Education decisions in slums of Dhaka

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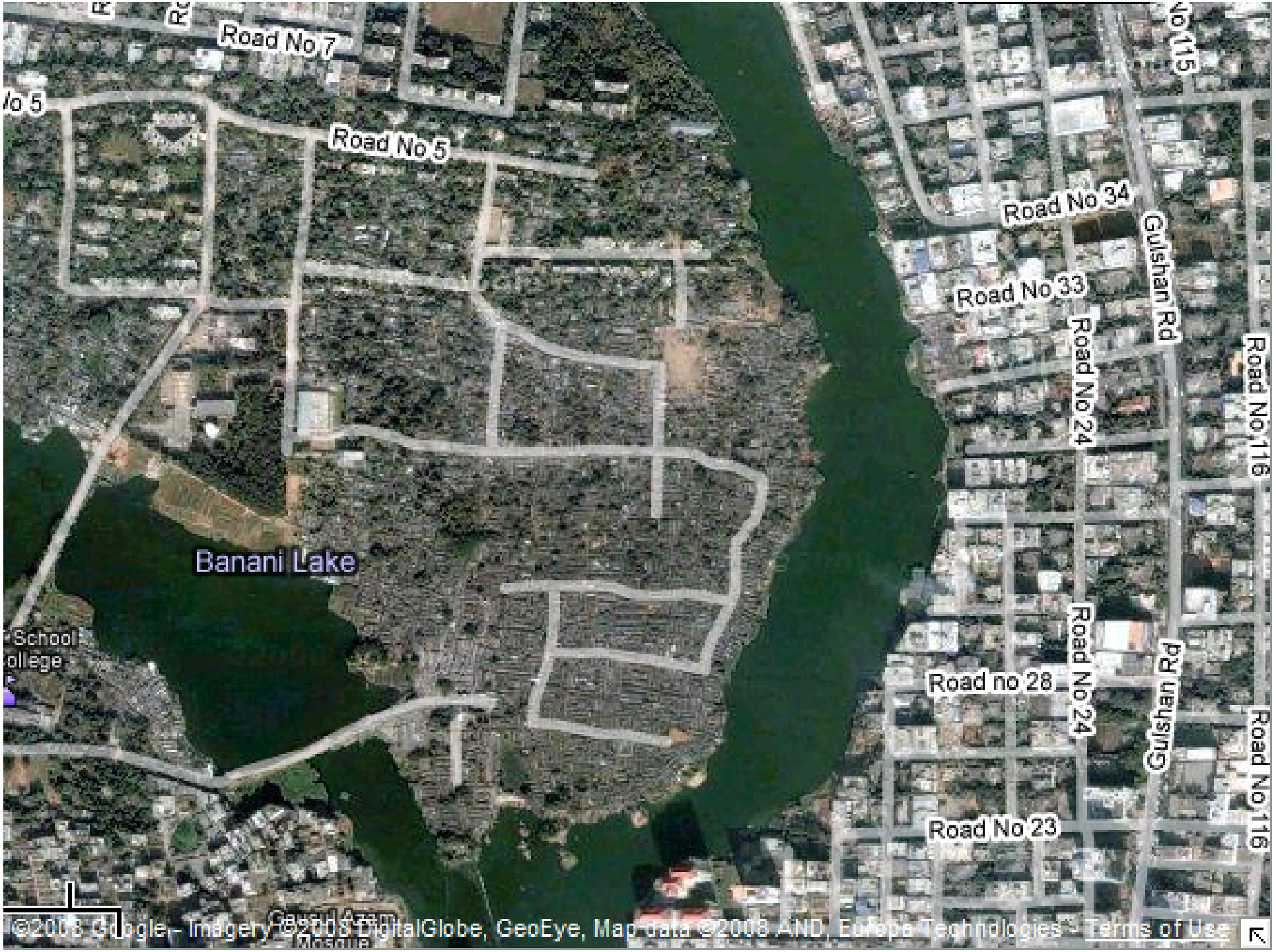
Context

