

# THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE CITY: AN OVERVIEW OF UNAUTHORIZED KUTCHA BAZARS IN DHAKA CITY

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**Abstract:** Dhaka, the Capital City of Bangladesh, acts as a prime center of administration, education, commerce and trade. The recent increase in the population of Dhaka Metropolitan area has far exceeded the level of earlier projections. As the population increases the demand for goods and services also increases. Authorized Kutcha bazar plays an important role in urban land use and considered as key function of the modern city. On the other hand, haphazard growth of Unauthorized Kutcha Bazars (UKBs) create different environmental problems and hampers comfortable civic life though their existence cannot be ignored at all. The study revealed different problems created by the UKBs and also suggests possible remedies giving emphasis on environmental sustainability.

**Key Words:** MDGs, Kutcha Bazar, DCC, Environment

## INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) articulates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for faster progress towards a better life of millions of people both in urban & rural areas of the world. Bangladesh Government is the signatory of MDGs declaration and holds the mandate to achieve the goals and targets set forth for it. It has developed a rigorous monitoring mechanism of MDG progress. It is in the progress of completing its first Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) which has taken into account of the MDGs. The PRSP is addressing the issues of human development and hence is accelerating the achievement of the MDGs. PRSP thematic sectors indicates that most of the sectors address the MDGs in some form or the others (GOB-UN, 2005).

The present paper deals with some targets set forth in MDGs # 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability). It touches three targets to some extent named: Target 9: Integrate sustainable development into country policies, Target 10: Access to safe water and basic sanitation and Target 11: Improve the lives of slum dwellers. 'Land Use' and Basic Sanitation are the important terms for Environmental Sustainability. Basic Sanitation involves solid waste management. In Dhaka, Solid Waste Disposal remains an environmental sanitation hazard, especially in the urban areas. The Government recognizes the importance of increasing access to waste management. The present study depicts the causes and effects of the environmental degradation in Unauthorized Kutcha Bazars (UKBs) in Dhaka City, Capital of Bangladesh. It should be noted that unauthorized means no approval/registration of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) or proper authority.

Kutcha Bazars is an important element of both land use and function of the modern city. It is defined as a place for the sale and purchase of different types of commodities which fulfill the daily needs especially the food items like vegetables,

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fish, meat, fruits etc. and other grocery items. Dhaka is one of the largest cities in the world with population 6 million (World Bank Interim Report, 1999) and has an area of about 360-sq. km. With the rapid growth of population of Dhaka City, the demand of Kutcha Bazars is increasing day by day. For this reason the consumers of the city have to cover long distances to get the goods from Kutcha Bazars. The consumers always want to get services at the nearest distance from their houses (Sami & Ahmed, 1989). But the authorized Kutcha Bazars are few in numbers compared to the population and area of Dhaka city .As a result a large number of UKBs have developed haphazardly within the city. The growth of UKBs in Dhaka city is taking place spontaneously without any consideration of planning principles (Hoque, 1986). These Kutcha Bazars occupy footpath, carriageway, vacant land etc. The UKBs are operated under the open sky and in the temporary structure besides the road (Sultan, 1990). These Bazars need better transport network and easy access. Time and cost involved in acquiring goods and services should also be minimum (Saha, 1979). The market centers in Dhaka City are not properly distributed both in terms of locational and hierarchical distribution. There are also greatly overcrowded (Mollah, 1975).

Proper utilities and services like road, water supply, garbage disposal etc. remain inadequate in these kutcha bazars. Different problems like unhealthy environment, traffic problem, footpath problem, drainage and sewerage problem, problem of parking facilities, public convenience and management are associated with these markets. From primary observation it seems that the distribution pattern of existing Kutcha Bazars in Dhaka City depicts a haphazard picture. A wide gap in the distributional pattern between authorized and UKBs has been marked. It is quite phenomenon that most of the people of Dhaka City cannot find any authorized Kutcha bazar within 0.75 k.m. distance from their residences, which results in mushroom growth of UKBs at different locations of Dhaka City (Das, 2001). Consequently, unmanaged UKBs create environmental degradation, which must be overcome through proper physical planning.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify the factors contributing to the growth of Unauthorized Kutcha Bazars (UKBs).
- To study the problems generated by the UKBs in the adjoining areas.
- To offer some policy / planning guide lines for proper location of UKBs in order to achieve environmental sustainability in Dhaka city.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In order to achieve the research objectives, a system of methods has been developed for collecting the research materials. The present study is based on primary sources of information as there is no specific data on commercial activities, particularly in the UKBs of Dhaka City in any governmental census volumes. Therefore, data for this study was collected mainly from the primary sources. Some secondary data on the number and address of authorized Kutcha Bazars were available in the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) but in an incomplete form. A field investigation was required to

