



NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE-INDUCED
DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

EVIDENCE FROM DISASTER PRONE AREAS OF BANGLADESH

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IDI	In depth Interviews
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KII	Key informant interviews
MoEF	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
PAR	Pressure and Release
RA	Research Assistant
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
WHO	World Health Organizations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAW	Violence against Women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence against women is a violation of basic human rights, but we still witness various forms of gender-based violence across the world. Deep-rooted societal norms, stigma, religious fundamentalism, and patriarchal culture are responsible for the prevalence of gender-based violence in Bangladesh. According to Human Development Report (2020), 54.2% of women aged 15 years and old witnessed violence by intimate partners, and 3% of women witnessed violence by a non-intimate partner. The BBS (2015) survey found that 70% of married women or girls have faced any sort of intimate partner abuse and half of them have been physically abused by their partner, and 3% took legal action against it. According to the report of Ain-o-Salish Kendra in (2020), a total number of 1,627 reported cases of rape were filed, which was 1413 in 2019 and 732 in 2018. Since Bangladesh witness frequent natural disasters every year, many people lose their homes and migrate elsewhere. Displacement of the populace owing to adverse climatic events triggers vulnerability and insecurity in the context of socio-economic well-being. Each year, extensive river erosion coupled with cyclonic disasters & salinity intrusion led to more climate displacements in Bangladesh. After natural disasters, there is a growing trend of women being subjected to violence. Domestic violence may be exacerbated by prejudice that remains even after a disaster and undermines physical and social well-being, increasing the likelihood of domestic violence. Job loss, poverty, and the loss of loved ones cause tremendous mental stress, which leads to frustration and domestic violence.

The study is aiming to look into climate-induced displacement and its effect on violence against women in Bangladesh. The study will seek the consequences of climate change and the vulnerabilities, insecurity & psychological distresses they give rise to, along with the socio-cultural, economic, and political factors that gradually trigger violence against women among the displaced populace.

The study followed a qualitative approach and semi-structured interviews to understand how climate change displacement influences violence against the Shariatpur and Satkhira region. A set of questions were asked to the interviewees to perceive the reasons behind the actions. Ethical issues were taken into account regarding the reliability and acceptance of the questionnaire. ATLAS.ti (version 9) software was used to arrange, assemble and analyze the qualitative data. Major findings of the study are following: a) Displacement, financial crisis, gender-based violence, early marriages are the most critical and common disaster impacts in disaster-prone areas; b) Family violence escalate during any natural disaster, especially gender-based violence, because of the financial crisis; c) Economic crisis and financial insecurity are the main reasons of gender-based violence; d) Displacement as a result of natural disasters is a common occurrence, and one of the main reasons for this is to find a new economic activity; e) when men find it difficult to find work in new places, they become frustrated and distressed. Furthermore, this frustration and misery lead to violence against women in their families; f) In disaster-prone communities, dowry is another significant determinant of violence against women. The major cause for prevalent dowry practices, along with existing

societal customs, is abject poverty. Those who lose their homes and other possessions due to a disaster put pressure on their spouses to get money from their families; g) Women in these areas are subjected to a wide spectrum of violence. They, particularly married women, are the most extreme victims of physiological assault. Physical violence against women is also frequent in these communities, with most cases perpetrated by their spouses or in-laws. Furthermore, women do not object to this due to fear, shame, or other social factors. Sexual violence is more common among young unmarried women and disabled women; h) most families have faced difficulties adapting to a new place after being displaced, especially building new shelters and looking for new jobs; i) Child marriage is a common phenomenon in disaster-prone areas due to climate-induced displacement. Furthermore, this has adverse effects on women's physical and mental health of the child bride. It often leads to death, the leading cause of which is early pregnancy; j) The main reasons for child marriage are the economic condition and prevailing social norms of the family; k) Unmarried women are not allowed to work outside married women are allowed sometimes. Most women work in brick mills. Women are not concerned about menstrual hygiene as they use cloth instead of pad during their period. The study suggests for inclusion of displaced people in existing policies to work on the betterment of these communities. Besides, violence against women in coastal areas should be addressed properly, and intervention of multiple stakeholders is necessary.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Climate change, as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer” (IPCC, 2012). The evidence for fast climate change currently appears to be undeniable. Climate change in Bangladesh might have severe consequences for the local economy and human wellbeing. Bangladesh has been linked with numerous natural catastrophes caused by climate change. The frequent environmental risks or repercussions of climate change have a greater impact on women than on men, particularly in Bangladesh’s coastal areas. Aside from the detrimental effects of climate change on ecosystems, agriculture, and health, most of Bangladesh’s coastal areas are well connected.