- Rapid urban economic growth, poverty reduction, migration
- High and increasing returns to education
- But much of the migration is towards slums
  - 1 in 3 of Dhaka's population
  - Very low income, poor housing conditions
  - Children often work
  - Unrecognised
  - Not enough schools
  - Harder to access returns to education

The research

- CREATE survey – 1600 households in 4 slums (plus 6 rural areas)
- My survey – 500 of these households / 600 children aged 11-15
- Interviews – 30 households


Road No 7
Road No 5
Road No 34
Road No 33
Gulshan Rd
Road No 24
Road No 116
Banani Lake
Road no 28
Road No 23
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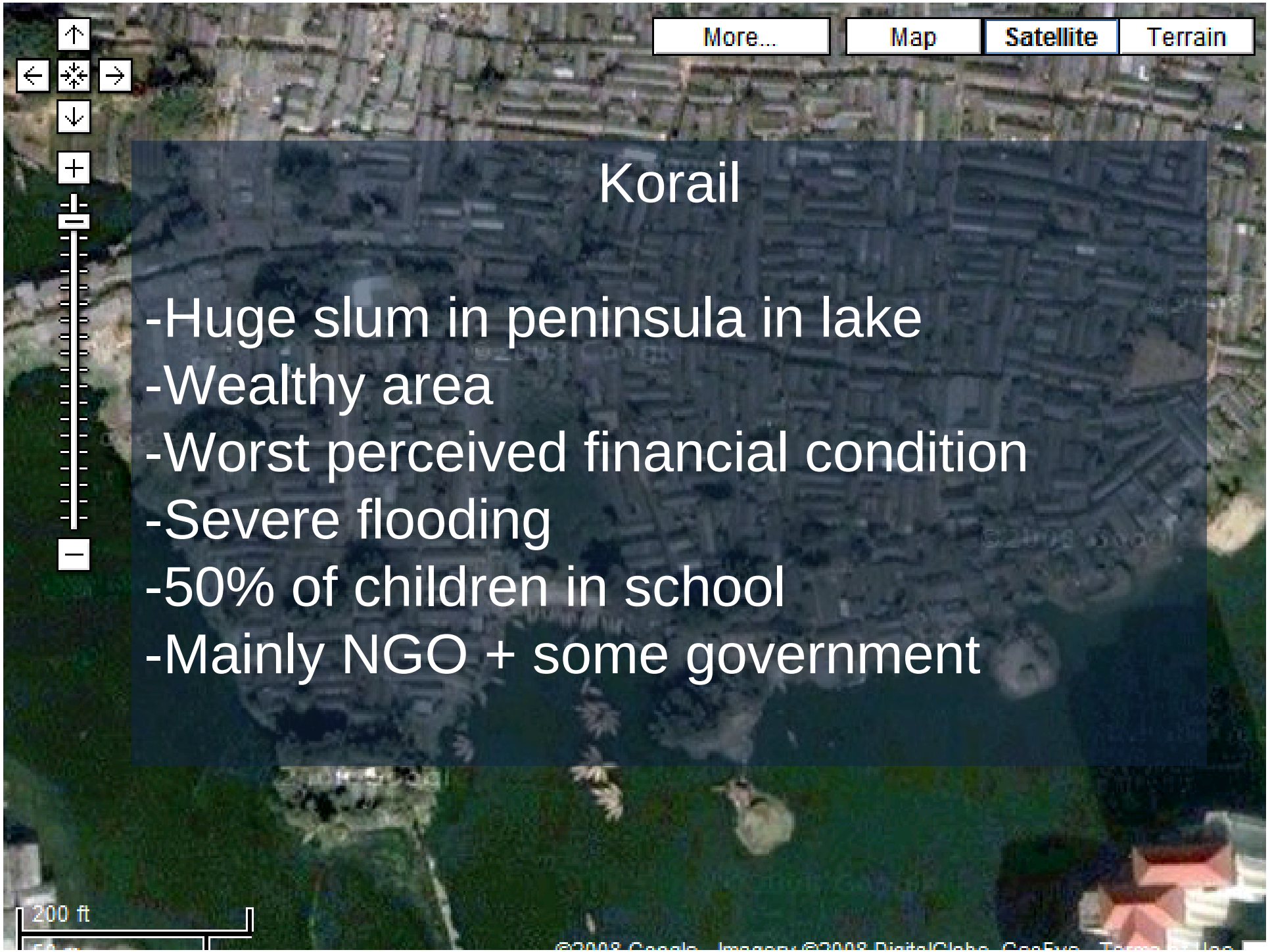
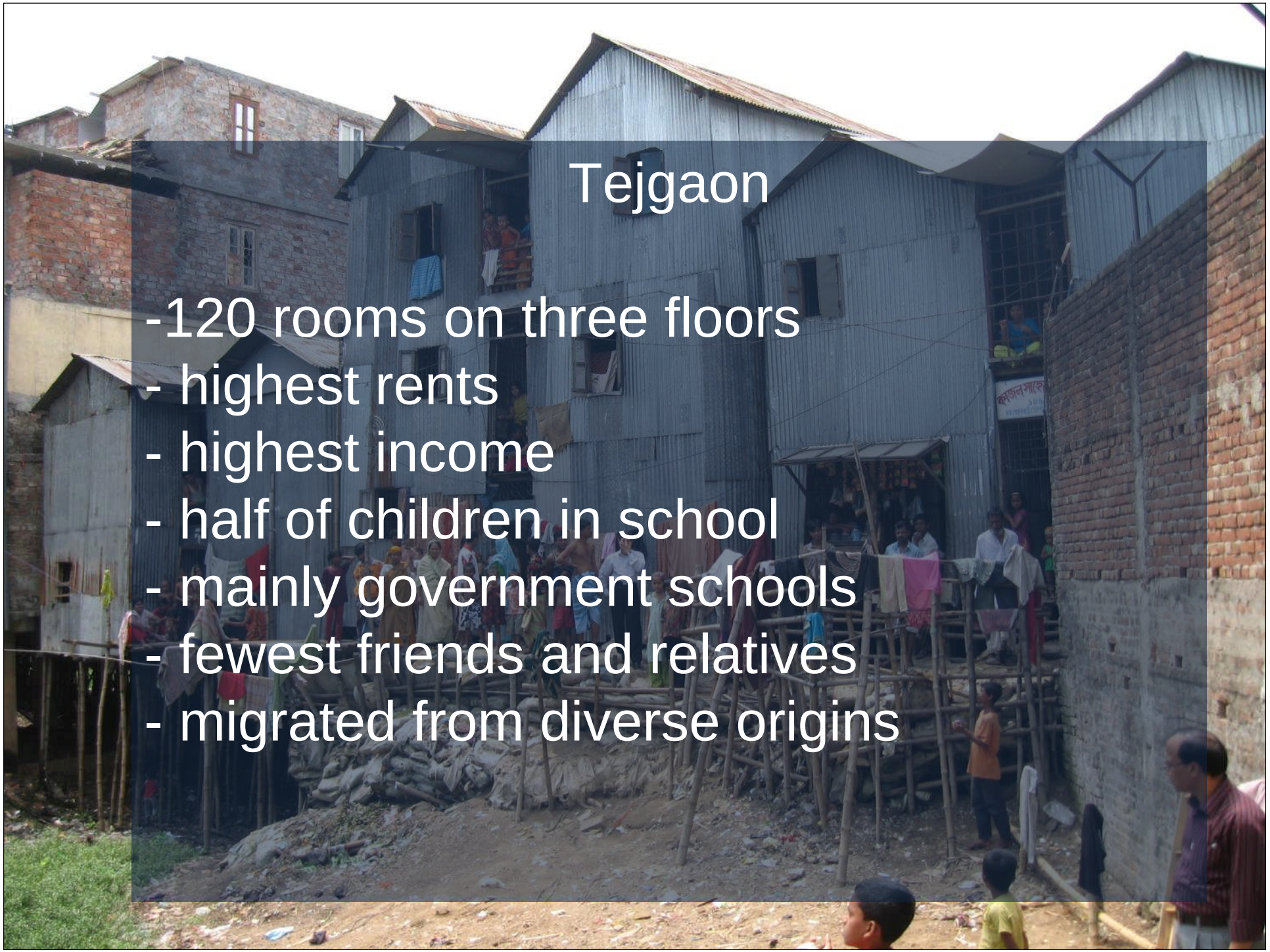
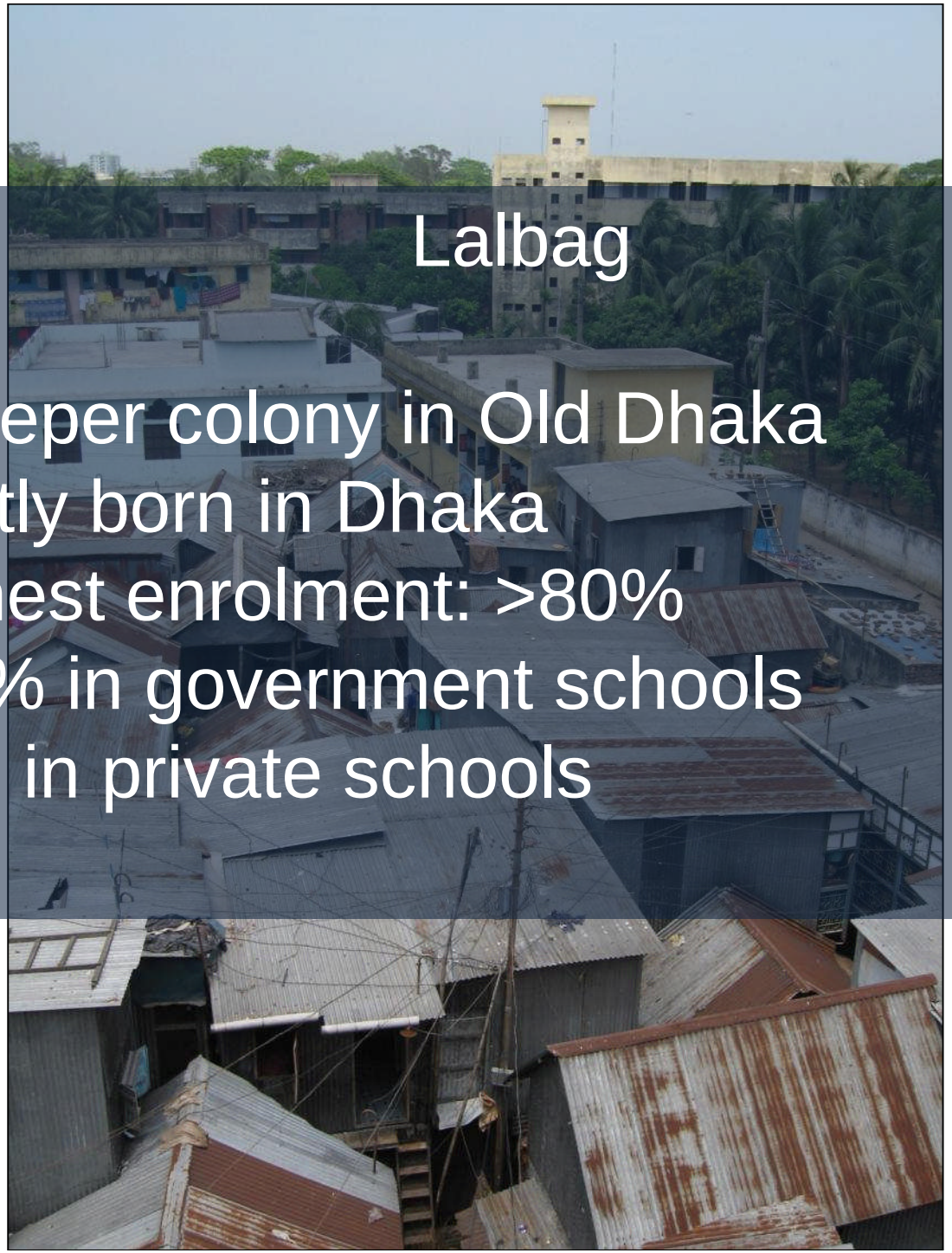