collect information about users (buyers and sellers) of kutcha bazars, their distribution and spatial pattern. The data was collected from both buyers and sellers of Kutcha bazar through interviews with the help of appropriately designed checklist and questionnaires. The field investigations and collection of the data were done in four phases.

### **Phases-I: Reconnaissance Survey**

A massive gap of data was found on the basic characteristics of Kutcha Bazars. For example, location, growth and attitude of buyers and sellers towards the UKBs were not available from secondary sources. Therefore, a reconnaissance survey was first conducted in all 90 (ninety) wards under DCC. Therefore a checklist was used to collect basic information on the locations and addresses, type of UKBs in Dhaka City.

### **Phase-II: Selection of the Study Area**

For the study, DCC has been chosen as the study area because it has the largest concentration of UKBs. Due to the shortage of time and resources, all of the UKBs of the Dhaka City could not be studied or investigated. 15 (Fifteen) unauthorized bazars (22.73 per cent of total population) were surveyed in ten (10) zones of the city. 2 (two) UKBs have been taken from each of zones 1, 3, 4, 8 & 9 and 1 (one) UKB has been taken from each of zones 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10 based on density so that the whole city could be covered.

In this study 10 (zones) areas were selected from which primary information was collected through pre-tested questionnaires. The areas selected for this study were as follows:

- |             |        |   |
|-------------|--------|---|
| (a) Zone-1  | —————→ | Jatrabari junction Kutcha bazar<br>Jurain rail gate kutcha bazar              |
| (b) Zone-2  | —————→ | Banagram road side Kutcha bazar (wari)  |
| (c) Zone-3  | —————→ | Azimpur graveyard Kutcha bazar<br>Kamrangir char Kutcha bazar                 |
| (d) Zone-4  | —————→ | Bangladesh Bank (Infront side) kutcha bazar<br>Mailbag rail gate Kutcha bazar |
| (e) Zone-5  | —————→ | Modhubag Kutcha bazar   |
| (f) Zone-6  | —————→ | Mohammadpur Bashbari housing Kutcha bazar                                     |
| (g) Zone-7  | —————→ | Shewrapara Kutcha bazar   |
| (h) Zone-8  | —————→ | Mirpur Muslim kutcha bazar, 12 No.<br>Mirpur 10 No. Goal chakkar Kutcha bazar |
| (i) Zone-9  | —————→ | Baridhara Natun kutcha bazar, Gulshan-2<br>Nadda kutcha bazar                 |
| (j) Zone-10 | —————→ | Uttara (Azampur) Kutcha bazar   |

### **Phase-III: Data Collection Procedure**

Again due to time and resource constraint, detail study on the various aspects and conditions of UKBs of the whole city was not possible. The lists of locational information of UKBs were collected from the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Two sets of questionnaires were prepared for the survey. The first set was used for the buyers of the UKBs and it mainly discussed the growth factors of UKBs and also the socio-economic aspects of the buyers. The second set of questionnaire was used for the sellers of the UKBs, which include both open-ended and the close-ended questions. Data were collected through personal interview. Both of the questionnaires were pre-tested for their adequacy before the final commencement of the fieldwork. After requisite training, eight qualified surveyors were divided into four groups to carry out the questionnaire survey through face to face interview.