The frequency and intensity of these natural disasters, along with Bangladesh’s socioeconomic situation, results in the loss of lives, houses, and lands, as well as damage to infrastructure and economic assets, and has a negative influence on people’s lives and livelihoods throughout the country (Siddiqui, 2011). Such vulnerability to frequent climate disasters has resulted in individuals or groups forcibly being displaced from their homes and lands as a result of climate change (Displacement Solution, 2012). Nonetheless, it is apparent that forced displacement as a result of climate changes occurs and that it is substantial (Black, Kniveton, and Schmidt-Verkerk, 2011). As a result of the effects of climate change, Bangladesh is poised to become

even more vulnerable to climate change. Climate change is predicted to worsen many of Bangladesh's natural hazards, including all of the natural disasters that are presently causing climate displacements, such as floods, tropical cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, and river-bank erosion (MoEF, 2009).

Climate change has already had significant negative effects on Bangladesh, including rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, heat waves, cold waves, floods, droughts, salinity intrusion, and cyclones, all of which have had direct and indirect negative effects on the natural environment, agriculture, and human health in recent years (UNICEF, 2015; Seneviratne et al. 2012; IUCN, 2012; Shahid, 2009). Climate change is expected to have different effects on people based on their age, socioeconomic status, occupation, and gender. These physical problems caused by climate change have several harmful impacts on natural ecosystems and human culture. Climate change has the greatest impact on vulnerable populations, such as the poor and, in particular, impoverished women (WHO, 2014; Alston, 2015).

Women are disproportionately impacted in the aftermath of each disaster, but they hide their sensitivity and rarely express their discontent. Climate change plays a vital role in causing gender-based violence. Climate change can disrupt human interaction; due to climate change, people get displaced from their habitats. This causes a change in the established human interaction and leads to physical violence (Shaffer, 2017). As climate change disrupts the livelihood of people whose sole income depends on natural resources, women and girls suffer the most in the form of gender-based violence (Njikko, 2020). According to Bisika (2008), the most common form of violence against women is domestic violence, including economic deprivation, forced sex, and mental torture. This creates physical and psychological harm to women, as per WHO. Moreover, climate change has an adverse effect on the

minority group, women and girls, because of the economic, cultural discrimination that they face. Due to these reasons, they have less access to natural resources, which might help them build their adaptation to climate change (Dwyer and Woolf, 2018).

Furthermore, post-disaster trauma leads to severe conditions in families that result in men or head of the family lose their sense of control. Such trauma often leads to violence against women in family (Dankelman, 2016). Likewise, climate change can cause sexual exploitation to women in the form of sex trafficking, and as per UNODC, more than 80 percent of victims of sex trafficking are women and girls. (Camey et al., 2020).

The study aims to find out the nexus between climate change, disaster, and gender-based violence by recognizing associated factors that intensify GBV in disaster-prone areas. It adopted a qualitative method to identify those factors. The study will also provide some recommendations at the end based on the findings and existing literature.

1.2 GEOGRAPHY OF THE STUDY AREAS

Two disaster-prone areas have been selected for the present study: Tala and Kalaroa Upazila of Satkhira district and Naria Upazila of Shariatpur. Tala, a south-western coastal Upazila, is consists of 12 unions with a population of 294,400 covering 344.15 sq km. Tala is beset by a few rivers, namely Kapotaksha, Dalua, Shalta, Betna etc. Tala Upazila was widely known in the literature for frequent waterlogging (Awal, 2014; Tareq et al., 2018; Awal and Islam, 2020). The government has initiated the Tidal river management (TRM) project in Tala Upazila to address the waterlogging problem in 2016, yet the outcome of this project is questionable (Hussain, Islam and Firdaus, 2018).

The average literacy rate of the area is 45.66%, where only 39.08% female population is literate, according to Banglapedia.

