

**AUTOMATION OF DATA ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE SLUM
CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF KHULNA CITY, BANGLADESH**

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It is noticed that the children living in the slums and squatters in the urban areas of Bangladesh like other third world cities do habitat in the sub-human conditions in terms of minimum requirements of water, sanitation, drainage, and places to sleep and play. This has tremendous impact on the health condition of the slum children. The environmental problem faced by the children is more acute in the larger cities compared to that of the medium and smaller cities. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with the assistance of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international donors has undertaken different plans and programmes to address the environmental problems encountered by the children. Reviewing all these plans and programmes, it has been found out that no attempt has so far been made to create a data bank as well as arrange for automation of data and information on the environmental issues and problems of the children living in the low income settlements of the cities and town of Bangladesh either at the city level or at the central level. In fact, it is very pertinent that there should have arrangement for automation of data and information on various aspects of the environmental problems of the children so that data and information can be stored, retrieved, retreat, rearrange, update, etc. This is needed not only by the policy makers to take appropriate measures but also for the wider use by the GOs, NGOs and potential private parties to undertake need based plans and programmes to deal with the environmental problems of the slum children. However, the present paper has a made an attempt to discuss the need, the technical and other problems and potentials of data automation on the environmental affairs of the slum children of a metropolitan city of Bangladesh viz. Khulna.