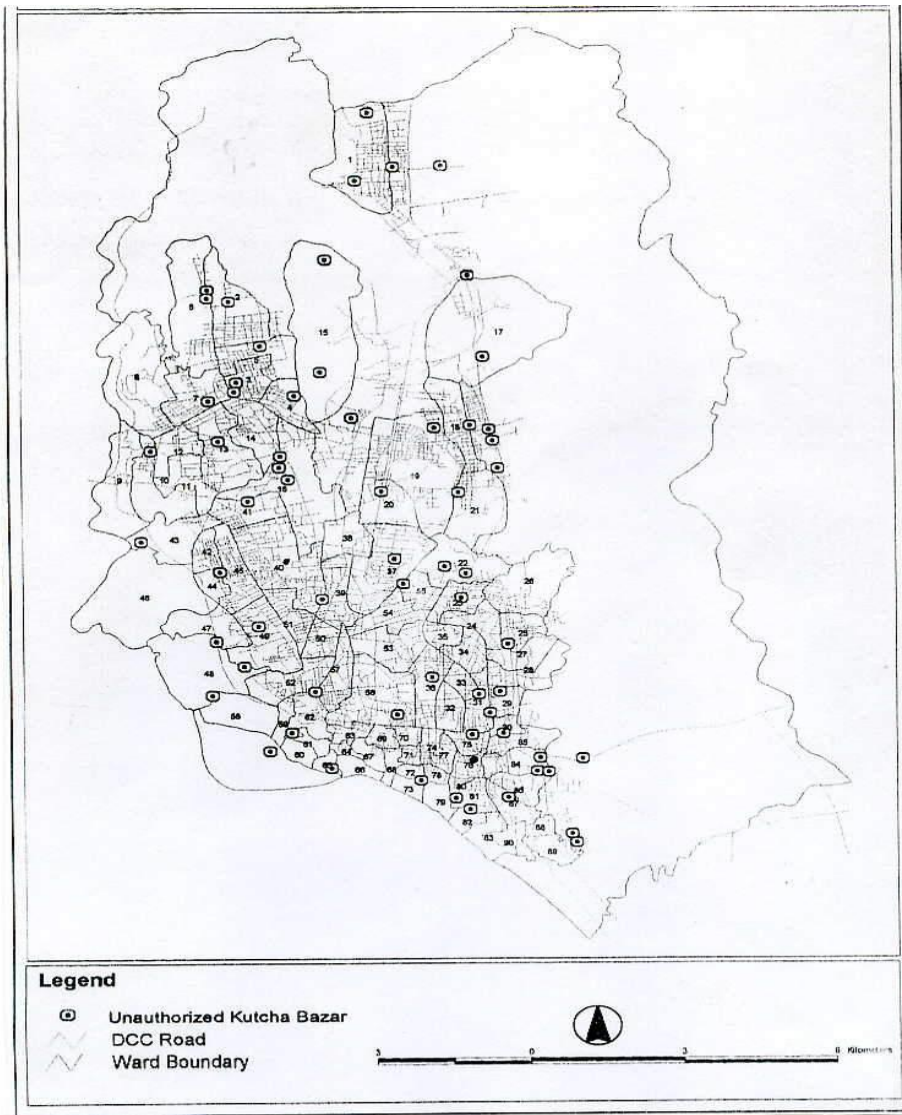
### **Phase IV: Data Processing and Analysis**

The collected information from primary and secondary sources was analyzed statistically by using SPSS and MS Excel computer software. The survey data was then presented in tabular and graphical forms. For analysis of locational patterns, locations of Kutchi bazars were identified and mapped through GIS Arc View3.2. *Nearest Neighbor Technique Analysis* was then utilized to find out whether the distributions of kutchi bazars showed random, uniform or clustered patterns. Also some of the qualitative data collected from primary and secondary sources have been processed manually.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF UKBs**

There is no specific data of the actual total number of UKBs in Dhaka City but from reconnaissance survey it was found that each zone of DCC possess numerous UKBs. For the study about 66 (Sixty-six) UKBs had been surveyed (see Map-1) and from the *Nearest Neighbor Technique Analysis*, it is found that location of UKBs is of random pattern. In most cases both authorized kutchi bazars and UKBs are intermingled leading to a chaotic situation (examples: Rampura, Thatari Bazar, Jurain etc.) and authorized kutchi bazars willingly or not willingly are creating UKBs.

**Map-1 Distribution of UKBs in Dhaka City**



## FACTORS INFLUENCING THE GROWTH OF UKBs

There are many factors influencing the growth and location of UKBs. General factors responsible for growth are: (1) Authorized bazar is far way, (2) Suitable Site, (3) Nearness to residence, (4) Nearness to roadway, (5) Availability of daily necessities, (6) Available transport facilities, (7) Low price, (8) Less rent, (9) High Profit, (10) Less capital, (11) Easy employment of young migrated people- one of the major challenge of MGDs i.e. expansion of urban employment.