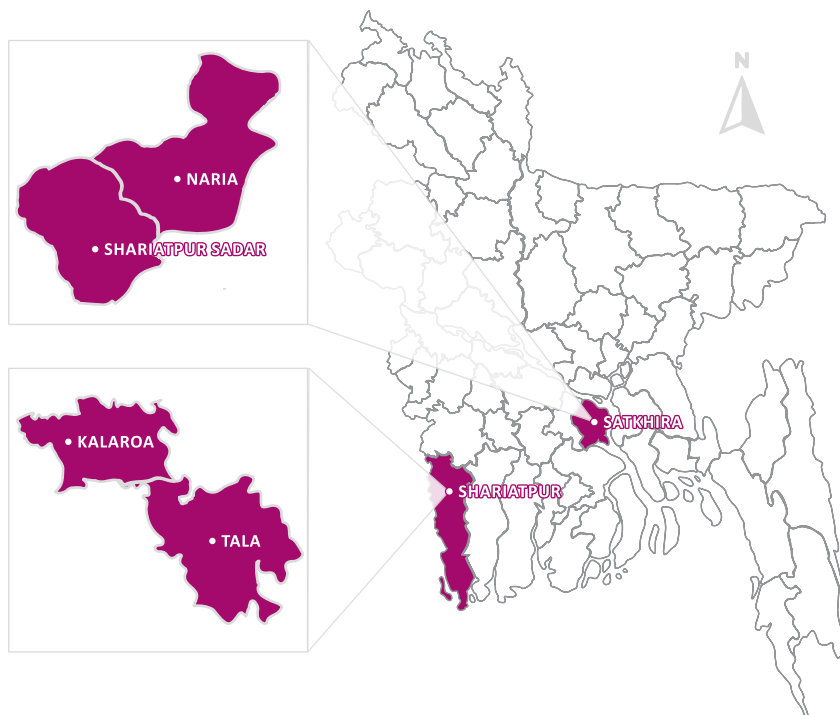


Figure 6: Study Area of Two Climate Vulnerable Districts of Bangladesh)

Kalaroa upazila located in between 22°48' and 22°57' north latitudes and in between 88°54' and 89°09' east longitudes in Satkhira District, Bangladesh. It has population of 237,992 (BBS, 2011) covering 237,992 sq km. This Upazila is also beset by some rivers, namely Kapotaksha, Betna, Sonai; Bahura, Ichamati, etc. The geography is largely a low fertile deltaic plain that experiences seasonal flooding during the rainy season and severe drought during the dry season (Kabir et al., 2016: 445).

Naria Upazila is located in between 23°14' and 23°25' north latitudes and in between 90°18' and 90°30' east longitudes. It covers an area of 240.02 sq km with a population of 225,536. Padma and Palong are two main water bodies in this Upazila. The average literacy rate is 41.3% with a 38.8% female literacy rate. River bank erosion in Naria is very common due to climate change, upstream action, geological position, and the distinctive nature of the river (Noor et al., 2021). The area experienced a massive river erosion in 2018 that resulted in huge displacement of population and destruction of livelihoods (Titlee, Islam and Ahmed, 2020).

1.3 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Climate change, disasters and disaster-induced displacement are becoming increasingly important in international climate talks. Increased floods, drought, riverbank erosion, and salinization of water supplies are expected as a result of climate shocks and strains. The number of people displaced as a result of these occurrences will also increase. Bangladesh is the most susceptible country on the danger zone list. As it is estimated that by 2050, one-third of the country's coastal areas will be underwater, displacing one out of every seven people (Environmental Justice Foundation, 2015), the Bay of Bengal is experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis and massive displacement, with nearly 30 million people at risk of being displaced.

Heavy rainfall, long droughts, desertification, environmental degradation, sea-level rise, and cyclones are already pushing more than 20 million people to flee their homes and relocate to other parts of their countries on a yearly basis (UNHCR, 2021). According to a recent World Bank projection, the number of Bangladeshis displaced by climate change's

different effects might reach 13.3 million by 2050, making it the country's leading driver of internal migration (Rigaud et al., 2018). Women and children are among the most vulnerable groups to climate-induced natural hazards like floods, cyclones, riverbank erosion (UN, 2020; Alston et al., 2014). According to Human Development Report (2020), 54.2% of women aged 15 years and old witnessed violence by an intimate partner, and 3% of women witnessed violence by a non-intimate partner. Domestic violence may be exacerbated by prejudice that remains even after a disaster and undermines physical and social well-being, hence increasing the likelihood of domestic violence. Job loss, poverty, and the loss of loved ones cause tremendous mental stress, which leads to frustration and domestic violence (Molyneaux et al., 2019; Memon, 2020:67).

Due to the obvious loss of the house, employment, and other valuable assets, impoverished people are often more vulnerable as a result of this displacement. Due to their social role and lack of agency, women absorb even intensified risk during and after a disaster. Furthermore, according to some studies, disasters and forced displacement exacerbate violence against women (Rahman, 2013; Rezwana and Pain, 2017).

However, this entails a more in-depth inquiry into the factors contributing to violence against women during and after natural disasters. The study will examine how climate change-induced disasters like cyclones and floods lead to women's vulnerability and violence. The study aims to contribute to the existing literature by accompanying the nexus between climate change-induced disasters and GBV, thus covering social issues associated with disasters in coastal areas. If the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the displacement pattern can be understood, it will be helpful for systematic study for academics and expert researchers to explain the overall climate-induced displacement discourse, which might be a new social discourse. Finally, the study will also look at

the aspects that contribute to violence against women due to natural disasters and climate change-related displacement.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION AND OBJECTIVES

The key research question of this study is: How does climate change-induced displacement affect violence against women, specifically child marriage practices due to natural disasters in Bangladesh?

