



Society for Urban Environmental Protection

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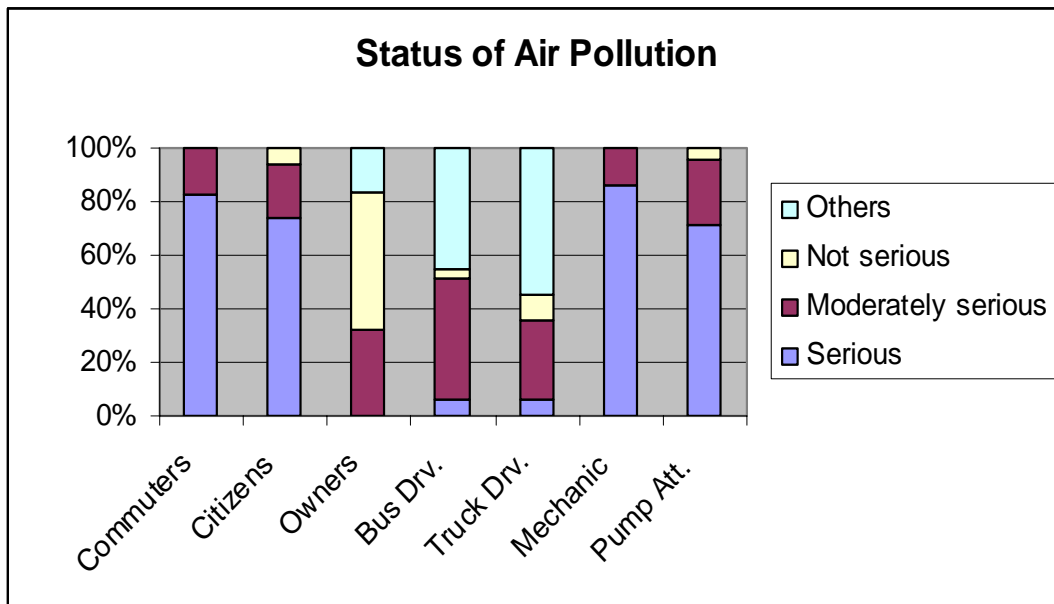
Member: Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities. Global Water Partnership. Accredited to the Global Environment Facility.

Public Perception on Diesel Emission

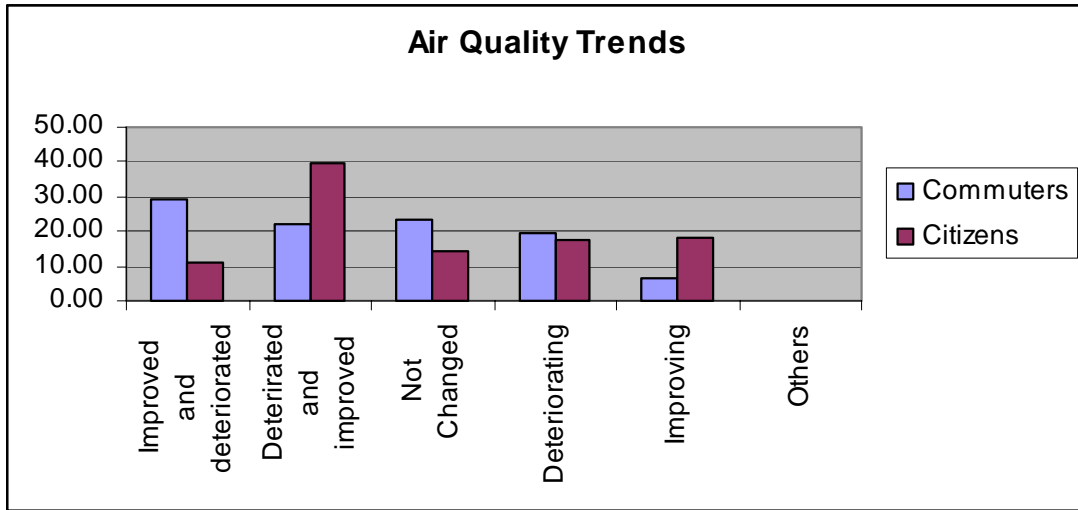
Commercial diesel vehicles such as buses & trucks running on roads in the Dhaka city are causing extremely high pollution only after short period of use; while the new unregistered vehicles in the showroom have low emission characteristics. The drivers, owners of vehicles and commuters are also the victims of the diesel pollution. In any pollution mitigation programme, the drivers as well as the owners are expected to play an important role, if awareness could be raised among them. The most important task is to convince them that the interest of their health and welfare are severely affected by pollution they are producing from their vehicles. A large section of the city population including commuters, drivers, passengers, traffic policemen, street vendors and other socio-economic groups suffer significant negative health impacts from the exposure thus increasing the health cost significantly due to non-awareness of vehicle emission.

On 16th-30th June 2005 a perception survey was conducted by Society for Urban Environmental Protection, Dhaka. The assignments were designed to help the World Bank Office, Dhaka, to conduct an Urban Air Quality Perception Survey in Dhaka. 330 respondents were interviewed at several bus stops & other places in Dhaka.

