

The Socio-economic background of Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Cadre Officials

Dr. Rahima Khaton¹, Md. Mahmudul Hoque² and Paritosh Chandra Das³

Abstract

This study explores some of major developments and trends in the socioeconomic background of Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Cadre officials during 1990 to 2017. In this respect, the socio-economic background of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) cadre officers who underwent the Law and Administration Course organized by Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy have been taken into consideration to understand their socio-economic background. This study found that BCS (Administration) cadre officials are highly educated and come from highly educated family as well. A positive trend is observed in the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officials.

Keywords: Bangladesh Civil Service, Socio-economic background, BCS (Administration) cadre.

Introduction

Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) is emerged from the former Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) and Indian Civil Service (ICS). The Indian Civil Servants were from landlord class or privileged urban society with their educational system in western style (Alam 2009). The CSP officers were also educated and cultured in western style. Following the tradition of British-Indian Civil Servants, the CSP officers were isolated from the people and they were considered as elite group. Due to the elitism of CSP officers, people are deprived to avail their service properly. The socio-economic status of the ICS officers was also high (Jahan 2007). In the beginning of BCS, most of the officers were from CSP and EPCS officers and their socio-economic level were high as well. In this way, the bureaucratic elitism in Bangladesh inherited a transformed version of the British colonial administrative legacy (Zafarullah 2007).

Moreover, the ICS was mainly dominated by men. Women participation were totally absent in the ICS upto 1935 (Jahan 2007). In the Civil Service of Pakistan, women recruitment are considered only for four services, namely 1) Audit and Accounts Service, 2) Railway Accounts Service, 3) Military Accounts Service and 4) Income Tax and Postal Services. It was believed that females were not appropriate for field level or administrative cadres to perform field visit and inspection, maintain law and order situation and to collect revenue. It was also found that the women representation in the entry level of BCS (Administration) cadre were poor (Sultana 2017). In Bangladesh Civil Service Government has taken lots of initiatives to promote the female in the civil service. So, it is important to know what is the present situation of women involvement in the BCS.

At present, the BCS cadre officers are Bangladeshi and their socio-economic background was not studied too much. Only the socio-economic background of civil servants of Bangladesh has been studied up to the year of 1990 (Alam 2009). After that no attempts were taken to find out the socio-economic status of BCS officials so far. Bangladesh now has become a lower middle-income country due to its constant economic growth since 2000. It seems interesting looking into the socio-economic background of recent recruits (after 2000) in order to properly understand the developments and the trends.

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Among the all cadre services, BCS (Administration) cadre is one of the leading services. The history and traditions of BCS (Administration) cadre go back to the British colonial period as well. Furthermore, the BCS (Administration) Cadre Officers hold important positions in the Secretariate as well as in the field administration. So, it is very important to find out the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) Cadre officials.

As the career is the intersection of the societal history and individual biography (Grandjean 1981), in this research we have studied the male-female ratio, the religion, rural-urban background, educational background, parents education and occupation, siblings education and profession, parents income, household income of BCS (Administration) cadre officials.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to understand the developments and trends of the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers.

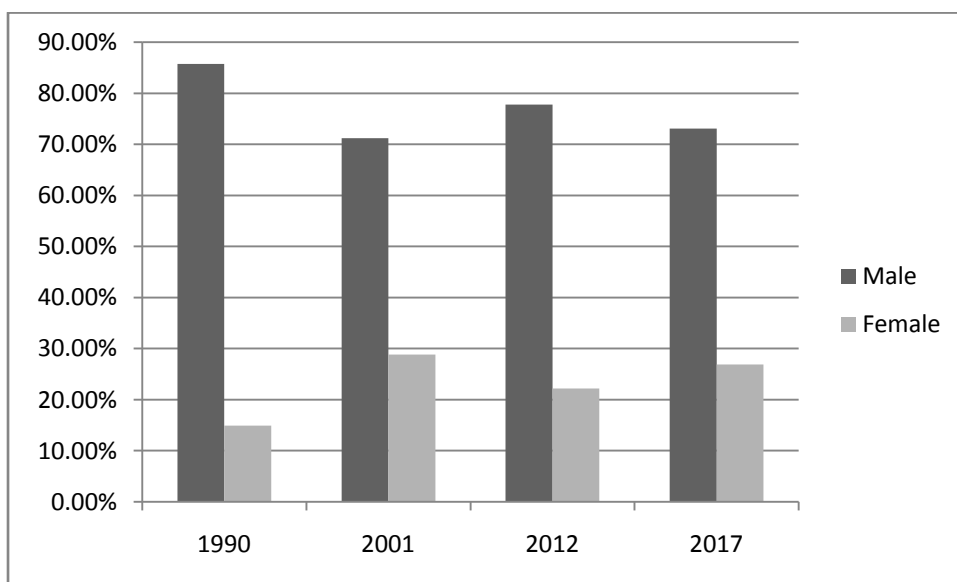
Methodology

This study takes the quantitative research approach within the context of socio-economic condition of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. Data was collected from the records of Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy as almost all of the BCS (Administration) cadre officials have received Law and Administration training from this Academy. The socio-economic information of the BCS (Administration) cadre officers was taken from the year of 2000 to 2017. Sex, area of living, family income status, length of study, area of study/faculty, type of institution s/he studied, religion etc were collected from the registration form of the Law and Administration Course conducted by the BCS Administration Academy. The Collected data was design in a time series to understand the trends. The data was also compared with the findings what Alam & Rahman (1993) found. The analysis helps us to understand the trends as well as to make comparisons. The data of 59 officers of 40-42nd Law and Administration Course held on 2000-2001 are treated as data of 2001. The data of 33 officers of 81-83rd Law and Administration Course held on 2012 are treated as the data of 2012. Moreover, the data of 108 officers of 98-101th Law and Administration course held on 2016-2017 are treated as the data of 2017. The socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers studied by Alam and Rahman (1993) is considered as the data of 1990.

Results and Discussion

Male-Female ratio

Figure 1 indicates the male-female ratio of BCS (Administration) cadre officials in the year of 1990 to 2017. It is found that in the year of 1990 the male officers was 85.71% and the female officers are 14.92%. The scenario is changed in the year of 2001. After 10 years i.e in the year of 2001 female officers are significantly increased and it was achieved 28.8%. It is also observed that the percentage of female participants is approximately constant up to the year of 2017. Even though this trend is very positive for women empowerment and women participation in government decision making process, the ratio of female officers is not yet reasonable and satisfactory. Females are lagging behind in number in BCS (Administration) cadre service. Socio-economic development of Bangladesh cannot be achieved in the real sense without the strong participation of the female at the decision making activities. All types of conveniences and chances are needed to be delivered to ensure active participation of female in BCS (Administration) cadre service.