Korail

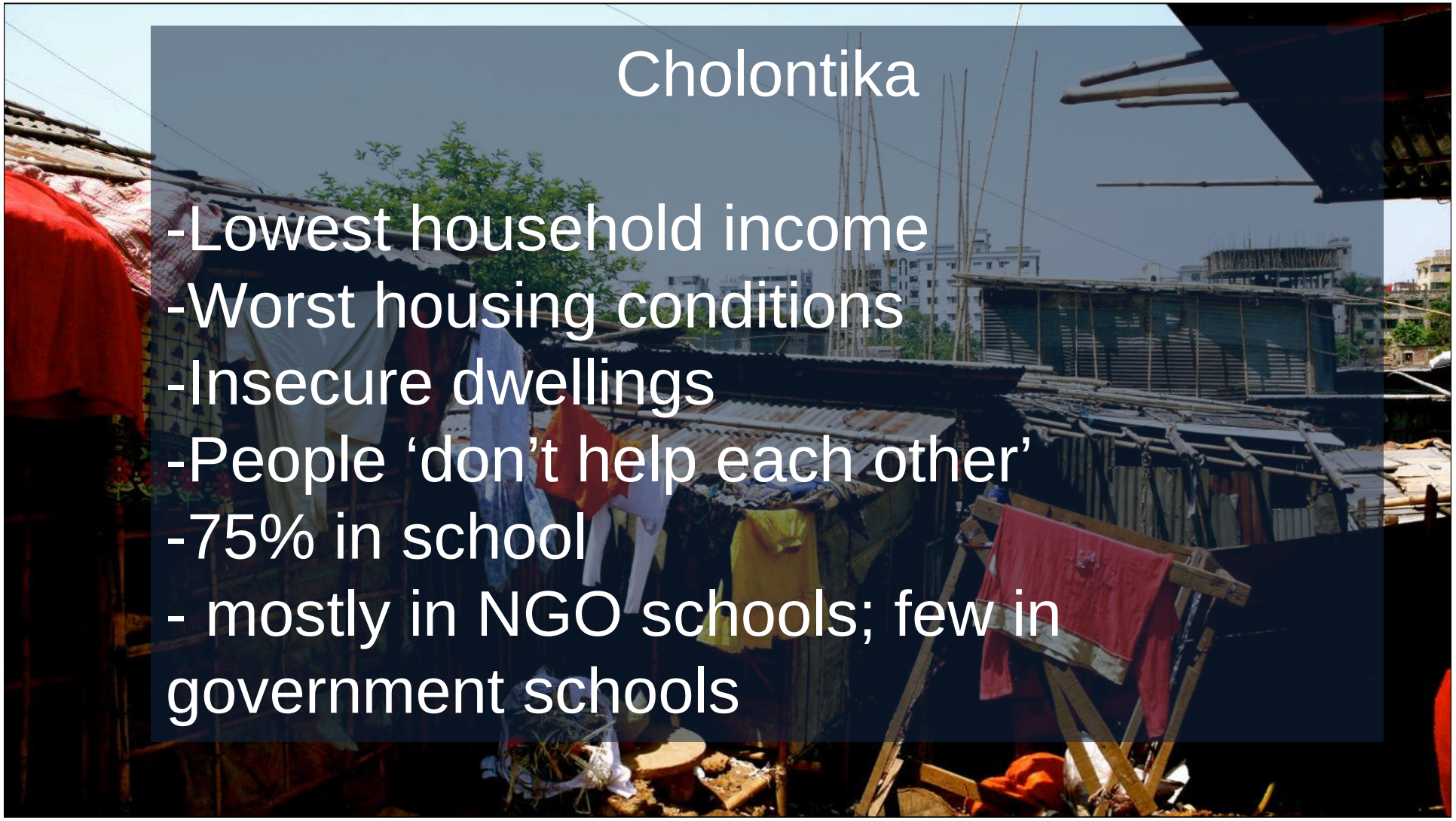
-Huge slum in peninsula in lake
-Wealthy area
-Worst perceived financial condition
-Severe flooding
-50% of children in school
-Mainly NGO + some government


Tejgaon
-120 rooms on three floors
- highest rents
- highest income
- half of children in school
- mainly government schools
- fewest friends and relatives
- migrated from diverse origins

