

Identification of Socioeconomic Variables Responsible for Obesity Kidney Disease among Bangladeshi Adults

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Abstract

The information presented here were the analytical results observed from data collected in investigating 995 Bangladeshi adults of 18 years and above. The objective of the investigation was to identify socioeconomic variables which enhance the health hazard obesity kidney disease. The analysis indicated that this health problem was noted among 6.2% respondents and it was predominant among males, non-Muslims, elderly people, lower level educated adults, people belonged to families of medium economy, smokers, adults involved in sedentary activities, diabetic and hypertensive respondents. The prevalence rates among these respondents were 0.074, 0.088, 0.188, 0.099, 0.098, 0.088, 0.075, 0.075 and 0.186, respectively. However, all these socioeconomic variables were not similarly responsible for obesity kidney disease among the adults. The most responsible variable was family expenditure followed by family income, physical labour, age, process food consumption, hypertension and duration of diabetes. These variables were identified by factor analysis.

Keywords: obesity; kidney disease; socioeconomic variables; association of socioeconomic variable with prevalence of obesity kidney disease; risk ratio; factor analysis

Introduction

Obesity, like hypertension and diabetes, is the major risk factor in developing kidney disease among human beings, especially among elderly people [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6]. It increases the risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage of renal disease (ESRD). It was noted that the elevated body mass index rapidly enhanced the CKD among the pre-existing CKD patients and even among healthy men [2, 4]. The adverse impact of obesity on the kidney creates other complications, like nephrolithiasis and kidney malignancies. This is true for both men and women.

One of the cause of kidney failure is diabetes which is a condition characterized by high blood glucose levels and if this condition exists for long time it damages the millions of tiny filtering units within each kidney resulting kidney failure [7, 8]. It indicates that poor glucose control is a risk factor for kidney function alteration both in type-1 and type-2 diabetes [7]. Thus, it can also be said that the risk of kidney disease is associated with obesity, pre-diabetes and hypertension [8, 9, 10, and 11]. The prevalence of obesity was increasing in many countries, especially in developing countries due to socio-demographic upward mobility despite continuing nutritional deficiencies [12, 13]. In developed countries the problem of obesity has been increasing rapidly [12, 14, 15, and 16]. In 2016, the reported overweight adults of age 18 years and above were 1.9 billion and obese adults were 650 million [17].

The burden of obesity was shifting towards lower socioeconomic group of people most of whom are living in Asia-pacific region. Bangladesh is an Asian country and it has every chance of facing the problem of obesity and its consequences. Thus, it needs to study the proportion of obese

people in Bangladesh and the proportion of obese kidney disease patients in the country. The specific objective of the present study is to identify the responsible socioeconomic variables for the prevalence of obesity and kidney disease simultaneously among the adults people of Bangladesh.

Methodology

The data for this research were collected by some nurses and medical assistants working in diagnostic centres. The centres were purposively selected from both urban and semi-urban areas of Bangladesh. The respondents of this study were 498 males and 497 females of age 18 years and above totalling 995 adults. This composition of male and female was considered to cover the national sex ratio 50.1: 49.9 of population of Bangladesh [18]. The investigated units were the residents of both urban and rural localities. As the adults were investigated from diagnostic centre, most (67%) of them were found diabetic patients. The data were recorded during the session 2018-19.

The information of different socioeconomic variables of each selected respondent were recorded through a pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire containing different questions related to residence, religion, gender, marital status, age, education, occupation, family income, family expenditure. Beside these demographic data, other information were on life-style, and prevalence of any of the non-communicable diseases, duration of diabetes, and the stages of treatment of the disease including cost of treatment. Some of the socioeconomic variables were qualitative and some were quantitative in nature, but all the variables were noted in nominal scale for ease of analysis. The data of weight (in kg) divided by height (in metre²) was used to measure the value of body mass index (BMI) to identify obese adults (if BMI \geq 27.5;

underweight, if $BMI < 18.5$; normal, if $18.5 \leq BMI < 23.0$; overweight, if $23.0 < BMI < 27.5$) [19, 20]. They were also divided into 4 groups according to their blood pressure (B.P) level (mmHg). The 4 groups were identified as optimal (if $BP < 120/80$), normal (if $BP < 130/85$), high normal (if $BP < 140/90$) and hypertensive (if $BP \geq 140/90$) [21, 22].