Sex	1990 (%)	2001(%)	2012(%)	2017(%)
Male	85.71	71.2	77.8	73.1
Female	14.92	28.8	22.2	26.9

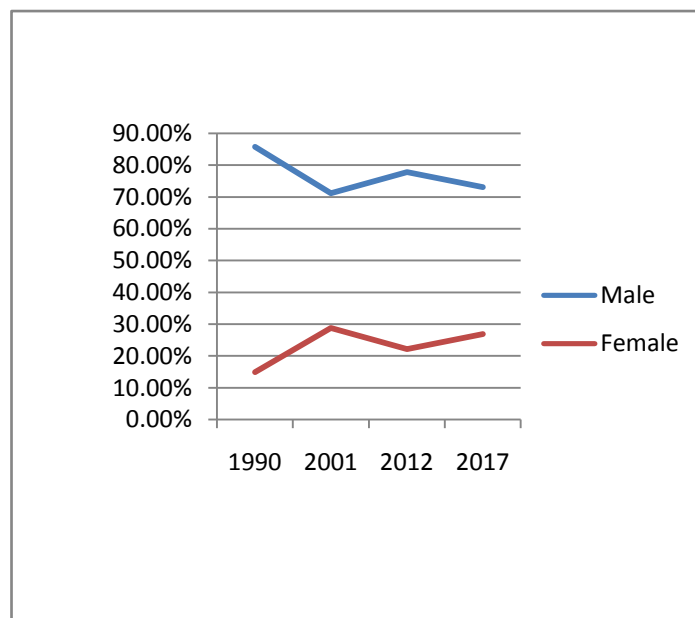


Figure 1: Male-female statistics of BCS (Administration) cadre officer

Religious background

Figure 2 shows the religion wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. In 1990 the officers of 77.55% was Muslim and 22.45% was Hindu. In 2001 the officers of Muslim religion was 96.60% and Hindu religion was only 3.4% which is reduced drastically. In 2012 and 2017 the officer of Hindu religion is again increased. Except the Muslim and Hindu religion the participation of other religions are 0% in the year of 1990 to 2012. In 2017 the other religion officers are found as 2.8%. It is found that the Muslim religion officers are much more in number than that of Hindu religion in BCS (Administration) cadre service due to the majority of the Muslim population in Bangladesh.

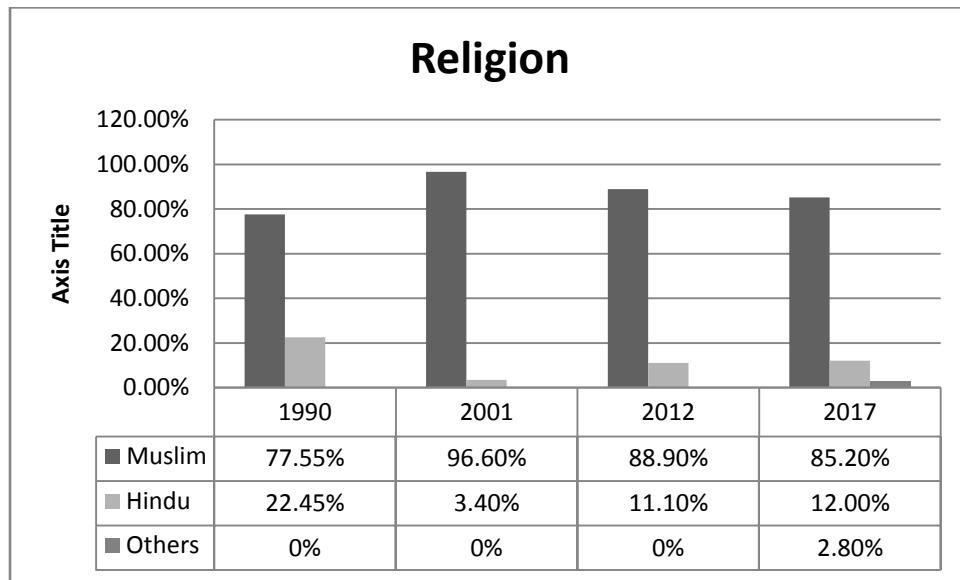


Figure 2: Religion wise statistics of BCS(Administration) cadre officers

Division-wise background

Bangladesh is divided into eight divisions and 64 districts (Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh 2016). How many officers are coming from which division and which division's populations are prominent in BCS (Administration) cadre is studied. Table 1 shows the division wise background of BCS (Administration) Cadre officers. It is found that in 2001 the maximum 28.8%, in 2012 maximum 31.7% officers and in 2017 maximum 30.6% officers are from Dhaka division. In 2001 the second highest percent of officers

		Year					
		2001		2012		2017	
		Count	Total %	Count	Total %	Count	Total %
Division	Dhaka	17	28.8%	20	31.7%	33	30.6%
	Chittagong	10	16.9%	11	17.5%	23	21.3%
	Khulna	6	10.2%	14	22.2%	12	11.1%
	Rajshahi	3	5.1%	2	3.2%	17	15.7%
	Sylhet	3	5.1%	0	0.0%	4	3.7%
	Barishal	6	10.2%	1	1.6%	6	5.6%
	Rangpur	5	8.5%	9	14.3%	8	7.4%
	Mymensingh	9	15.3%	6	9.5%	5	4.6%

Table:1 Division –wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

Officers are from Chittagong division. In 2012 the second highest percent of officers are from Khulna division which is 22.2% and in 2017 the second highest percent of officers are from Chittagong division which is 21.3%. In 2001-2017 the minimum percent of officers are from Sylhet division which is 5.1%, 0% and 3.7% in 2001, 2012 and 2017 respectively. Besides, in 2001 about 10.2% officers are from Khulna division, in 2012 about 17.5% and 14.3% officers are from Chittagong and Rangpur division, respectively. In 2017 about 15.7% officers are from Rajshahi division. It indicates that people from Dhaka division are comparatively most interested to the BCS (Administration) cadre service and people of Sylhet division are not interested to the BCS (Administration) cadre service.

Urban-rural background

The urban rural background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers has been studied. The officer from Upazilasadar, Pouroshova, City corporation and District sadar is considered as officer from urban area and

otherwise it is considered as rural area. Figure 3 shows the urban-rural statistics of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. It is found that 73.47% officers are from urban and 24.49% officers are from rural area in 1990. In 2001 urban officers are drastically reduced to 52.50% and the rural officers are significantly increased to 47.50%. After that upto 2017 the urban and rural ratio are approximately constant. From 2001 to 2017 the average urban and rural officers are 54.13% and 45.87% respectively. It is very significance because the officers from the rural area are very near to 50% means the rural development is expanding day by day. This is very significant and fundamental change of the officers compared to 1990.