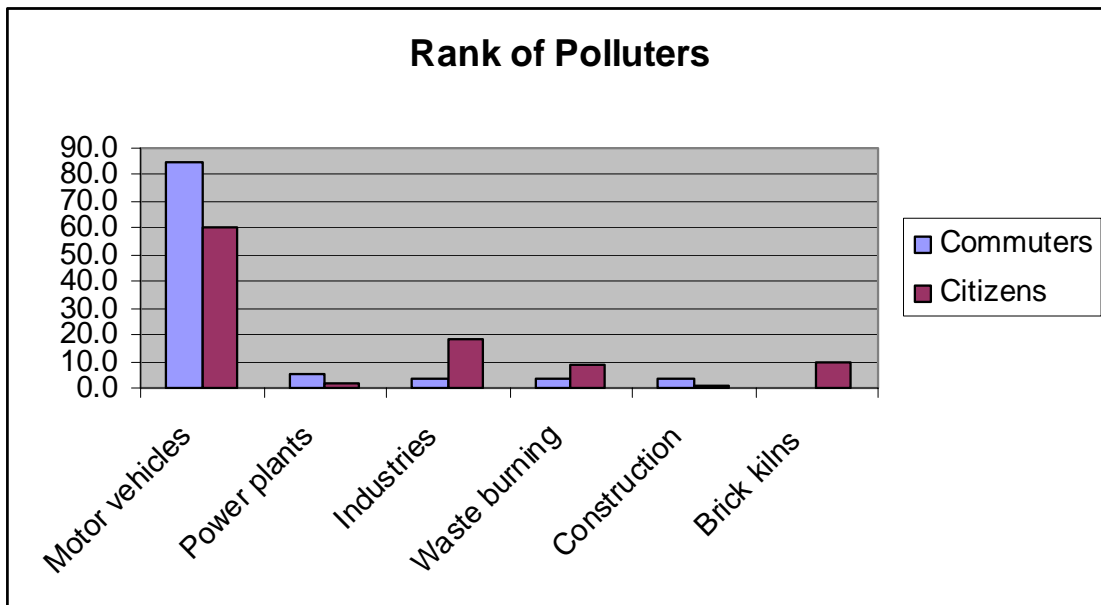
Perception on status of Air Pollution in Dhaka by different stakeholders (Others include not serious at all or don't knows)



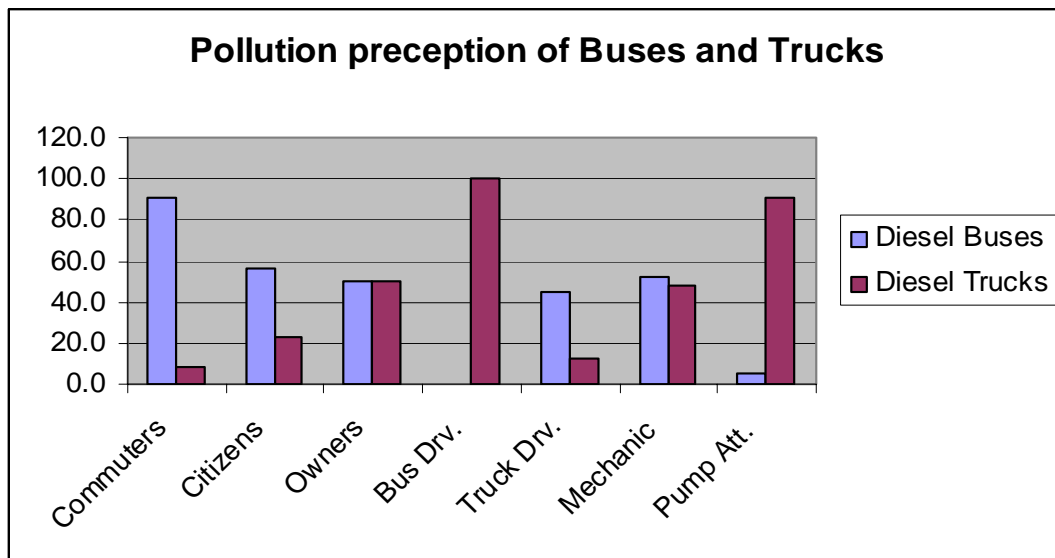
Perceptions on Air Quality trends in Dhaka



Perceptions on rank of source of Air Pollution in Dhaka



Perceptions on Air Pollution from buses and trucks in Dhaka



Observations:

The awareness levels of air pollution due to diesel vehicles being high among commuters and citizens in general and that the main stakeholders related to diesel vehicle transport business are in a state of denial on the issue, it would be necessary to make a good deal of effort to make these people part of the campaign for diesel vehicle pollution reduction.

Although the citizens and commuters are aware of the air pollution due to diesel vehicles, there is a high level of ambiguity on the awareness on trends of air pollution. Therefore, there is a need to disseminate information on air quality and AQI may be very useful for the purpose. A high focus may also be needed to mobilize support for among these stakeholders to support strong policy decision, which may create short-term inconvenience to these groups.

The owners and drivers are quite strongly organized into associations. Partnerships should be explored with these associations to reach out to these business groups on the air pollution issues. These trade associations should be taken on board on discussion forums, so that they become party to major decisions. Such approach may help to change their current state of denial on air pollution issue over time.

Most people tend to get their messages from TVs, radios and newspapers, so these channels should be used to conveyed air quality related messages. It will be important to educate the media about the precise nature of air pollution in Dhaka, the causes, and the solutions to ensure accurate coverage. As owners are responsible for covering the costs of maintenance, messages to owners should focus on the importance of inspection and maintenance. Regular maintenance and less polluting vehicles mean fewer breakdowns, less polluting healthier environment and more income for owners.

Thank you.