To fulfil the objective of the study, the association of each of the socioeconomic variable with simultaneous prevalence of obesity kidney disease was investigated, where significant association was decided if p-value of any Chi-square statistic ≤ 0.05 [$\chi^2 \leq 0.05$]. Irrespective of significant or insignificant association, the risk ratio and its confidence interval was calculated for adults for whom prevalence of obesity kidney problem was noted in higher rate for a particular level of a socioeconomic variable. Finally, factor analysis was done to select the most responsible

factor for the prevalence of this health hazard. The most responsible factor was identified depending on the highest absolute value of factor loadings observed in doing factor analysis [23, 24, and 25]. All the calculations were done using SPSS Version 25.

Results

Total respondents were 995, they were classified by level of obesity and prevalence of different health problem. Classified adults were shown in Table 1 below: Among the respondents 30.2% were obese, 12.4% had kidney problem and prevalence of obesity kidney disease was noted in 6.2% respondents. The percentage of obese adults suffering from kidney problem was 20.7. The percentages of adults of different health problems were in significantly increasing trend with the increase in level of body mass index [$\chi^2 = 275.875$, p-value=0.000].

Health problem	Level of obesity								Total	
	Under weight		Normal		Overweight		Obese		Number	%
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
None	33	5.4	181	29.9	324	53.5	68	11.2	606	60.9
Heart	3	2.4	16	12.7	42	33.3	65	51.6	126	12.7
Eye	1	0.8	22	17.9	25	20.3	75	61.0	123	12.4
Kidney	1	1.1	10	10.9	19	20.7	62	67.4	92	9.2
Others	0	0.0	4	8.3	14	29.2	30	62.5	48	4.8
Total	38	3.8	233	23.4	424	42.6	300	30.2	995	100.0

Table 1: Distribution of adults by level of obesity and prevalence of health problem

In the sample there were 53.4% urban residents and 6.6% of them were suffering from obesity kidney disease [Table 2]. Urban and rural adults were almost at similar risk of this health hazard [R.R. =1.13, C.I. (0.69, 1.84)]. Residence had no significant impact on obesity kidney problem [$\chi^2 = 0.263$, p-value=0.615]. Gender variation was also not a significant factor for obesity kidney disease [$\chi^2 = 3.446$, p-value=0.117]. The percentage of male respondents was 51.1 and 7.4% of them were the patients of obesity kidney problem. They were at 48% more risk of the disease [R.R. =1.48, C.I. (0.90, 2.67)]. Non-Muslim adults were only 14.8%, but higher percentage of them (8.8%) were facing the problem of this health hazard. They were at 60% more risk of the problem [R.R.=1.60, C.I. (0.95, 2.42)]. However, obesity kidney disease was independent of religion [$\chi^2 = 2.015$, p-value = 0.156]. Married (93.1%) and single adults were at similar risk of this health hazard, though percentage (6.3%) of affected married adults compared to affected single person (5.8%) was slightly more [R.R.=1.08, C.I.(0.51, 2.87)]. Marital status was not an influencing factor for obesity kidney disease [$\chi^2 = 0.194$, p-value=0.877]. Among the respondents 8% were of age 60 years and above and 18.8% of them were suffering from obesity kidney disease. Their risk for this health problem was 3.65 times as it was for others [R.R. =3.65, C.I. (1.96, 6.79)]. Again, 19.6% were of age 50 years and above. The percentage of sufferers in these group was 16.9 and their risk for this health problem was 4.67 times as it was for others [R.R. =4.67, C.I. (2.91, 7.50)]. With the increase in age of adults there was a significant increasing trend in the percentage of affected adults [$\chi^2 = 66.281$, p-value =0.000].

Though level of education had no statistically significant impact on obesity kidney disease, lower level education and no education together was more risk creating factor for the disease [R.R.=1.64, C.C.(0.96, 2.50); $\chi^2 = 0.056$, p-value = 0.056]. There were 17.8% adults having no education and primary education and 9.0% of these two groups were

facing the problem of this health hazard. Higher educated people (57.5%) were also more affected (6.6%) by this disease compared to the affected adults observed in the sample. The adults of different professions were almost similarly affected by the disease [$\chi^2 = 0.261$, p-value= 0.992]. However, the percentage of affected service persons and retired persons together (42.9%) were slightly more (6.6%) compared to the overall percentage of affected adults. Even these two groups of adults had similar risk of the problem [R.R. =1.10, C.I. (0.68, 1.79)]. The percentage of adults who did not do any physical labour was 51.7 and 6.4% of them were the patients of this health problem. For them the risk of the disease was almost similar as it was for others [R.R. =1.18, C.I. (0.72, 1.93)]. But physical activity was not associated with the prevalence of obesity kidney disease [$\chi^2 = 0.65$, p-value=0.799].