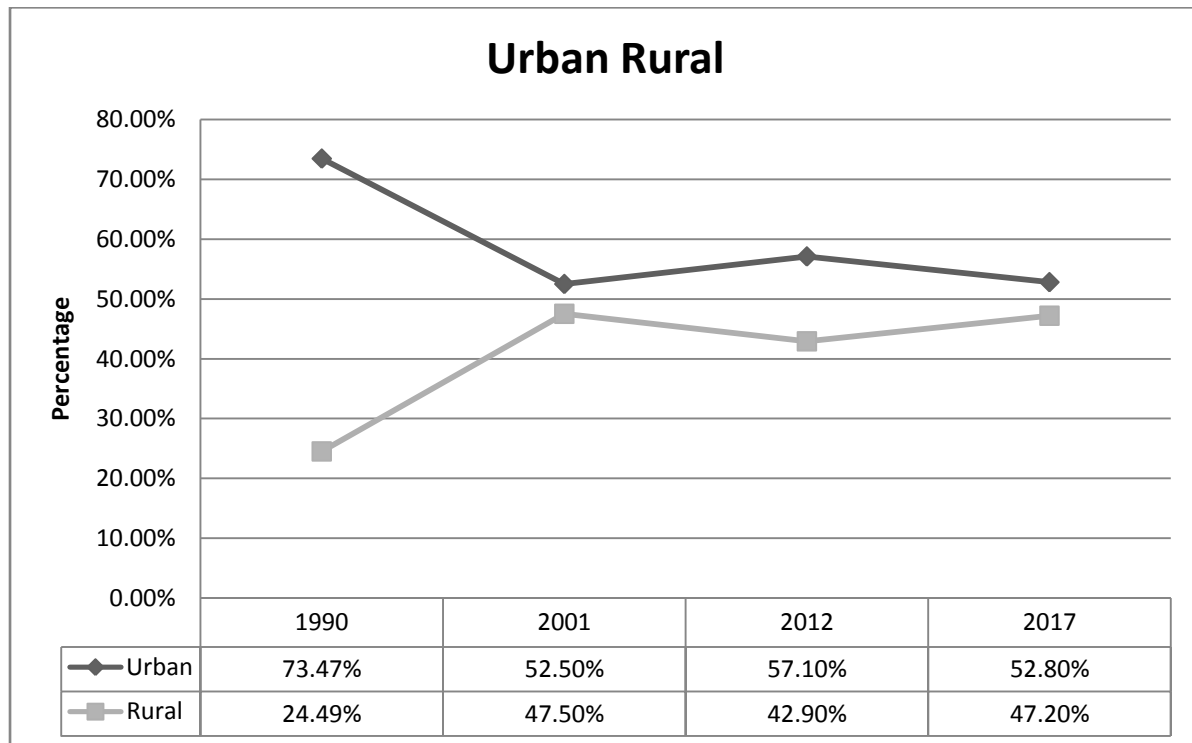


Figure 3: Urban-rural statistics of BCS(Administration) cadre officers

Educational background

The educational background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers has been studied. Figure 4&Figure 5 indicate the educational background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. It is found that from the year of 1990 to 2017 highest educational levels of the officers is master and about 70-85 % officers are master degree holder. In 1990 only 8.16% officers are degree pass and in the year of 2012 and 2017 there is no degree pass officer. The percentage of masters pass officers is increased with the passes of time. Therefore, it is understood that officers of BCS (Administration) cadre are highly educated and the education level is maintained continuously.

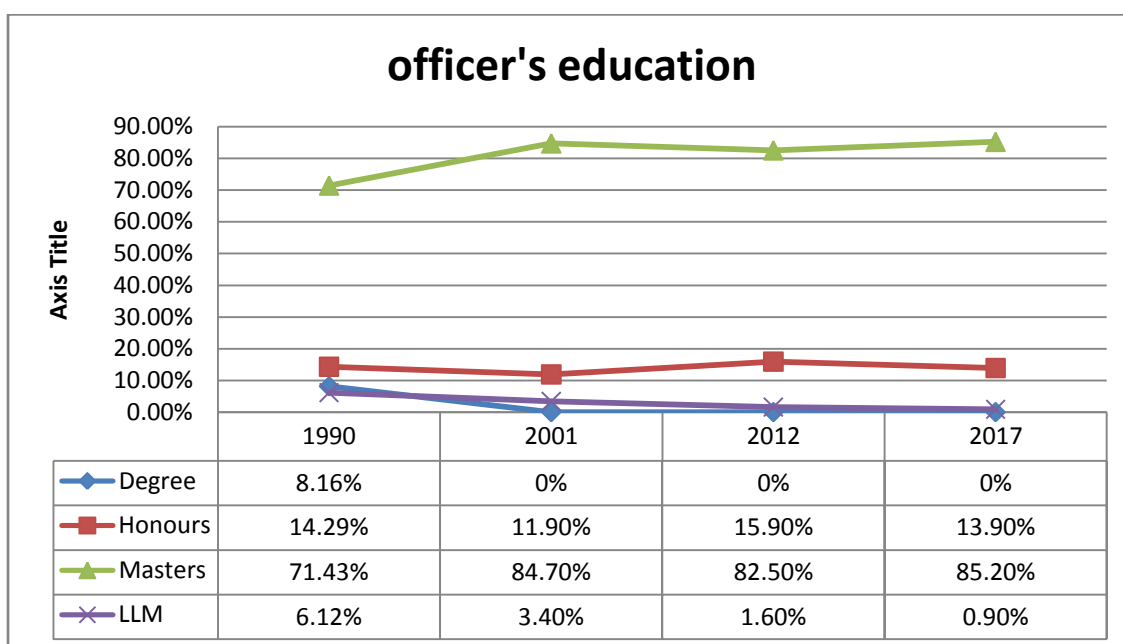
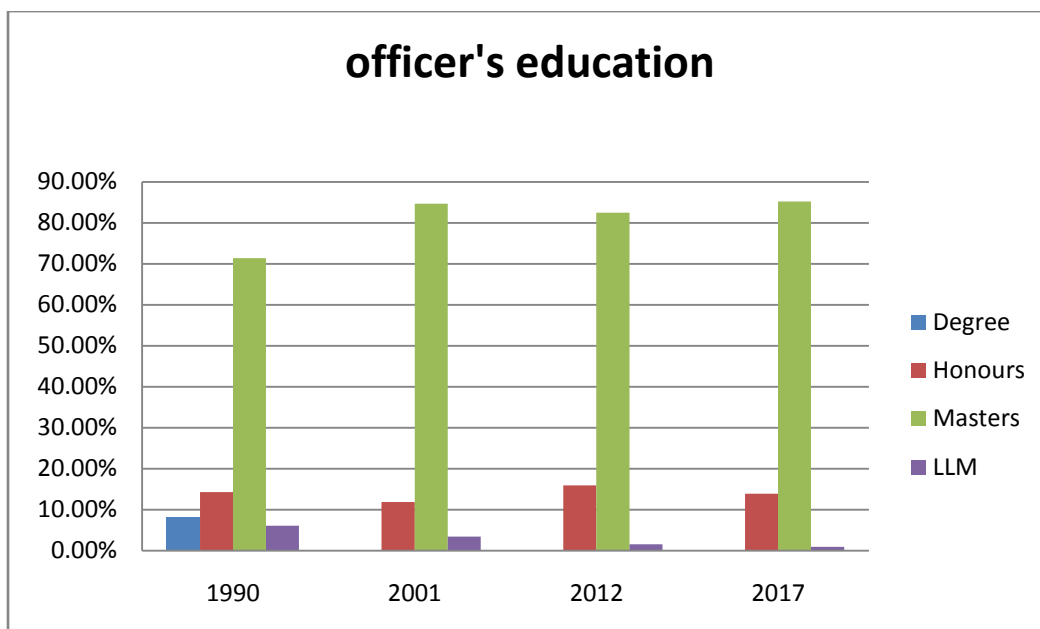