Specific objectives of this study are following:

1. To assess the vulnerability, insecurity, and psychological distress triggered by climate-induced displacement
2. To find out the evidence of violence against women due to climate-induced displacement
3. To identify the effects of child marriage practices with a special focus on gender-based violence
4. To investigate economic and socio-cultural factors shaping child marriage practices among climate-induced population

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Climate Change and Disaster in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, a low-lying South Asian nation with a long funnel-shaped coastline of the Bay of Bengal to the south and the Himalayan Mountain ranges in the north, along with tropical, humid climatic conditions, is widely considered one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world (Alston, 2010). The very geographical setting that provides the country with the world's largest river delta and the life-sustaining monsoon, also brings about the catastrophic ravages of cyclones, floods, storm surges, riverbank erosion etc., causing widespread damage to the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable inhabitants of the country (Karim, 1995). Climate change appears to be the greatest threat to Bangladesh. According to the latest projections of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), poor and underdeveloped nations are likely to bear the disproportionate consequences of climate-induced changes. This is due to the fact that industries susceptible to climate change, such as agriculture and fishing, are critical to the economy of poor nations (Sharmin & Islam, 2013). Although Bangladesh is a developing nation, its immense reliability in agriculture makes the country more susceptible to the consequences of climate change and climate change-induced disasters (Agrawala et al., 2003:21).

On a global scale, a recent report by FAO shows that the frequency of natural disasters that used to occur has now seen a threefold increase. In only 20 years, the twenty-first century has already witnessed a slew of natural cataclysmic

occurrences that are far from typical for the time period. (UN, 2021). Climate change is invariably the ultimate driving force behind these huge changes in our natural environment. Variability in the climate has led to a significant rise in catastrophic climatic events in Bangladesh. Although historical evidence suggests the country was traditionally prone to natural disasters, consequential changes in the climate have exacerbated the pattern of occurrences of those disasters (Sabur, 2012). Disasters are occurring more frequently than ever before in Bangladesh's history. Floods, cyclones, riverbank erosion, rising sea water levels, salinity intrusion, etc., among other hazards, now pose extraordinary threats to the lives and livelihoods of the people of Bangladesh (Datta and Banik, 1999).

Floods and tropical cyclones, which are the two most destructive climate-induced catastrophes in Bangladesh, have witnessed a significant increase in their incidence over the last couple of decades. According to scientific research, rising sea surface temperatures as a result of climate change are expected to amplify cyclone activity and exacerbate storm surges (Emanuel et al., 2008; International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones, 2006; IPCC, 2007). As thermal expansion continues to occur and the ice cap (S) continues to melt, the severity of the surges will be exacerbated even further by increasing sea levels. As a result, in a changing climate, increases in sea surface temperature and sea-level rise may aggravate Bangladesh's vulnerability to cyclones (Dasgupta et al., 2011). Similarly, more flash floods and flood incidents are also expected to occur in Bangladesh in a changing climate. Flooding of a greater scale occurred in Bangladesh only six times between 1972 and 2014: in 1974, 1987, 1988, 1998, 2004, and 2007. But, since 2015 alone, until now, the country has been plagued by floods of catastrophic size for six consecutive years, drowning more than 22% of the country's

entire geographical area (Reaz, 2020). These occurrences have a significant impact on people's lives and livelihoods and the environment and ecology of Bangladesh.

The socio-economic conditions of individuals or groups play one of the most significant roles in building resilience and recovering from the impacts of those disasters (Burney et al., 2007). Because Bangladesh is a country that is heavily reliant on its agricultural sector, a large proportion of the affected population are experiencing profound impacts on their livelihoods inflicted by the disasters. They lose their social capital, which only enhances their exposure & vulnerability to natural calamities (Datta and Banik, 1999). Disasters have far-reaching consequences that go beyond mortality and material loss, placing enormous strain on families and communities, eventually leading to social instability.

2.2 Disaster and Climate-Induced Displacement in Bangladesh

The climate is the average condition of the atmosphere in a particular area over a longer period. (Masum, 2019). Any changes in the usual climate variables lead to climate change and thus sometimes result in disasters. The climate of Bangladesh is mainly influenced by the hydrological cycles & processes of three large river basins; the Ganges basin, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna basin (Masum, 2019). Bangladesh is susceptible to climate change with respect to rising temperatures, high rainfall variability, and rain shortfalls (Rahman & Lateh 2015)

Therefore, driven by major factors, climate change, and disasters have been common phenomena in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Because of climate change and disasters,

people move from one region to another for survival. The coastal areas are the prime sources of livelihood for the people of Bangladesh through agriculture and fishing (Hasnat et al. 2020). Therefore, migrating because of climate change and disasters has become a severe issue.