## PROBLEMS FOR UKBs

The UKBs have greater problems of facilities than the authorized Kutcha Bazar. This is due to the fact that the authorized Kutcha Bazars have been developed in a planned way whereas the UKBs have not been formed in a planned way. One of the main

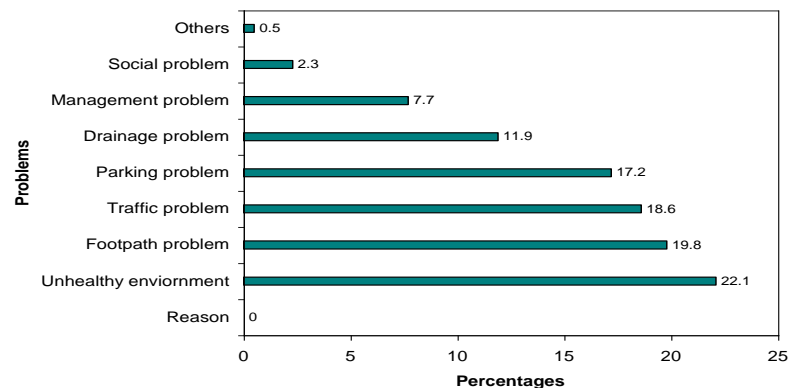
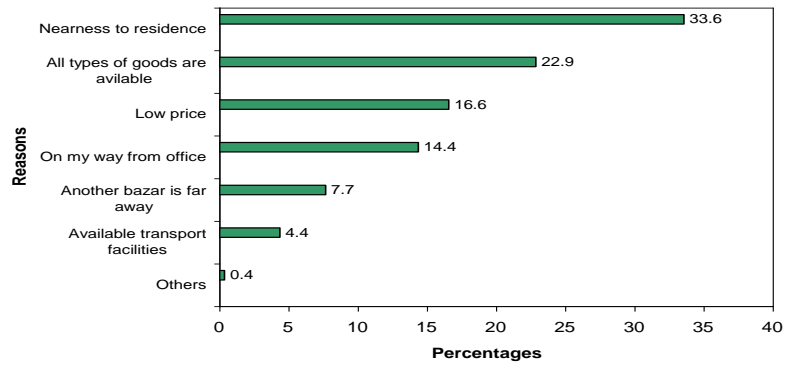


Fig-1: Problems for Unauthorized Kutcha Bazars.

problems is the unhealthy environment. In most UKBs, there exists no water supply system though electric supply is found to be quite satisfactory. These remain unclean all year round and open space is not sufficient there. Toilet facilities are very inadequate. Garbage disposal facilities are not satisfactory. Other problems of UKBs are their narrow roads, which creates problems of transportation and customer movements. Some vegetables markets have grown up in the roadside of Mahallah or nodal points of different roadside.

There are a variety of problems for UKBs according to respondent's perception. The survey shows 8 (eight) problems in Fig-1. The most important problem is unhealthy environment mentioned by 22.1 % of the buyers. About 19.8 % of the buyers indicated that the footpath problem is a prime factor, while another 18.6 % mentioned the traffic problem. From survey, it is evident that UKBs create haphazard traffic congestion in front of the bazar. On the other hand, 17.2 % of buyers put emphasis on the parking problem. Although some buyers (11.9%) responded that drainage problem is the main problem of kutcha bazars. Management problem and social problem are found as minor problems created by UKBs.



**Fig-2: Reasons behind selecting the unauthorised Kutcha Bazar.**

### **REASONS BEHIND SELECTING THE UKBs**

The buyers of UKBs of Dhaka City expressed different opinions regarding their selection of bazars. It has been found that the buyers expressed more than one reason why they select these bazars. About 33.6 percent of the buyers said that their residence is nearness to bazar. It may be mentioned here that most of the buyers always want to get their services from nearest bazars. Out of 150 respondents, every one of the respondents had expressed their opinion that they had more than one reason for selecting a particular bazar (Fig-2). Among these reasons, 33.6 % respondents had given their opinion in favor of ‘nearness to residence’. The second highest group of respondents, 22.9 %, had given their opinion in favor of ‘All types of goods are available’. The third highest group of respondents, 16.6 %, had given their opinion in favor of ‘Low price’. The fourth highest group of respondents, 14.4 %, had given their opinion in favor of ‘On my way from office’. The fifth highest group of respondents, 7.7 %, had given their opinion in favor of ‘Another bazar is far away’. ‘Available transport facilities’ was the least influencing reason to select an UKB.