Figure 4: Educational statistic of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

Faculty-wise background

The faculty wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers has been studied. Here science faculty include the department of pure science, applied science, medical science, engineering and agriculture; art faculty means department of Bangla, English, General History, Islamic History, Sociology, Social Welfare and Commerce faculty means Department of Economics, Management, Accounting. Figure 5 indicates the faculty wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. In 1990 officers from the art faculty was maximum with the percentage of 76.81% and from the science faculty it was only 13.4%. After 10 years this ratio becomes just opposite of 1990. That is, in the year of 2001 officers from the science faculty was 74.6% and officers from the art faculty was only 16.9%. Afterwards, in the year of 2012 and 2017 maximum officers are from the science faculty and the percentage of the officers is also significant. Over the sixteen years this trend is maintained. In the year of 2001 to 2017 the average percentage of the officers from the science faculty was 73.4% and that of from arts faculty was 19.75%.

Compare to year of 1990 it is just opposite indicating a significant change. Further research is needed to find out the reason. Therefore, the science faculty students are most interested to the BCS (Administration) cadre service.

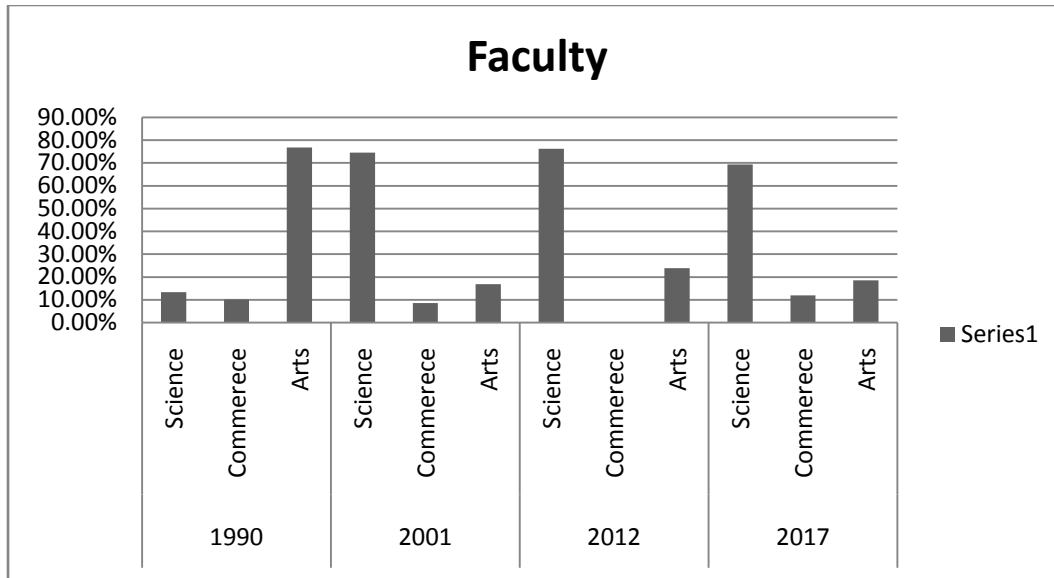


Figure 5: Faculty wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

University –wise background

Due to the limitation of the availability of data the University wise background is studied only for the year of 2017. Figure 6 and 7 show the University wise background of the officers. It is observed that 88% officers are from Public University. Among the Public Universities, maximum officers are from Dhaka University.