Most coastal areas are subject to natural hazards such as river erosion, salinity, and variations in rainfall patterns, among others. As a result of these causes, people are migrating to nearby cities. According to Bilak et al. (2016), disasters such as storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and excessive heat caused 19.2 million new displacements in 113 countries around the globe in all areas in 2015.

A study by Islam and Hasan (2015) on one of the coastal areas of Bangladesh, specifically in the Khulna division, showed that Cyclone Aila had made the lives of poor people vulnerable as they had to migrate due to their financial crisis, loss of resources and that led them to unemployment. Nevertheless, because of climate and disaster-induced migration, there is an economic push force that works for economic under-development and unemployment, while the pull force works for employment and development (Karemera et al., 2000).

2.3 Gender-Based Violence

According to Yanagisako and Collier (1990:139) biological differences between men and women are identified by the term 'sex', and 'gender' is more connected to people's cultural ideas and use of language; however, facts related to gender vary from culture to culture.

UNWOMEN defined gender-based violence in the following way: "Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at an individual or a group of individuals based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of

power, and harmful norms. The term is primarily used to underscore the fact that structural, gender-based power differentials place women and girls at risk for multiple forms of violence.” The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) refers to GBV as an umbrella term including “any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and on the basis of socially ascribed differences (eg. Gender) between males and females” (IASC, 2015:5).

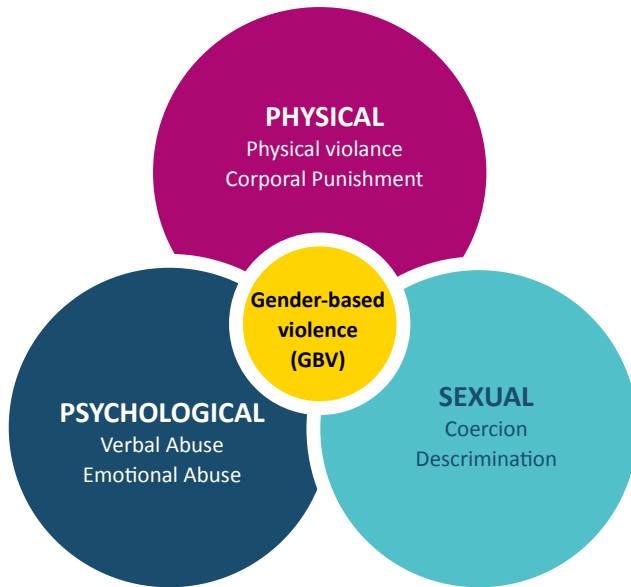


Figure 7: Forms of Gender-Based Violence (UNHCR, 2021)

UNHCR defined GBV as: “Gender-based violence can include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion, and manipulation. This can take many forms, such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and so-called ‘honor crimes’” (UNHCR, 2021).

2.4 Theoretical Reflection

In her work, *The dialects of sex*, Shula Smith Firestone stresses that “the root cause of women’s subordination in their biology. The latter, which includes menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding, makes women dependent on men. This dependence inevitably produces unequal power relationships” (Firestone, 1970).

Karen Horney, a psychoanalytic thinker, established one of the most well-known theories of neurosis. Neurosis, she believes, is the product of basic anxiety brought on by interpersonal relationships. According to Horney, “direct or indirect domination, indifference, erratic behavior, lack of respect for the child’s individual needs, lack of real guidance, disparaging attitudes, too much admiration or the absence of it, lack of reliable warmth, having to take sides in parental disagreements, too much or too little responsibility” can all contribute to basic anxiety (neurosis) (Horney, 1942). Horney listed certain neurotic wants in her book *Self-Analysis*. Some of these requirements are related to gender-based violence; these are mentioned below.

The neurotic need to exploit others: These individuals view others in terms of their benefits from being connected with them. People with this drive are frequently proud of their ability to take advantage of others. They are often focused on persuading others to attain desired goals, such as ideas, power, money, or sex.

The neurotic need for Power: Individuals with this desire seek authority purely to gain power. They usually extol power and despise weakness, and they will exploit or oppress others. For these people, personal limits, powerlessness, and unforeseen events are all concerns. In these two conditions of needing to exploit and needing power, men frequently exploit women.

This illustrates how people's instincts might lead them to act in this way.

The Ecological model (also known as the socio-ecological model) provides perhaps the best understanding of the causes of GBV. According to the Ecological Model, violence is caused by a combination of factors. The risk of violence is influenced by a mixture of and interplay between several factors at different levels of society. When more risk factors are present, a person is more likely to conduct a violent act (Heise, Ellsberg and Goetemoeller, 1999). The ecological model studies factors active in four distinct spheres: individual, family, communitarian and sociocultural (Casique & Furegato, 2006).