### **MAJOR PROBLEMS IN RUNNING BUSINESS IN UKBs**

As per daily newspaper reports, most of the UKBs are controlled by the Musclemen and local DCC commissioners. Some of the UKBs are well established and some are moveable. So, problems are different from bazars to bazars. Police, local touts, open space, permanent shed are main problems to running their business.

It is observed that sellers of the UKBs are facing some problems shown in Table-1. Police (43.9%) disturbance is found to be the first most important problem encountered by sellers. The second important problem faced by the sellers is the disturbance by local touts/mastans (32.5%). The third problem faced by the sellers is related to the collection of raw materials of different categories.

Table 1: Difficulties facing by the sellers of UKBs

Problems	Count	% of Responses	% of cases
Disturbed by Police	108	43.9	72.0
Disturbed by local tauts / mastans	80	32.5	53.3
Collection of raw materials	50	20.3	33.3
No permanent shed	3	1.2	2.0
Open space	5	2.0	3.3
Total	246	100.0	164.0

Source: Field Survey

## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY UKBs

*i. Consumer's Perspective: The prioritized problems are as follows:*

1. Unhealthy environment
2. Narrow Road (Footpath/Traffic Congestion)
3. Cleanliness
4. Garbage disposal
5. Drainage
6. Parking
7. Toilet facilities
8. Open Space

*ii. Trader's Perspective: The prioritized problems are as follows:*

1. Disturbance by muscleman and Law enforcing officers
2. Local Touts/ Mastans for subscription
3. Open space
4. Permanent Shed
5. Water Supply
6. Toilet facility
7. Garbage disposal
8. Cleanliness

It is evident that some problems like toilet facility, garbage disposal, cleanliness etc. civic needs are common from both perspectives.

## OVERALL PROBLEMS CREATED BY UKBs

### 1. *Reduction of Road Width*

Vegetable and other daily product stalls have sprung up on both sides of roadways leading to reduction of road width which results in road accidents, traffic congestions at different nodal points, degradation of air quality by increase of fumes, noxious gas from vehicles, parking problem etc.

### 2. *Garbage Accumulation along road side*

Everyday tons of perishable garbage is disposed of to nearby roadside from every UKBs. This garbage make the urban environment most unhealthy by producing odor, degradation of aesthetic view, humming of disease carrying insects, flying of scavengers, movement of derelict dogs and the most important thing is obstructing vehicular movement.



### *3. Unhygienic Environment Inside*

Due to stall management, drainage and sewerage, water supply, ventilation, sufficient space for consumer movement and toilet facility, each UKBs possesses unhygienic environment inside. Uncleanliness makes the situation worse and dirtier.

### **GENERAL FINDINGS**

The general findings of the research are as follows:

