

Bimodal IT Career Aspirations in Bangladesh

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Bangladeshi IT students bifurcate into those who aspire to work abroad and believe they will be able to do so, and others who, regardless of their dream aspiration, believe Dhaka to be the realistic site of their ambitions.

Research question

- What are the different kinds of career aspirations among IT-focused Bangladeshi university students?

IT industry in Bangladesh

- 300,000 engineers are working
- 56% in Software, 46% in ITES
- 10,000 startup

Brain circulation in Bangladesh

- A key first step for good brain circulation is the initial emigration of a country's talent.
- Compared with India, Bangladesh has seen far less brain circulation.

Methodology

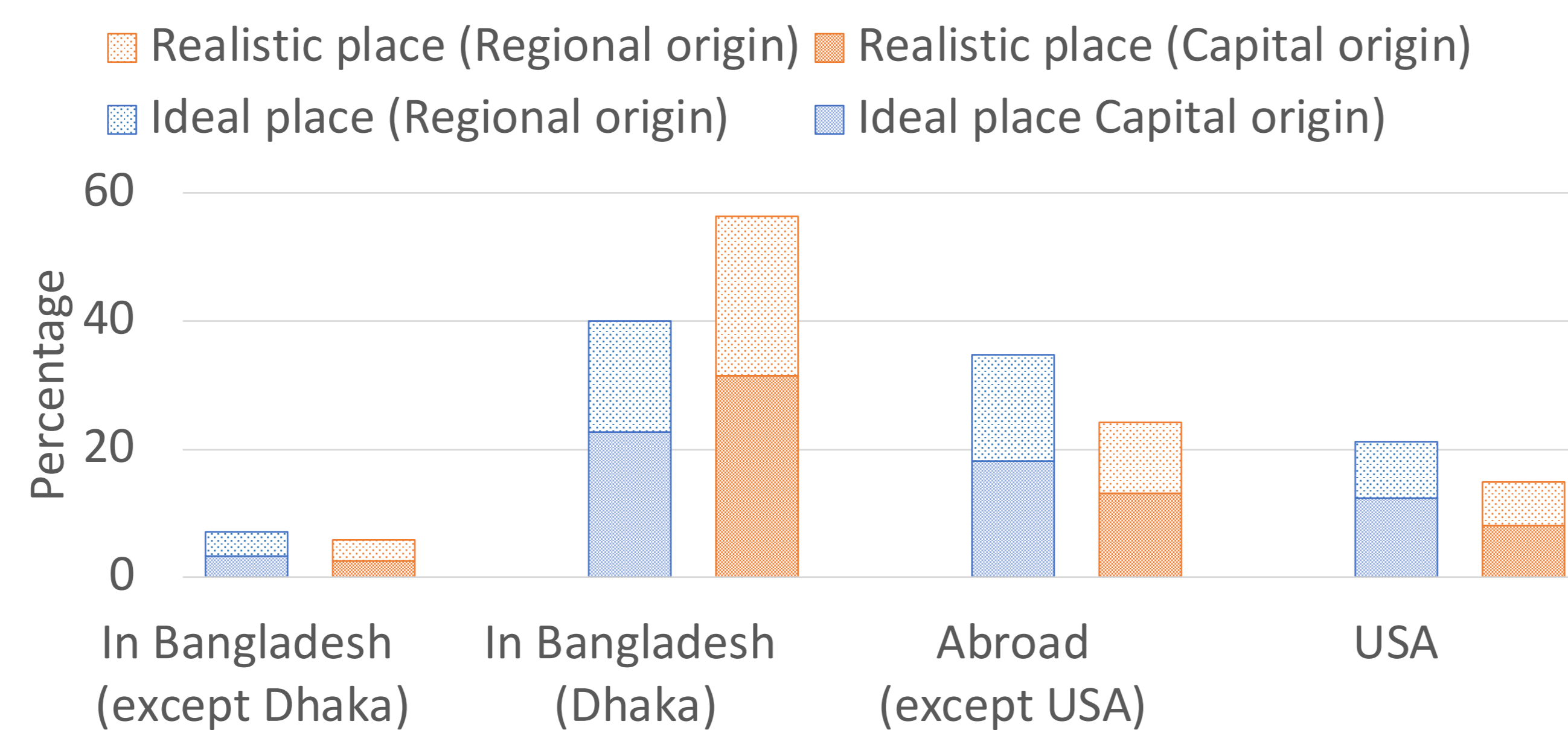
A questionnaire survey distributed to university students in Bangladesh.