1. A person's personal history and biological traits that influence their behavior are addressed at the individual level.
2. Closer relationships, such as those between couples and partners, other family members, and friends, are included in the second level. These have been found to enhance the likelihood of suffering or perpetrating violent acts. Relationships with people who perform or inspire violent acts can enhance the likelihood that young people will be victims of or perpetrators of these activities.
3. The third level delves into the social contexts in which social relationships are formed, such as schools, workplaces, and communities. The characteristics of these surroundings are being studied since they potentially raise the danger of violent acts. Factors such as mobility of residency, population density, significant unemployment, and drug traffic in the area can all increase the risk.
4. The fourth level is concerned with societal structure and general elements. These factors, such as the ability to get weapons due to societal and cultural standards, help create an environment that encourages or

discourages violence. Other aspects, including sanitation, economic, educational, and social policies, contribute to perpetuating economic or social inequalities between groups at this level.

2.5 GBV in Bangladesh

Violence against women is a violation of fundamental human rights, but we still witness different forms of gender-based violence worldwide and in Bangladesh. Deep-rooted societal norms, social stigma, religious fundamentalism, and patriarchal culture are responsible for the prevalence of gender-based violence in Bangladesh (Hossain and Sumon, 2013; Kabeer et al., 2017; Rahman, 2019). According to Human Development Report (2020), 54.2% of women aged 15 years and old witnessed violence by an intimate partner, and 3% of women witnessed violence by a non-intimate partner. The survey of BBS (2015) found that 70% of married women or girls have faced any intimate partner abuse and half of them have been physically abused by their partner, and 3% took legal action against it. According to the report of Ain-o-Salish Kendra (2020), last year, a total number of 1,627 reported cases of rape were filed, which was 1413 in 2019 and 732 in 2018. The number of rape victims is increasing rapidly in Bangladesh. Among 1,627 reported cases of rape, 317 were gang-raped victims, and 20 victims died after the incidence. Those women who manage to survive the violence of rape and other sexual assaults often suffer from social stigma and other exclusion, making their lives even miserable.

As table 1 shows, 72% of women faced any form of violence in their lifetime. 57.7% of women faced physical or emotional violence at least once in their lifetime. Then, 55.4% of women reported experiencing controlling behavior from their partners.

Type of violence	Occurred at least once in a lifetime	In the last 12 months
Any physical violence	49.6	20.8
Any sexual violence	27.2	13.3
Any emotional violence	28.7	24.2
Any economic violence	11.4	6.7
Any controlling behavior	55.4	38.8
Any physical or sexual violence	54.2	26.9
Any physical sexual or emotional violence	57.7	38.0
Any violence	72.6	54.7

Table 6: Prevalence of partner violence experienced at least once among ever-married women

Source: Violence Against Women (VAW) report (2015)

One of the most frequent forms of violence in Bangladesh is domestic violence. Domestic violence in Bangladesh is largely insidious, and it is deep-rooted in the patriarchal norms and values of the society (Bhattacharya et al., 2018). BBS report shows that domestic violence in Bangladesh is decreasing slowly, and it has fallen from 87% in 2011 to 77% in 2013 and 72.6% in 2016 (The future law initiative, 2016; Rahman, 2019). According to the report of VAW report (2015), 72.6% of ever-married women have experienced any sort of violence by their partner in their life time and almost half of the women (49.6%)

of the ever women have experienced physical violence and 27.3% of women have experienced sexual violence. In 2020, 240 women were murdered by their husbands, 71 by their husband's families, and 90 women committed suicide due to domestic violence (ASK, 2020).

Year	Murdered by Husband	Murdered by in-laws	Committed suicide due to violence
2015	212	40	54
2016	191	53	45
2017	213	57	58
2018	193	50	49
2019	218	52	60
2020	240	71	90

Table 7: Domestic violence in Bangladesh (2015-2020)

Source: Ain O Shalish Kendra (2020)

2.6 Disaster, Women and GBV

Climate change and the disasters impact lives of the poor, particularly women. The most vulnerable and marginalized populations, according to the IPCC, will face the brunt of the effects. Over the previous five decades, several severe disasters have struck developing countries (WHO, 1992). Women are increasingly viewed as being more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men because they make up the majority of the world's poor and are proportionally more dependent on threatened natural resources (Osman-Elasha, 2012).

A disaster significantly impacts women's lives because it can disrupt their reproductive systems (Swatzyna and Pillai, 2013). Women in developing countries are economically vulnerable due to their low labor force participation rate and socially vulnerable due to their low social status (Verick, 2014; Swatzyna and Pillai, 2013). Women are considerably more vulnerable to disasters to women's health in developing countries than males due to their high degrees of susceptibility (Sharmin and Islam, 2013; Enarson & Morrow, 1998). Besides, a study showed that after Hurricane Katrina, there was an increase of 98 percent in physical victimization of women (Schumacher, et al., 2010). Despite being significantly under-represented in climate change decision-making bodies, women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change (Nagel, 2015). Women also suffer the brunt of climate change-induced violence (Oberhaus, 2016).