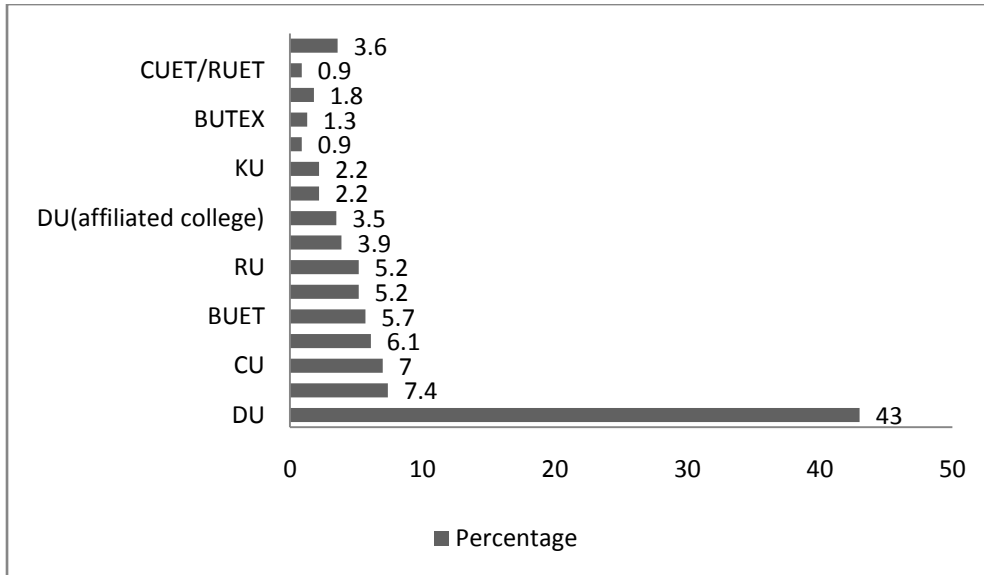


Figure 6: University wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

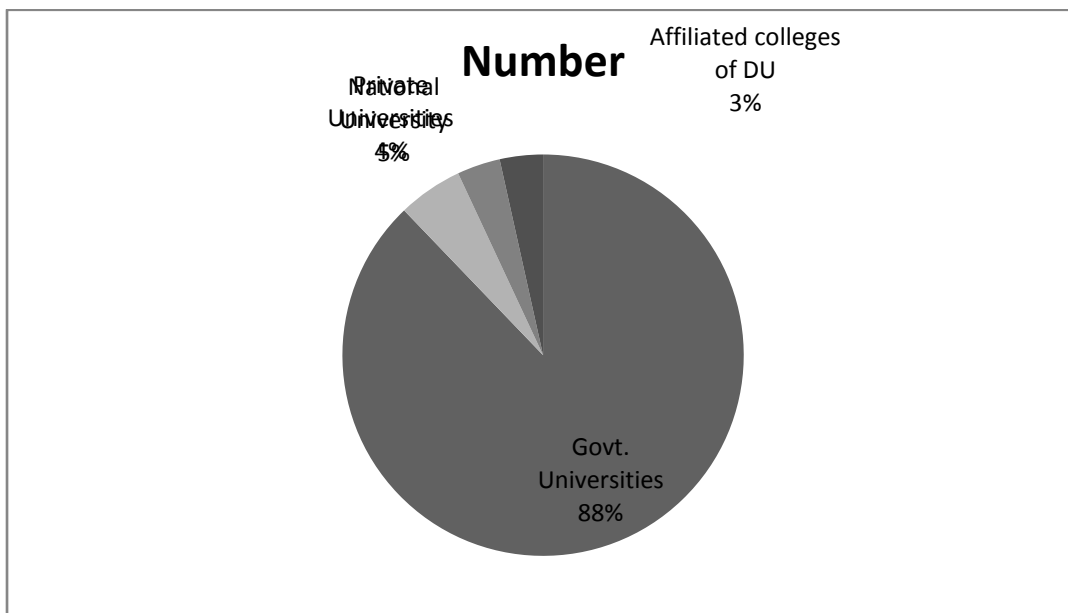


Figure 7: Pie chart of University wise background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

Father's educational background

The BCS (Administration) cadre officer's father's educational background has been studied. Figure 8 shows the officer's father's educational qualification from the year of 1990 to 2017. In 1990 only 2.01% officers fathers are master pass whereas in 2017 about 21.3% officers father are master pass. In 2017 it is also found that 26.90% officer's fathers are degree pass, 18.50% are higher secondary pass, 18.50% are high school pass and only 2.8% are primary passed. In 1990 degree pass officer's father was 16.58%, higher secondary pass was 11.56%, high school pass was 37.19% and primary pass was 10.50%. It is found that from 1990 to 2017, the percentage of primary pass father is reduced and the percentage of

master pass father is increased significantly. So, it reflects that the educational qualification of officer's father is become higher with the passes of time. It means BCS (Administration) cadre officers are from educated family.

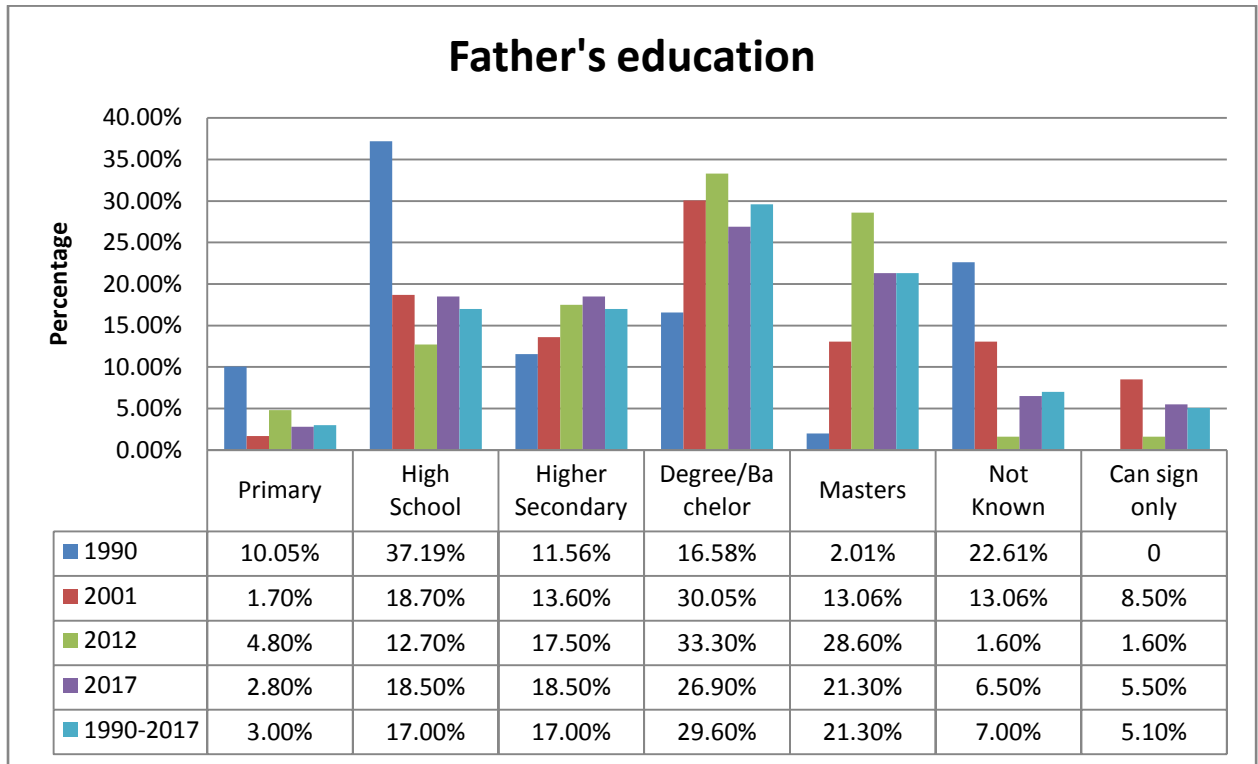


Figure 8: Father's educational background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers

Father's occupation

The BCS (Administration) cadre officer's father's occupation has been studied in the year of 1990 to 2017. Figure 9 shows the BCS (Administration) cadre officer's father occupational status. It is found that 40.00% officers father are government official, 8.00% are school, college and university teacher, 12.00% are businessman, 8.00% are Lawyer and 32.00% are Land owner or farmer in 1990. It indicates that in 1990 the BCS (Administration) cadre official's fathers are mostly government officials. On the other hand, after twenty seven years 23.90% officers fathers are government officials, 10.40% are school, college and university teacher, 15.60% are businessman, 9.40% are land owner and 3.1% are lawyer in 2017. Compare to the father's profession in 1990 with that of 2017 it is found that even though the percentage of officer's father's profession as a Government officials is maximum the percentage is reduced significantly. On the other hand, the percentage of farmer is reduced significantly as well.

