shyampur

# Method

A Cross-sectional study with Qualitative approach was conducted in three urban slums of Dhaka city From 21<sup>st</sup> October'20- 12<sup>th</sup> January'21.

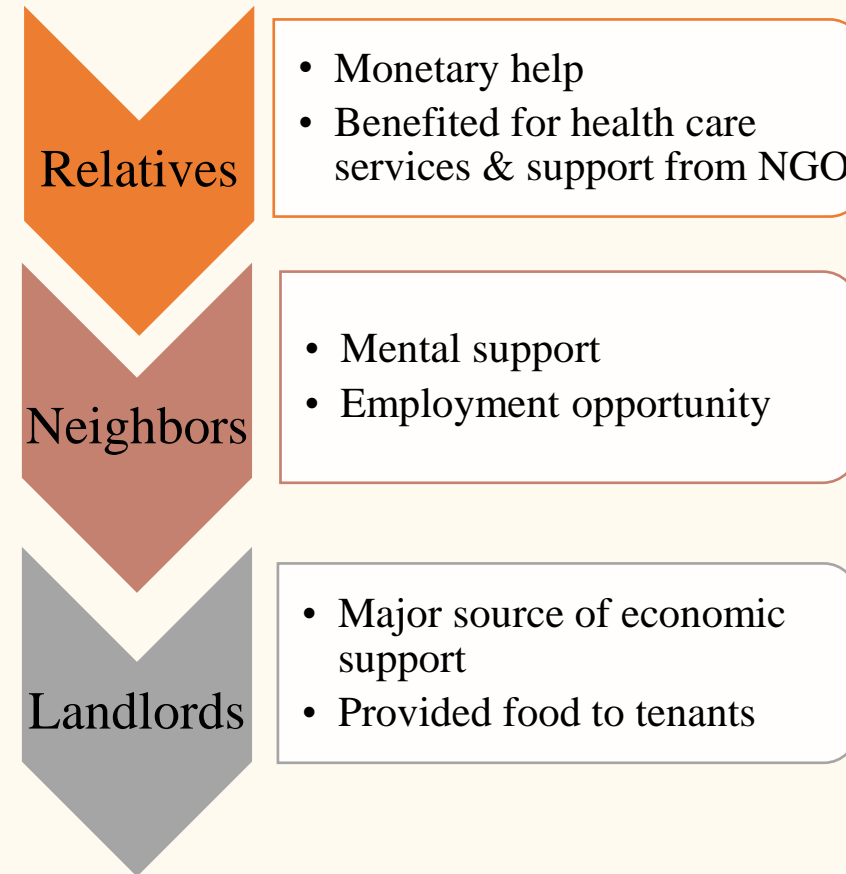
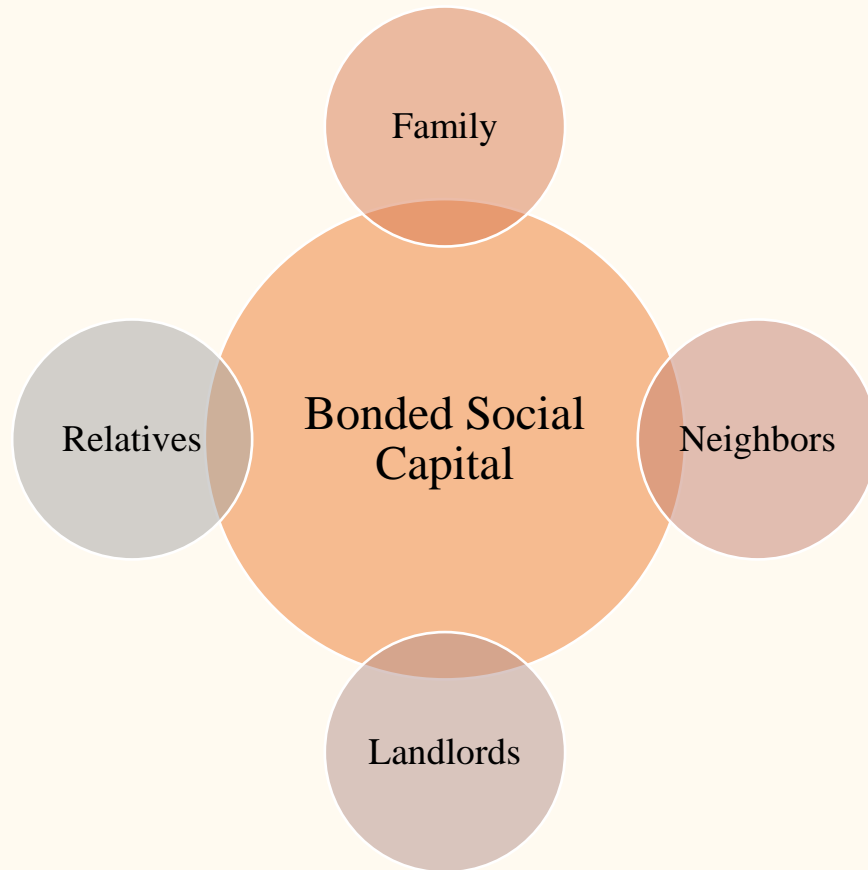
In total 30 in-depth phone interviews were carried out using a semi structured guideline.

Snowballing sampling technique was followed, and verbal consents were obtained beforehand.