Income [$\chi^2 = 1.890$, p-value = 0.595] and expenditure [$\chi^2 = 4.06$, p-value= 0.203] had no influence on obesity kidney disease and there was no trend in the rates of affected persons with the increase in level on income or expenditure. But, higher percentage (9.8%) of adults of families having income taka 100 – 150 thousand (6.1%) were affected by this health problem. For them the risk of the disease was 64% more as it was for others [R.R. =1.64, C.I. (0.74, 3.66)]. Similar higher risk was observed for adults of families spending taka 60 -80 thousand per month as family expenditure [R.R. =1.74, C.I. (0.99, 2.97)]. The respondents of this group were 14.4% and affected adults of this group were 9.8%. The percentage of smokers was 33.1 and 7.5% of them were patients of obesity kidney disease. Smoking habit was significantly associated with the prevalence of obesity kidney problem and smokers had 89% more risk of this health hazard compared to the risk of non-smokers [$\chi^2 = 5.615$, p-value = 0.018; R.R.=1.89, C.I. (1.16, 3.07)].

Socioeconomic variables	Prevalence of obesity kidney disease				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
Residence						
Rural	35	6.6	496	93.4	531	53.4
Urban	27	5.8	437	94.2	464	46.6
Total	62	6.2	933	93.8	995	100.0
Gender						
Male	37	7.4	461	92.6	498	50.1
Female	25	5.0	472	95.0	497	49.9
Religion						
Muslim	49	5.8	799	94.2	848	85.2
Non-Muslim	13	8.8	134	91.2	147	14.8
Marital status						
Currently married	58	6.3	868	93.7	926	93.1
Currently single	4	5.8	65	94.2	69	6.9
Age (in years)						
< 25	3	1.5	193	98.5	196	19.7
25 – 40	6	1.5	395	98.5	401	40.3
40 – 50	20	9.9	183	90.1	203	20.4
50 – 60	18	15.7	97	84.3	115	11.6
60+	15	18.8	65	81.2	80	8.0
Education						
Illiterate	5	7.7	60	92.3	65	6.5
Primary	12	9.9	109	90.1	121	12.2
Secondary	7	3.0	0	97.0	237	23.8
Higher	38	6.6	534	93.4	572	57.5
Occupation						
Agriculture and unemployed	6	5.8	98	94.2	104	10.5
Business	15	6.4	219	93.6	234	23.5
Service and skilled labor	20	6.6	285	93.4	305	30.7
Retire	8	6.6	114	93.4	122	12.3
Housewife	13	5.7	217	94.3	230	23.1
Income (000 taka)						
< 50	23	5.9	366	94.1	389	39.1
50 – 100	27	6.4	393	93.6	420	42.2
100 – 150	14	9.8	47	90.2	61	6.1
150+	6	4.8	119	95.2	125	12.6
Family expenditure (in 000 taka)						
< 40	25	6.0	391	94.0	416	41.4
40 – 60	18	6.0	284	94.0	302	30.4
60 – 80	14	9.8	129	90.2	143	14.4
80+	5	3.7	129	96.3	134	13.5
Smoking habit						
Yes	29	8.8	300	91.2	329	33.1
No	33	5.0	633	95.0	666	66.9
Habit of taking process food						
Yes	25	6.9	338	93.1	363	36.5
No	37	5.9	597	94.1	632	63.5
Physical work						
Yes	29	6.0	452	94.0	481	48.3
No	33	6.4	481	93.6	514	51.7
Involved in sedentary activity						
Yes	33	7.5	409	92.5	442	44.4
No	29	5.2	534	94.8	553	55.6
Level of blood pressure						
Optimum	11	2.0	529	98.0	540	54.3
Normal	22	7.8	258	92.2	280	28.1
High normal	18	15.5	98	84.5	116	11.7
Hypertensive	11	18.6	48	81.4	59	5.9

Prevalence of diabetes						
Yes	50	7.5	617	92.5	667	67.0
No	12	3.7	316	96.3	328	33.0
Duration of diabetes (in years)						
Does not arise	12	3.7	316	96.3	328	33.0
< 5	5	1.7	286	98.3	291	29.2
5 – 10	13	6.3	193	93.7	206	20.7
10 – 15	13	13.1	86	86.9	99	9.9
15+	8	18.2	63	81.8	71	7.1
Total	62	6.2	933	93.8	995	100.0