In Bangladesh, natural disasters are a major and frequent occurrence that pose serious global and local threats, and it is one of the most vulnerable countries in the current climate crisis (Ahmed, 2012). Gender-based violence may also pose a threat to the long-term livelihoods of coastal people (Siddiqui, 2010). Climate change is widely affecting all these coastal areas in Bangladesh and women's lives are adversely affected by these natural disasters (Terry, 2009). Climate change is frequently said to be causing an increase in violence throughout the world (Parenti, 2012). According to previous research, GBV tends to increase in the aftermath of disasters (Bradshaw and Fordham, 2013; Fisher, 2010).

During disasters, women experience more "marginalization and oppression than their male counterparts," which could increase GBV (Sultana, 2010:48). During non-disaster periods, however, GBV is a huge social problem in Bangladesh, with common types of violence including child marriage, wife-beating, rape, acid throwing, physical torture, dowry violence,

trafficking, and other forms of violence (Rezwana and Pain, 2020).

Bangladesh's coastal regions, which cover 472,201 square kilometers and 19 districts, border the Bay of Bengal, making the country one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world (CPD, 2000). As a result, the coastal areas have been exposed to one or two major disasters annually. Cyclones, tidal surges, floods, and river bank erosion are just a few of the worst types of disasters that badly affect people's livelihoods, particularly in the coastal areas (Alam, 2005). For a number of reasons, including their vulnerability, mental attitude, physical structure, and other social difficulties, women are seen to be the most vulnerable (Mitchell, 2007). Due to frequent disasters and other vulnerabilities, women are sometimes displaced from their homes to different metropolitan cities in order to meet their basic needs (DMB, 2009). Ali (1999) said that women in Bangladesh continue to endure physical, sexual, emotional, and domestic violence (abusive language or physical force) during and after disasters. During or after a disaster, women are typically subjected to further physical violence as a result of insecurity and loss of dignity (Islam, 2010:154).

In Bangladesh, where gender relationships are uneven, and violence is common, natural catastrophe hazards are genuine and tempered by existing socioeconomic systems and cultural norms (Nishat & Rahman, 2019). Environmental factors play a role as well. Low-income families in coastal areas at high risk of natural disasters, notably as a result of climate change, such as Bangladesh, have highlighted the consequent insecurity as a cause driving them to marry off their daughters early. Flooding crops or the loss of land, for example, can aggravate a family's poverty, and parents report they feel pressured to hurry the marriage of a young daughter in the aftermath of a natural catastrophe or in anticipation of one (Le Masson et al. 2016).

Flooding and cyclones exacerbate poverty and increase the risk of sexual violence against unmarried girls (Ahmed et al. 2019).

According to the 2007 Bangladesh Household Survey (BDHS), women's average age at marriage was 15.47 years, despite the minimum legal age for marriage in Bangladesh is set at 18 years in 1984 by government order. Between 1968 and 1977, women went into in-laws' residences at an average age of 13.5, which might be right before the start of puberty for a girl. Between 1978 and 1987, the average age at marriage among women who got married in the next ten years was about 14.8 years (Zahangir and Kamal, 2011). Clearly, in Bangladesh, girls go to form their married lives as teenagers. There are a number of financial, environmental, cultural, and demographic elements that may play a role in the establishment of teenage marriages. Girls who marry early suffer a lot of pressure to have children; in Bangladesh, around a third of girls aged fifteen to nineteen are either moms or pregnant. Early pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of mother and newborn mortality (Anderson, 2015).

The prevalence of child marriage has dropped by 90% since 1970, but it is still prevalent. Bangladesh is home to 38 million child brides, including currently married girls and women who were married in childhood, and among them, 13 million were married before age 15 (UNICEF, 2020). Despite significant progress in recent years, Bangladesh remains one of the top ten countries in the world with the highest rates of child marriage, with the highest prevalence among South Asian countries (UNICEF, 2020).

According to the recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2019) conducted by BBS with support of UNICEF, 51.4% of young women aged between 20-24 years were married before their 18th birthday, and 15.5 % of the women were married before their 15th birthday. Which was 27.2% before age 15 and 62.8% before age 18 (MICS, 2012-2013). Women's first

Year	Women married before age 15	Women married before age 18 (in %)
1999-2000 (BDHS)	Data not available	65
2004(BDHS)		68
2007(BDHS)		66
2012-2013(MICS)	27.2	62.8
2014 (BDHS)	Data not available	65
2017-2018 (BDHS)		59
2019(MICS)	15.5	51.4

Table 8: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18

Source: BDHS & MICS of various years

age at marriage increased from 15.3 in 2007 to 16.4 in 2017 (BDHS, 2017-2018). Data shows that the prevalence of child marriage is decreasing compared to previous years still not in decline.