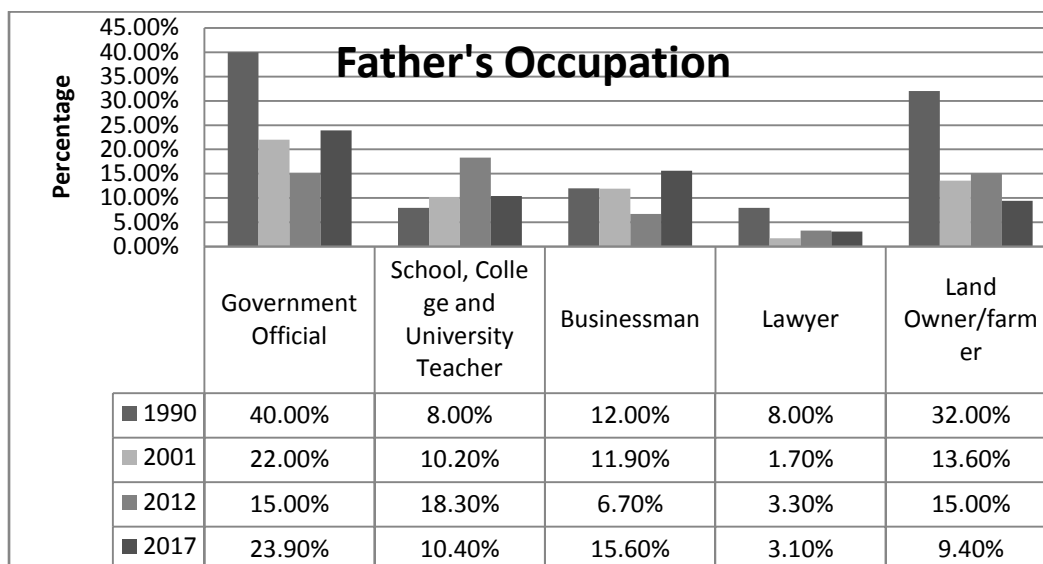


Figure 9: Statistic of BCS (Administration) cadre officials father's occupation

Mother's educational background

The BCS (Administration) cadre official's mother's educational background has been studied from the year 1990 to 2017. Figure 10 shows the mothers educational background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers. It is found that most of the mother is High School pass in 1990 & 2001. There is no master or degree pass mother in the year of 1990. After that the percentage of the master and degree pass mother is increased in the year of 2012 and 2017. It means officers mothers become more educated with the passes of time.

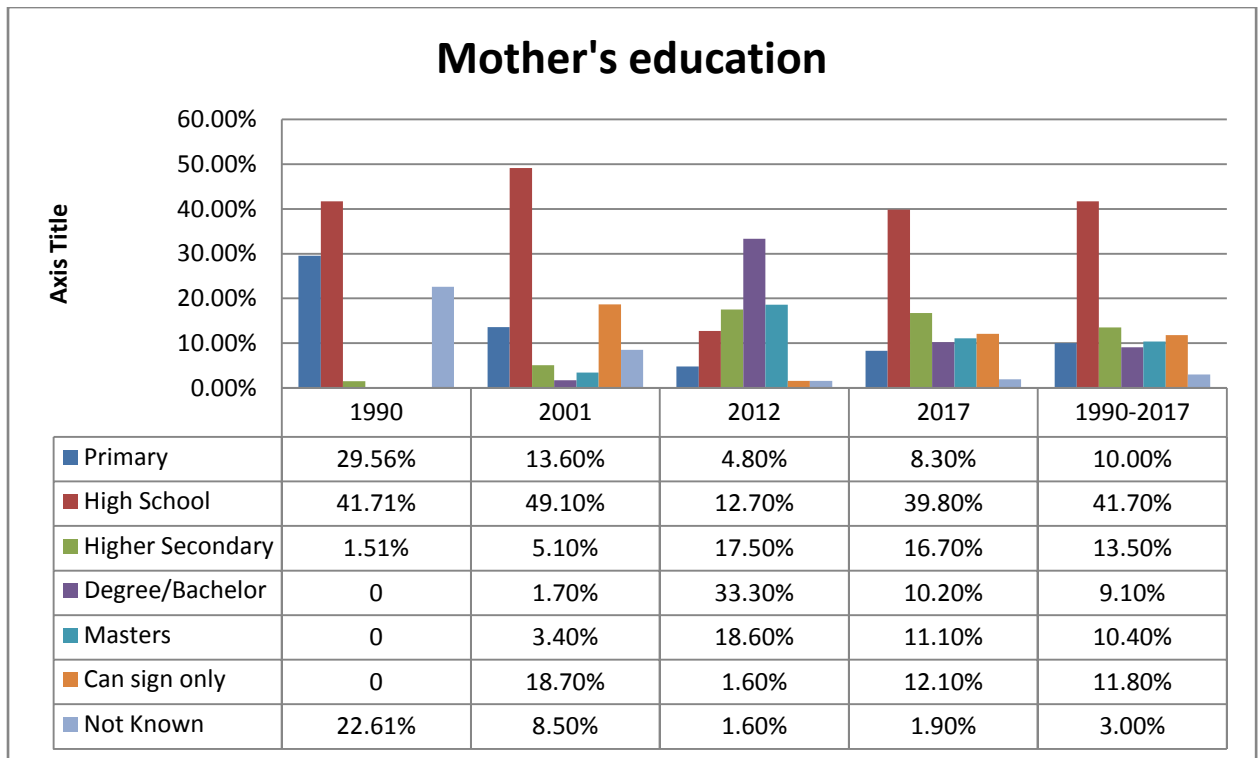


Figure 10: Statistics of BCS (Administration) cadre official's mother's educational background

Mother's occupation

Figure 11 and 12 show the BCS (Administration) cadre officials' mother's occupation. It is found that from 1990 to 2017 most of the mothers' profession is housewife. It is also found that the number of service holder mothers is increased gradually with the passes of time. From 2001 to 2017 the average 87.8% mother's profession is housewife, 4.3% school teacher, 2.2% government employee, 2.2% college teacher, 1.3% private service holder, 0.9% is BCS cadre, 0.4% is doctor and 0.4% is researcher.

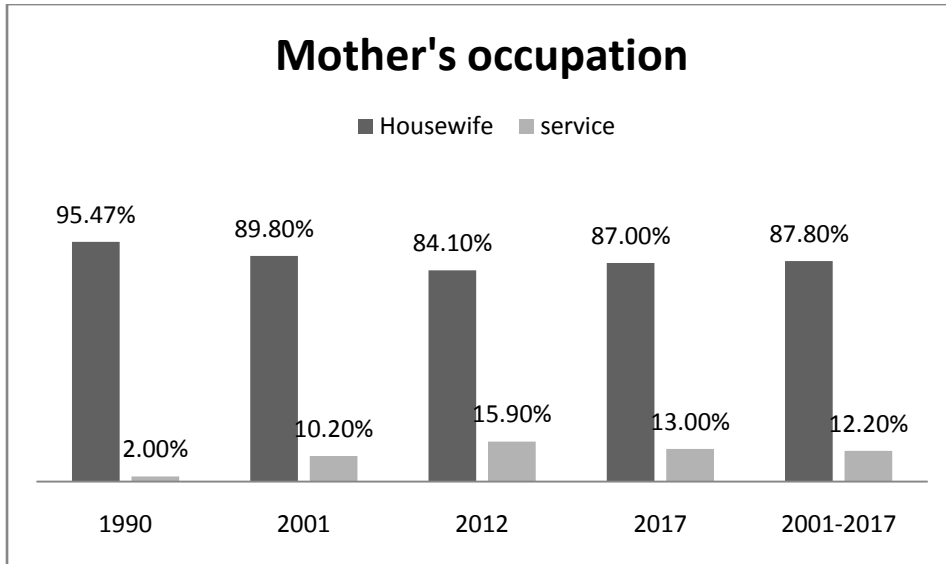


Figure 11: Statistics of BCS (Administration) cadre officials mother's occupation from the year of 1990 to 2017