# Findings

Socio-demographic characteristics		No. of the participants (N=30)
<b>Gender</b>	Male	8
	Female	22
<b>Marital status</b>	Married	21
	Widow	3
	Divorced/ separated	4
	Unmarried	2
<b>Age Range</b>		18-80 Years
<b>Average Family Size</b>		5
<b>Monthly income</b>	6000-10000 taka (USD70-119)	11
	11000-20000 taka (USD 120 – 235)	13
	>20000 taka (USD >235)	3

# Bonded Social Capital



*“During the lockdown, my landlady didn’t take rent. I still owe her 8000 taka. I must repay that amount of course! No one gives this kind of help.” (KL\_02\_F)*

# Bridged Social Capital



Local committee/clubs



Local storekeepers



Local pharmacies



Loan sharks

## Local committee/clubs

- Availing benefits of having membership of different community groups
- Getting access to the relief and aids, loans etc.

## Local pharmacies

- Selling medicines on credit
- Provision of treatment to the marginalized community members

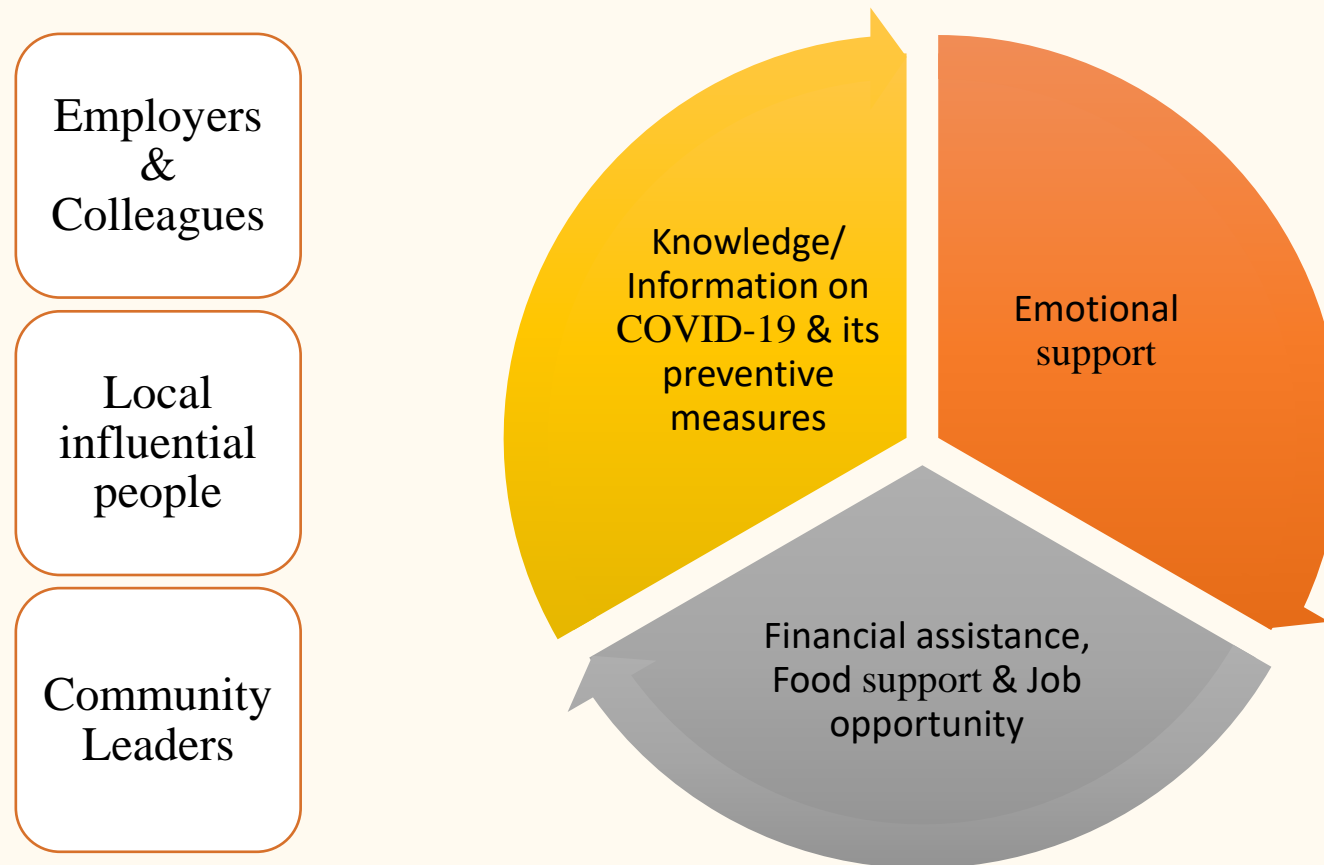
## Local storekeepers

- Supported through providing food & goods on loan/credit

*“A lot of women are now CDO members. Women are now more interested in becoming a CDO member...because they get a lot of help and relief during coronavirus...if you are with a committee, you can get things somehow...a few days ago, they gave some soaps and all...” (SP\_09\_M)*



## Linked Social Capital



*"My father previously used to be a Waste collector, and so he had a good connection with CI (who is responsible for ensuring the waste collection of every ward). During the lockdown as our business was not going well and so he asked the CI for work, and then my father could join the job with the help of CI "* (DP\_08\_M)

## Conclusion & Recommendations

- ❑ Strengthening different forms of social capital is vital in building urban resilience and
- ❑ This study emphasized the prevailing social capital networks and their roles during COVID-19.
- ❑ People having strong connections within the society or familiarity with powerful local officials were found to be privileged in getting access to support, services and assistance

## Acknowledgements



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**Thank you**

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