Participants

- 10 Universities in Bangladesh
- 595 Students majoring in CSE
- 76% Male, 24% Female
- Urban/Rural, Public/Private combination

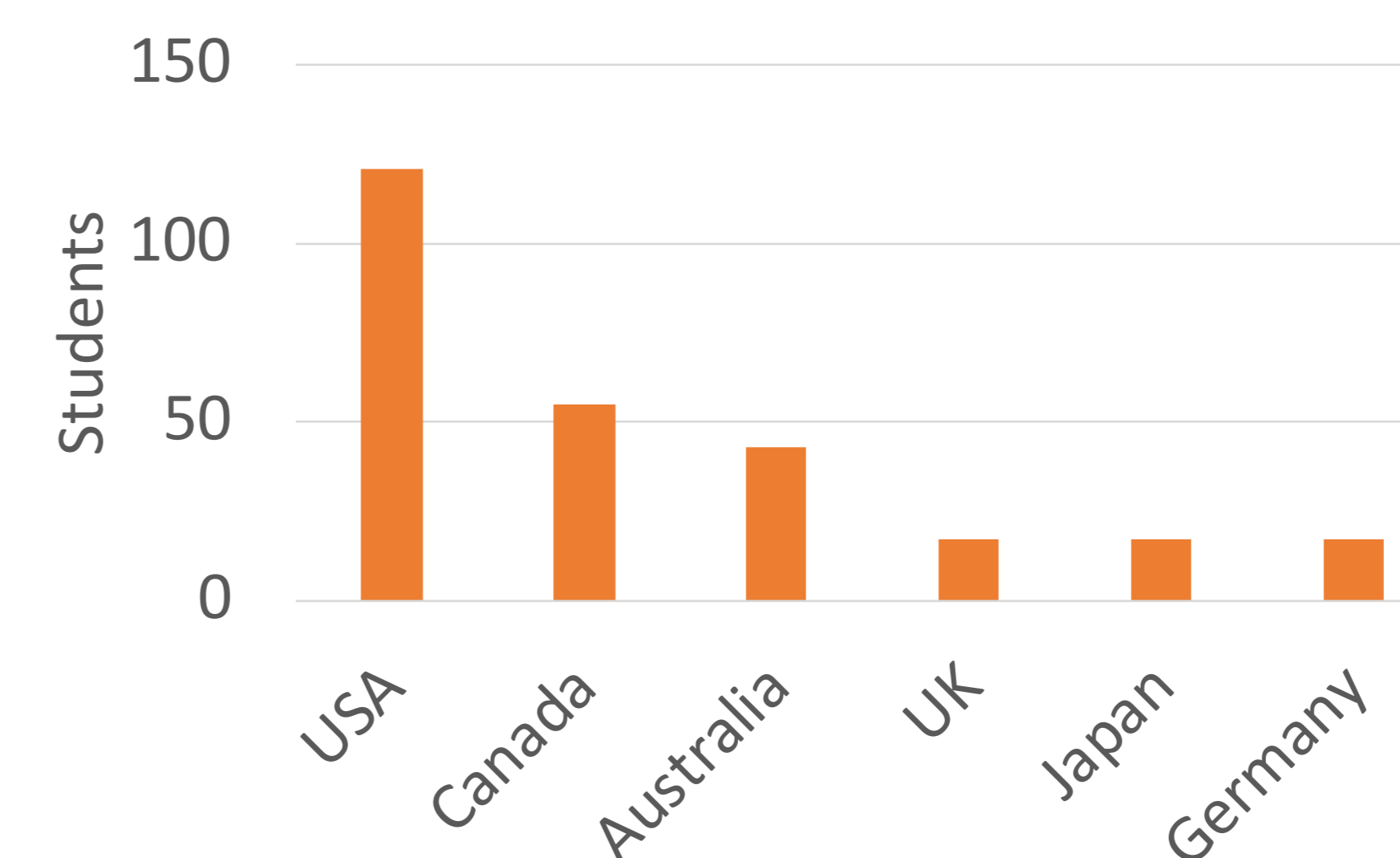
Findings: Career aspirations

Where is your IDEAL/REALISTIC place to work?