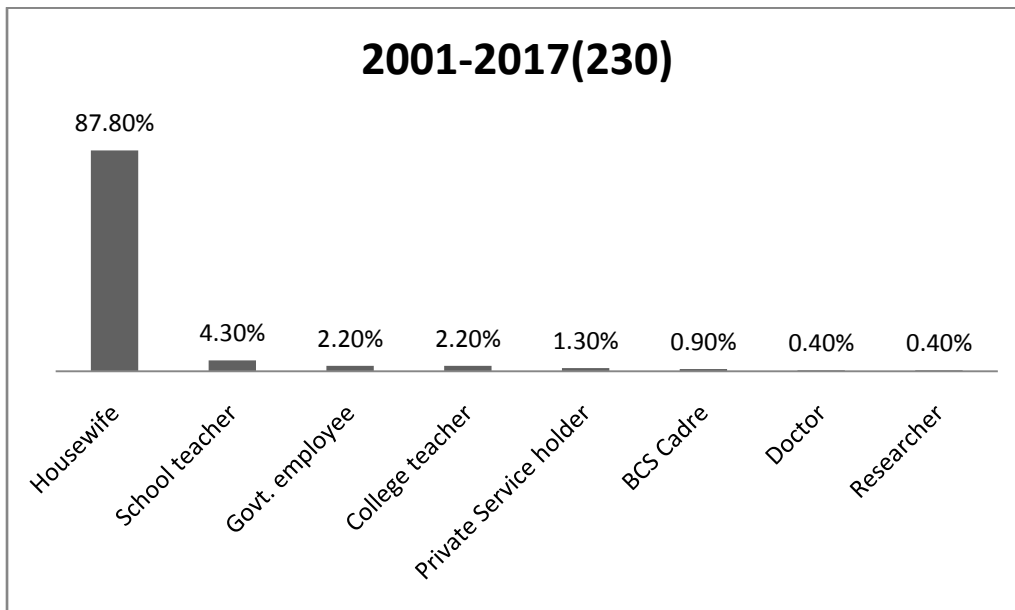


Figure 12: Statistics of BCS (Administration) cadre official's mother's occupation from the year of 2001 to 2017

Educational qualification of siblings

Figure 13 indicates the statistics of siblings educational background. In the year of 1990 maximum siblings educational background was secondary (28.8%) whereas in the year of 2017 maximum siblings were post graduated (43.60%). Compare to 1990 to that of 2017 the siblings are more educated in the year of 2017.

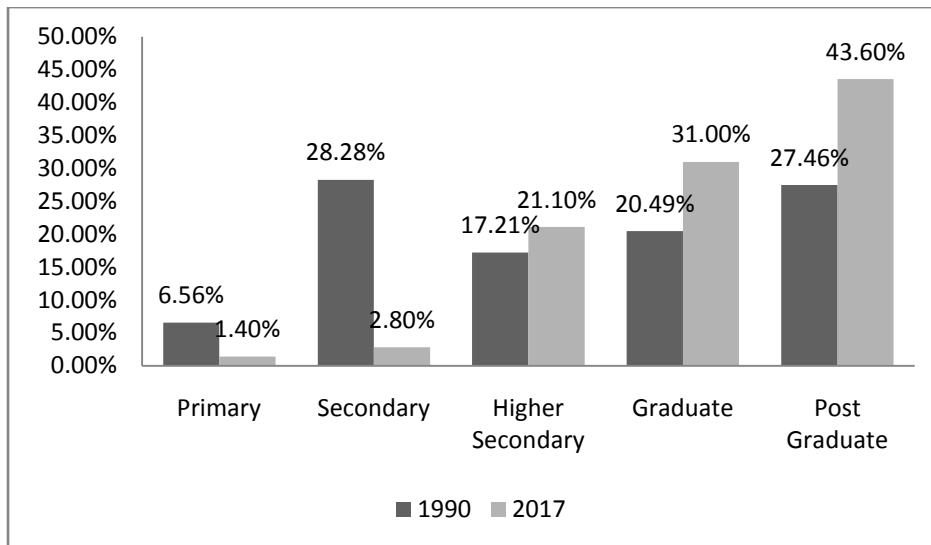
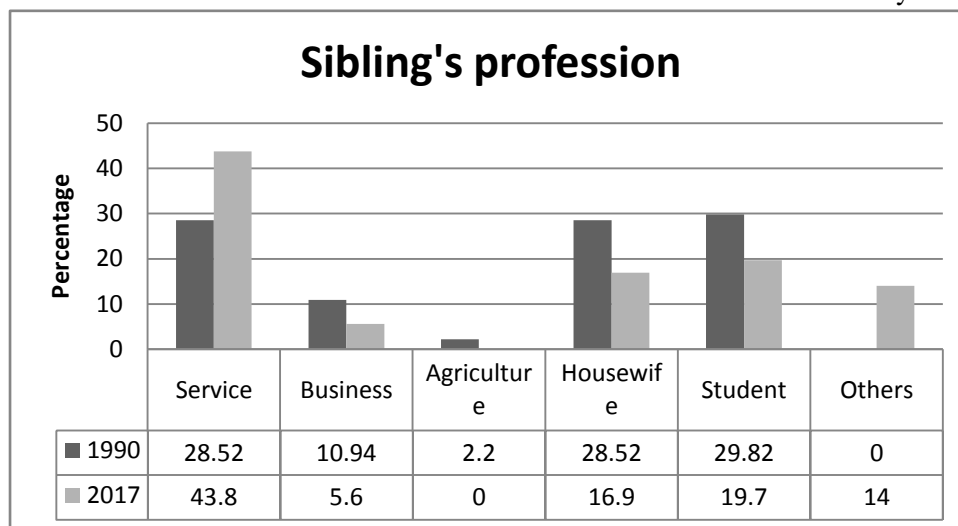


Figure 13: Statistics of sibling's educational background

Sibling's profession

Figure 14 shows the statistics of sibling's occupation. 28.52% siblings are service holder in 1990, whereas 43.8% siblings are service holder in 2017. Service holder siblings are increased significantly because in 1990 maximum percent (29.82%) of siblings were student and after twenty seven years these student become service holder. In the case of Agriculture profession only 2.2% sibling's occupation was agriculture in 1990 and in 2017 it reduces to 0%. Housewife also reduces in the year of 2017 compare to



1990.

Figure 14: Statistics of sibling's occupation

Father's income

Figure 15 and 16 show the statistics of father's income. In the year of 2017 only 46% officers father income was in the range of 10,000-30,000/- , 23% officers father income was up to 10,000/- and 8% officers father income was more than and/or equal to 50,000/- per month. In the year of 1990, 63.82% officer's father's income was 0 to 5000/- per month. If we compare the father's income in the year of 1990 with that of 2017 we find that father's income is drastically increased. It means the economic condition of our country is increased significantly.