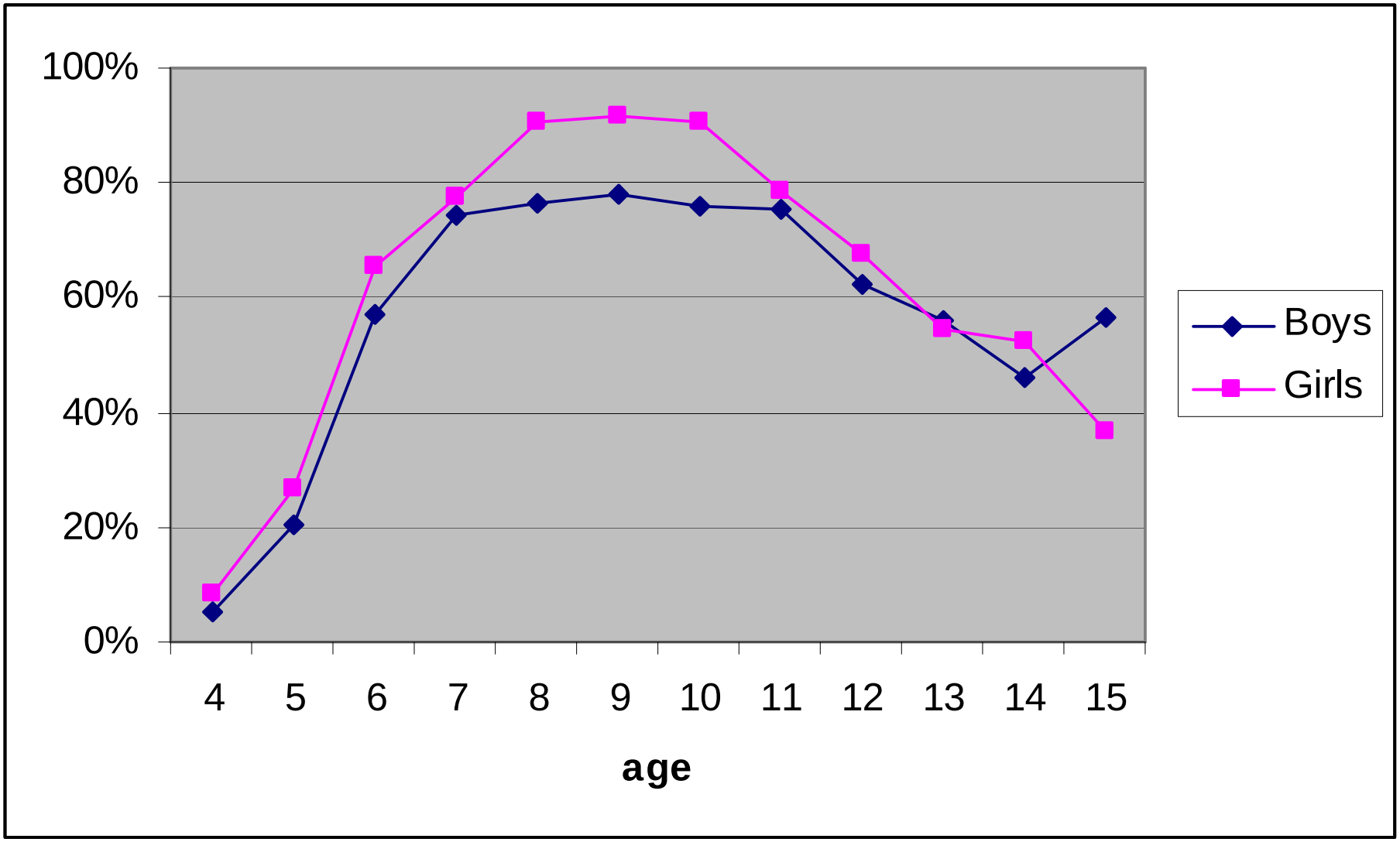


Lalbag

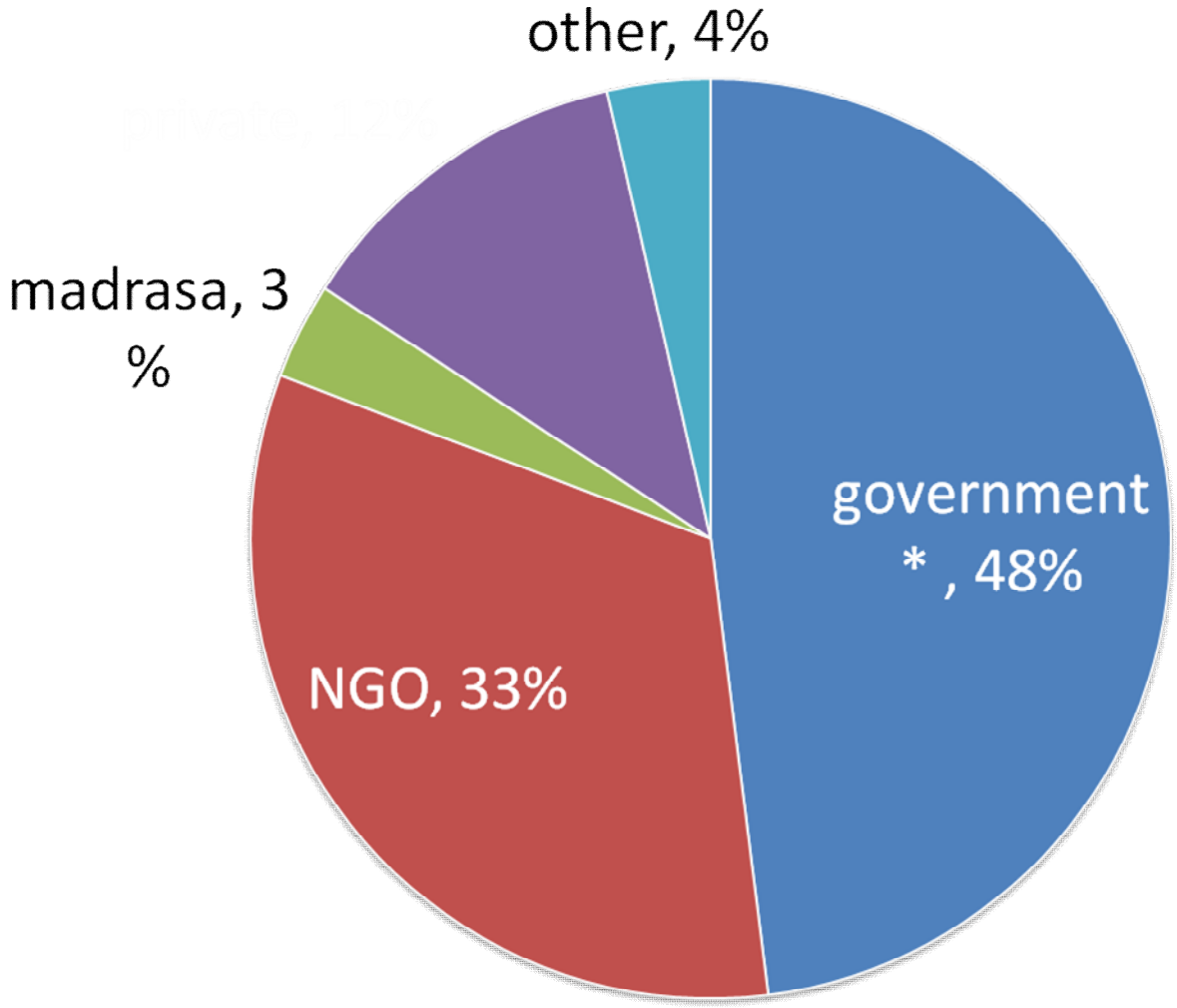
-Sweeper colony in Old Dhaka
-Mostly born in Dhaka
-Highest enrolment: >80%
->50% in government schools
-17% in private schools


Cholontika
-Lowest household income
-Worst housing conditions
-Insecure dwellings
-People ‘don’t help each other’
-75% in school
- mostly in NGO schools; few in government schools

Proportion of schoolgoing children by age and sex



School type



* Includes registered non-government primary schools