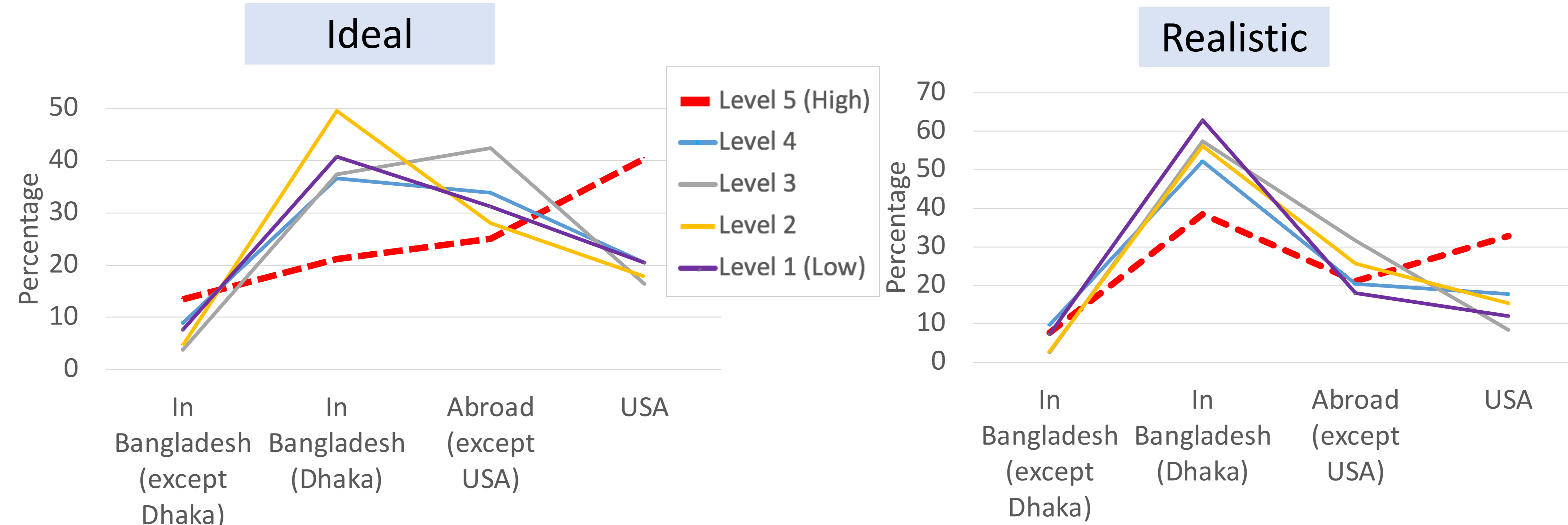
- Dhaka emerges as the most popular of the four categories for both ideal and realistic aspirations.
- Dhaka also appears to be the site where dreams are tempered by expectation.

Country distribution



- English-speaking countries are the most favored, followed by Japan and Germany.

Ideal/Realistic geographic aspiration by university level



- Two groups of career aspiration
- Most people who are interested in working abroad interested in the US.
- Different trend between realistic and ideal aspirations.

Discussion

The different trend between realistic and ideal aspirations

Even at the top universities, realism tempers dreaming due to:

- lack of familiarity with other countries
- differences in language
- challenges of immigration and visas
- fewer social ties to other countries

These potential barriers suggest that there may be hurdles of self-efficacy, individual capacity, and social resources.

Socio-economic factors correlation

- No urban/rural difference
- [Next step] Correlation analysis about socio-economic factors

Toward brain circulation

International exposure and life in a different culture seems to grant several types of epiphanies and improve self-efficacy:

- An outside perspective of their home country
- A recognition of the magnitude of the gap between the developed and developing world
- A sense for the social characteristics associated with economic development
- New approaches to encouraging development, based on host-country examples