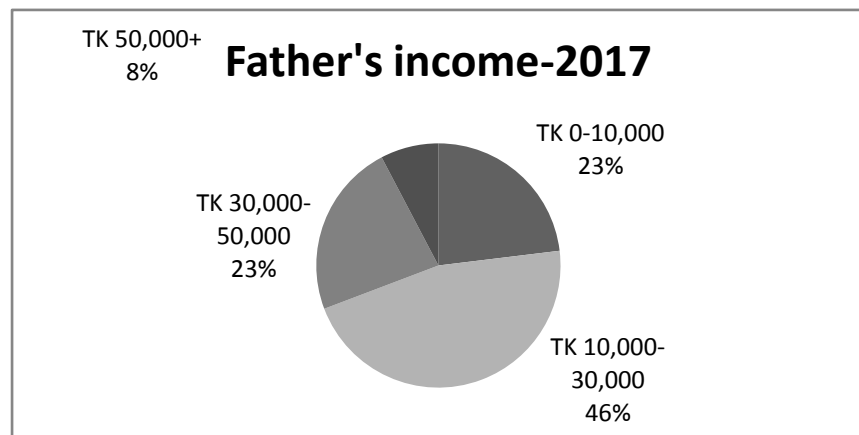


Figure 15: Statistics of father's income in the year of 2017

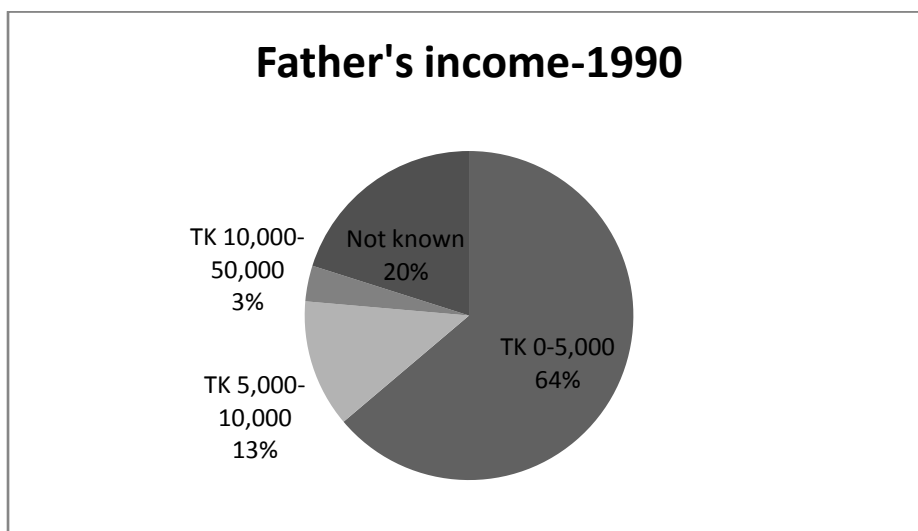


Figure 16: Statistics of father's income in the year of 1990

Household income

Figure 17 indicates the statistics of household income. If we consider the household income of the officers in the year of 2017 we found that 29.3% household income was 10,000-30,000/-taka, 25.1% household income was 30,000-50,000/-, 21% household income was 50,000-1,00,000/- per month and a significant percentage of 24.6% household income was equal to or more than Tk 1,00,000/-. It means the economic condition of the officers family is far better than that of the 1990.

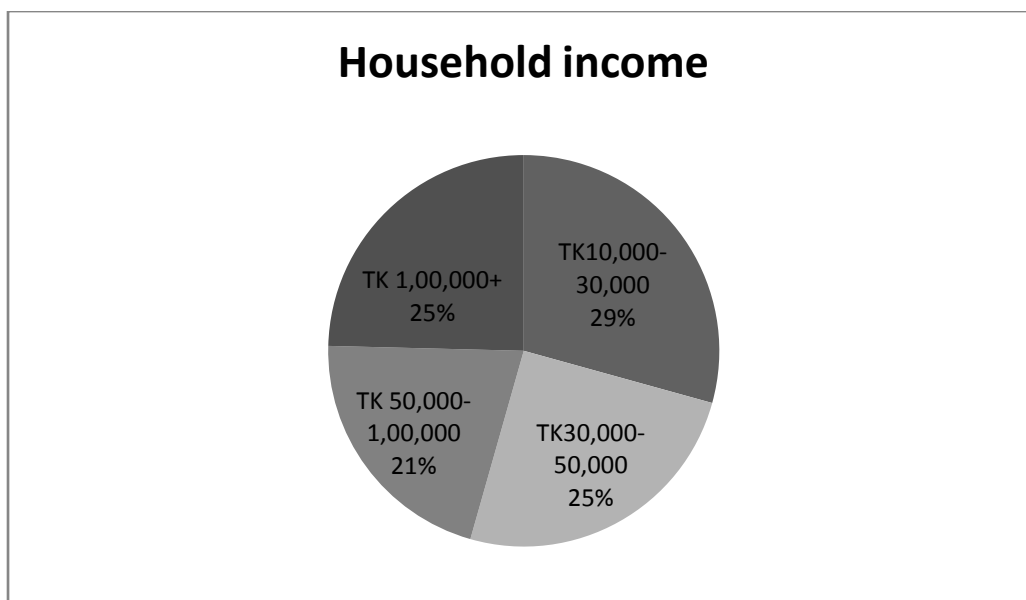


Figure 17: Statistics of household income of BCS (Administration) cadre officer in the year of 2017

Conclusions

BCS (Administration) cadre officers play the vital role to run the government smoothly. That's why the study of the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers is most important. This study explores the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officers in the recent years and compares the socio-economic background with that of 1990 to find out changing trends. From this study, it is found that female participation in civil service is increased significantly. Most of the officers came from Dhaka division and the least from Sylhet division. Officers having rural background are increased significantly and the ratio of the participation of urban-rural area is almost 1:1. Officers are highly educated and many officers are master degree holders. From the year of 2001 to 2017 it is found that most of the officers are from science faculty which was just opposite in the year of 1990. It is also found that most of the officers are from University of Dhaka. The officer's father's educational level is also become higher in compare to that of the 1990 and master or degree pass father was also significant in number. The study also reflects that in 1990 most of the officers father's occupation was government service. In 2017 even though maximum percent of officers father is government service holder, the percentage is reduced and their occupation was diversify with different other occupation like business, teaching etc. But the farmer profession is significantly reduced in the year of 2017 in compare to 1990. Even though the educational level of officer's mother is increased, most of them are housewife. The sibling's educational level is also increased and most of the siblings are service holder. The sibling's educational level also increased. The officer's father's income as well as household income also increased significantly. Hence, a positive trend is observed in the socio-economic background of BCS (Administration) cadre officials.

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