Table 2: Distribution of adults according to prevalence of obesity kidney disease and socioeconomic variables

The percentage of process food consumers was 36.5. The prevalence of obesity kidney disease was noted among 6.9% of them. The risk of prevalence in them was only 18% more as it was in non-consumers of process food [R.R. =1.18, C.I. (0.72, 1.93)]. But habit of process food consumption was not significantly associated with prevalence of obesity kidney disease [$\chi^2 = 0.65$, p – value= 0.799]. The percentage of adults involved in sedentary activity was 44.4 and 7.5% of them were the patients of obesity kidney disease. The chance of prevalence in them was 54% more as it was in others [R.R. =1.54, C.I. (0.95, 2.49)]. However, prevalence of the disease was statistically independent of involvement in sedentary activity [$\chi^2 = 2.076$, p –value = 0.150].

The sample hypertensive adults were 5.9% and prevalence of obesity kidney disease was observed among 18.6% of them. The risk of prevalence in them was 3.42 times as it was in others R.R. = 3.42, C.I. (1.88, 6.46)]. The rate of prevalence of this health hazard was significantly increasing with the increase in level of blood pressure [$\chi^2 = 50.203$, p –value= 0.000]. Among the respondents 67% were diabetic patients. The prevalence of obesity kidney disease was noted in 7.5% of them. The chance of prevalence in them was 2.05 times as it was in others [R.R. = 3.42, C.I. (1.11, 3.790)]. Prevalence of diabetes and prevalence this health hazard was significantly associated [$\chi^2 = 4.857$, p –value= 0.018]. With the increase in duration of diabetes there was significant

increase in the rate of prevalence of obesity kidney disease [$\chi^2 = 87.715$, p –value =0.000]. The rate was highest (18.2%) among diabetic patients (4.4) suffering for 15 years and more. The chance of prevalence in them was 3.20 times as it was in others [R.R. =3.20, C.I. (1.62, 5.81)].

Factor Analysis

The study of association of prevalence of obesity kidney disease with socioeconomic variable showed that age, smoking habit, sedentary activity, prevalence of diabetes, duration of diabetes and blood pressure level were significantly influencing factors. But none of these variables could be identified as most responsible one for the prevalence. To identify the most responsible variable factor analysis was done utilizing all the studied variables. But final factor analysis was done using the variables which showed at least 0.50 as communality during analysis. The final included variables were age, family income, family expenditure, habit of consumption of process food, physical work, duration of diabetes and blood pressure level. These included variables were satisfactory as KMO = 0.705 which gave $\chi^2 = 22.710$ with p –value=0.000. The variables explained 72.353% variation in the data set. The analysis showed that family expenditure was the most responsible variable for the prevalence of obesity kidney disease followed by family income, physical work, and age, consumption of process food, blood pressure level and duration of diabetes. The results of factor analysis were shown in Table 3.

Variables	Communality		Coefficient of	
	Initial	Final	Factor – 1	Factor -2
Residence	0.060	-	-	-
Religion	0.004	-	-	-
Gender	0.809	-	-	-
Age	0.658	0.796	0.546	0.706
Marital status	0.064	-	-	-
Education	0.486	-	-	-
Occupation	0.670	-	-	-
Family income	0.809	0.822	-0.827	0.387
Family expenditure	0.822	0.875	-0.876	0.330
Smoking habit	0.685	-	-	-
Sedentary activity	0.444	-	-	-
Physical work	0.636	0.676	0.808	-0.149
Consumption of process food	0.539	0.551	-0.472	0.573
Blood pressure	0.516	0.718	0.465	0.709
Prevalence of diabetes	0.401	-	-	-
Duration of diabetes	0.738	0.615	0.436	0.651

Table 3: Results of factor analysis

Discussion

Overweight and obesity are associated with chronic kidney disease [26, 27, and 28]. This phenomenon is observed even among non-diabetic patients [29]. Besides overweight and obesity, other related variables are lifestyle factors such as smoking habit, physical activity, fast food consumption, diet quality, and diabetes, hypertension [7, 30, and 31]. The other socioeconomic variables are also expected to be associated with CKD as these are associated with obesity [32]. The socioeconomic variables may have impacts on simultaneous prevalence of obesity kidney disease. This hypothesis lead to identify some of the responsible socioeconomic variables for prevalence of this health hazard. For this, investigation was conducted on 995 adults of 18 years and above residing in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh.