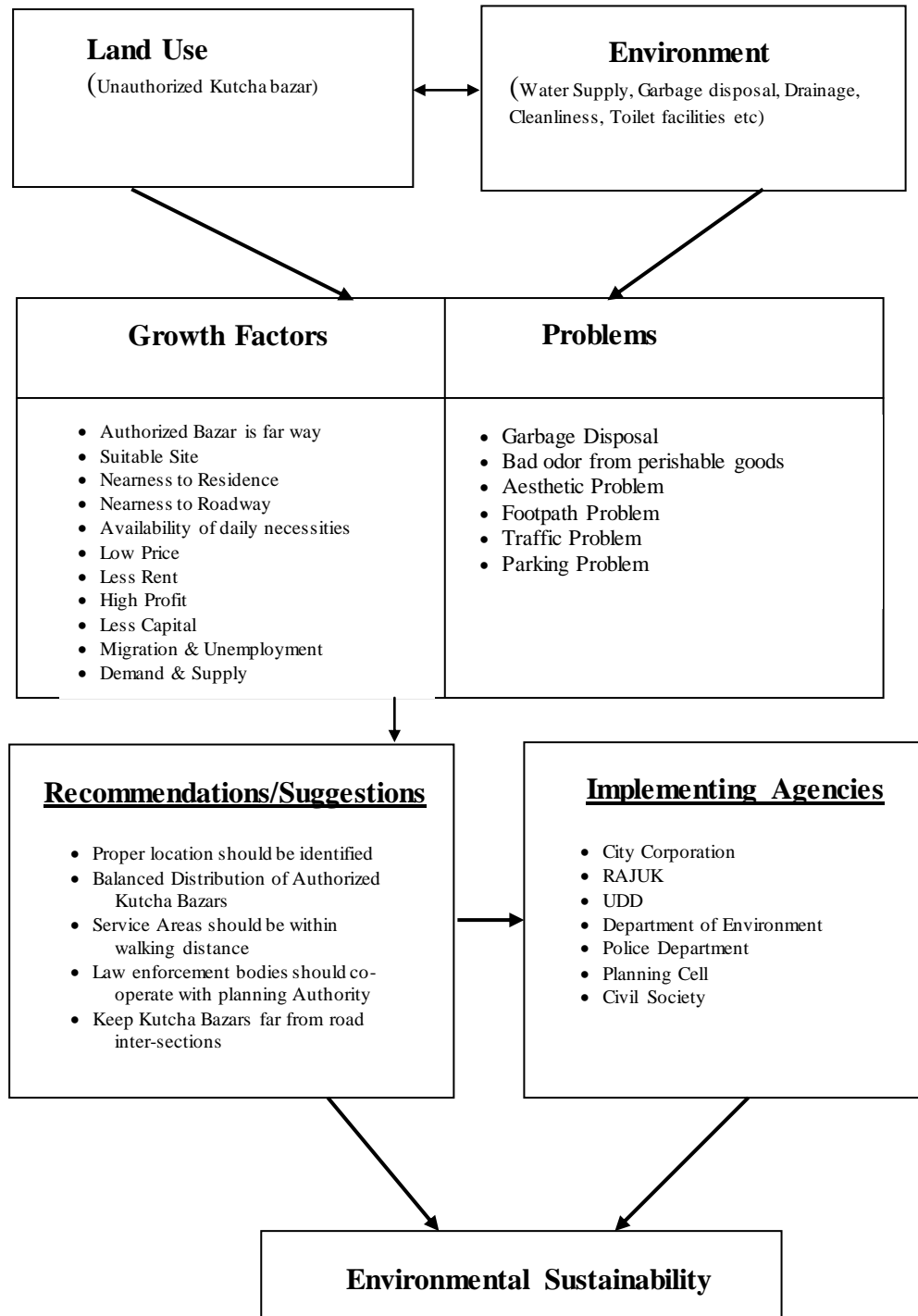
1. The number of authorized kutcha bazars in Dhaka city is far below the required amount to serve such vast population of this mega city.
2. Kutcha bazars are not properly distributed in a planned way as a result a large portion of the city dwellers does not find any kutcha bazar within ½ miles walking distance from their houses.
3. The physical condition and quality of the unauthorized kutcha bazars are very poor.
4. Most of the areas of the Dhaka City are un-served and under-served because of lack of authorized kutcha bazar resulting the formation of UKBs.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Some policies are formulated to improve the existing environmental situations prevailed in UKBs:

1. For balanced distribution of Authorized Kutcha Bazars, each ward of the City should contain an Authorized Kutcha Bazar.
2. Proper location should be selected to convert UKBs to Authorized Kutcha Bazars. It should be remembered that rehabilitation is better than eviction.
3. The service areas should be within walking distance for the people to purchase meat, fish and vegetables everyday.
4. DCC should formulate new policy, review and re-design Kutcha Bazar in such a way that environmental degradation could be kept minimum and environmental sustainability (see Flow Diagram) may be maintained for the greater interest of the people.
5. Law enforcement bodies should co-operate with planning Authority like RAJUK, UDD, and DCC so that unplanned structure cannot be built up in the roadside or nodal points of different roads.
6. Training should be imparted to raise awareness of traders of UKBs in appropriate waste management. If the health benefits of sanitation are to be fully realized, good hygiene practices such as keeping wastes in specific dumpsites at critical times are crucial.

## FLOW DIAGRAM OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN UKBS



## CONCLUSIONS

Undoubtedly there is a relation between land use and environment. Haphazard growth of certain services like purchasing of daily commodities in unplanned areas creates some land use problems like UKBs, which leads to environmental degradation. If these problems are not solved, MDG for the city cannot be achieved.

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