From the analysis of the data it was observed that obesity kidney disease was prevailed among 6.2% adults. Some of the socioeconomic variables were significantly associated with prevalence of the disease. These are age, smoking habit, prevalence of diabetes, duration of diabetes and blood pressure. The prevalence rate was 16.9% among elderly people of age 50 years and above (19.6%). The risk of the disease was more than 4 times for this group of adults. The prevalence rate was 8.8% among smokers (33.1%). The chance of prevalence was 89% more compared to that of non-smokers. Among diabetic adults (67%) the prevalence rate was 7.5% and they were two times exposed to this health hazard compared to non-diabetic adults. The percentage of adults suffering from diabetes for 15 years and above was 4.4. For them the risk of prevalence was more than 3 times as it was for others. Percentage of hypertensive adults was 5.9 and prevalence rate was 18.6% in them. Their risk of prevalence was 3.42 times as it was in others.

Religion was independent of prevalence of obesity kidney disease but non-Muslims (14.8%) were 60% more exposed to this health hazard. Family income and family expenditure were not significantly associated with this health problem, but adults (6.1%) belonged to medium income (Taka 100 –150 thousand per month) had 64% more risk of prevalence. The chance of prevalence of the disease was 74% more for adults (14.4%) belonged to families spending 60 – 80 thousand taka. The percentage of adults involved in sedentary activity was 44.4 and they were more exposed to this health problem by 54%. The risk of prevalence of obesity kidney disease was almost similar for adults irrespective of gender, residence, marital stats, physical work, and process food consumption.

Some variables were found significantly associated with prevalence of obesity kidney disease and some were responsible, though not significantly associated with prevalence, for enhancing the risk of prevalence. However, the most responsible variable for the prevalence was family expenditure followed by family income, physical activity, age, process food consumption, blood pressure, and duration of diabetes. This was noted from factor analysis.

Conclusion

The present analysis was an attempt to identify some socioeconomic variables responsible for prevalence of obesity kidney disease among Bangladeshi adults of age 18 years and above. The adults visiting some diagnostic centres located in urban and semi-urban areas in Bangladesh were the investigating units and their number was 995. The data on residence, religion, gender, marital status, age ,education, occupation, family income, family expenditure, physical activity, food habit, smoking habit, prevalence of diabetes, duration of diabetes, blood pressure level including the different steps of treatment of needed for recovery of the health problem were recorded.

The sample contained 51.1% males, 53.4% urban people, 14.8% non-Muslims, 19.6% elderly people, 18.7% lower educated adults, 33.1% smokers, 51.7% physically inactive adults, 36.5% process food

consumers, 67.0% diabetic patients, 5.9% hypertensive adults and 44.4% adults who were involved in sedentary activity. The prevalence of obesity kidney disease was noted among 6.2% adults. This rate was more than 6.2% among all the above classified adults. However, the chance of prevalence was 48% more among males, 60% more among non-Muslims, 367% more among elderly people, 64% more among lower educated people, 89% more among smokers, 54% more among adults involved in sedentary activity, 105% more among diabetic patients, and 242% more among hypertensive adults. The chance was 220% more among adults suffering from diabetes for 15 years and above. These results were noted in calculating risk ratio. However, the identified most responsible factor for the prevalence was medium family expenditure, followed by medium family income, physical inactivity, over age, consumption of process food, hypertension, and longer duration of diabetes. This conclusion was drawn on the basis of risk ratio and higher absolute value of factor loading.

The prevalence of overweight and obesity are in increasing trend over the last decades in both developed and developing countries [6, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36]. Prevalence has implications in increasing the rate of non-communicable diseases including kidney diseases [1, 2, 3, 6, and 32]. Hence, strategies to decrease CKD need the inclusion of prevention technique of overweight and obesity [37]. But due to upward social mobility among the people of Bangladesh, the influences of obesity cannot be avoided but the intensity of the problem can be reduced to a great extent if proper action plan is formulated by the health planners to implement their plan in both urban and rural localities [38]. The social workers, medical practitioners, and other health workers can do a lot to encourage the people in leading healthy life. For this, people can be advised to avoid

- (i) Process food, fatty and salty food, can food,
- (ii) Sedentary activity,
- (ii) Gain of unwanted body weight.

People can also be advised to do some sort of physical work and physical exercise if and when these are possible.

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