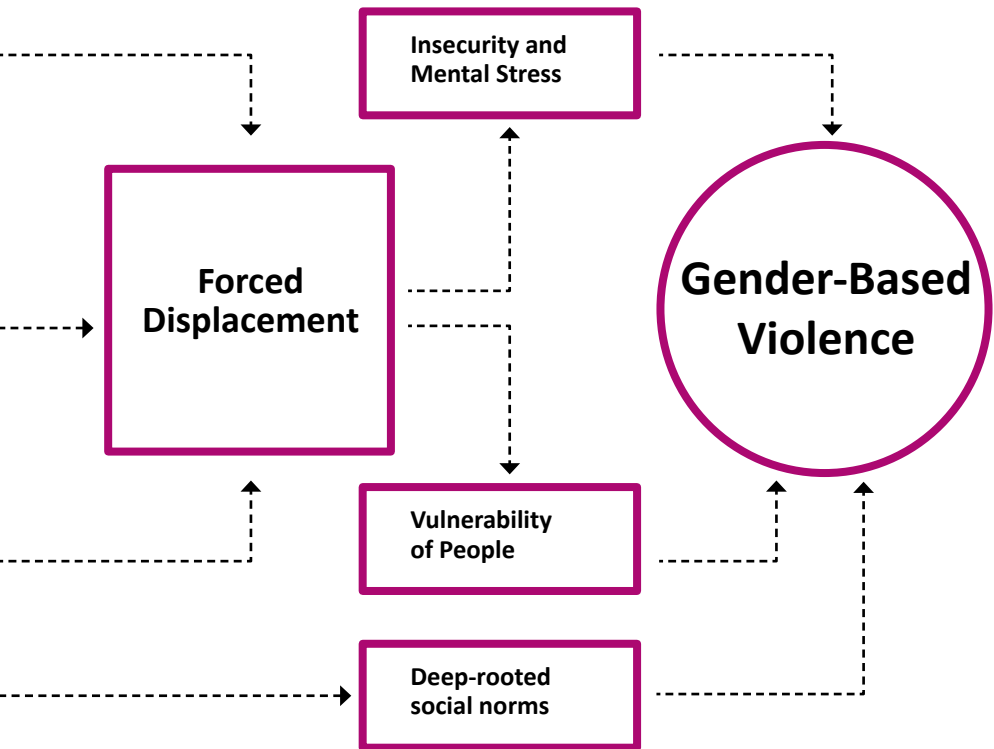
The deeply rooted social norm, poverty, unequal status of girls, and sometimes natural disasters pay a path to child marriage, and that's why it is more common in rural than urban areas (UNICEF, 2020). One of the most frequent violence against women in coastal areas is child marriage. Schuler et al. (2006) said that children and forced marriages are common in South Asia, particularly in Bangladesh. In rural Bangladesh, climate changes appear to be facilitating child marriage and dowry transactions (Koelle and Shackleton, 2011; Taylor et al., 2010). The IPCC (2016) notes that poverty increases the risk of child marriage and makes both governments and communities less able to respond to climate change and its impacts. Many studies found that the number of child marriages in Bangladesh has increased due to the causes or consequences of frequent natural disasters in the coastal areas (Islam & Ahmed, 1998; Sarkar, 2009; Kamal, 2011; Kamal et al., 2014).

NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS | EVIDENCE FROM DISASTER PRONE AREAS OF BANGLADESH

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conceptual framework provides a mechanism for investigating a variety of factors that impact GBV in Bangladesh's disaster-prone regions. The researchers designed study instruments, collected data, and analyzed it in a systematic manner based on this conceptual framework. Climate change effects on displacement and GBV have also been revealed using this model.



4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Statement of The Methodology

The methodology is a vital part of the research, which helps researchers follow scientific principles and standpoints with appropriate methods and procedures to carry out the research smoothly. The purpose of the chapter is to clarify the approaches and techniques employed for assessing the study's research objectives. Research design with systematic parameters, study area, data collection techniques, data analysis procedures is discussed precisely in the following section.

4.2 Study Design

This study collected data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected following qualitative approaches. Written informed consent from all participants was obtained prior to the interview. By using a topic guide of open-ended questions, semi-structured interviews (in-depth interviews) were conducted with each participant individually (approximately 30 minutes in length) by a trained qualitative interviewer (Research Assistant). Expert qualitative researchers were involved in data collection and supervision throughout the process (topic guide preparation, interviews, Atlas. ti Version 9 training, analysis & reporting). Sampling was continued until saturation. A pilot study was conducted to assess the reliability of the measuring tools and the acceptability of the study population. The following is a flowchart figure 4 outlining the research approach.

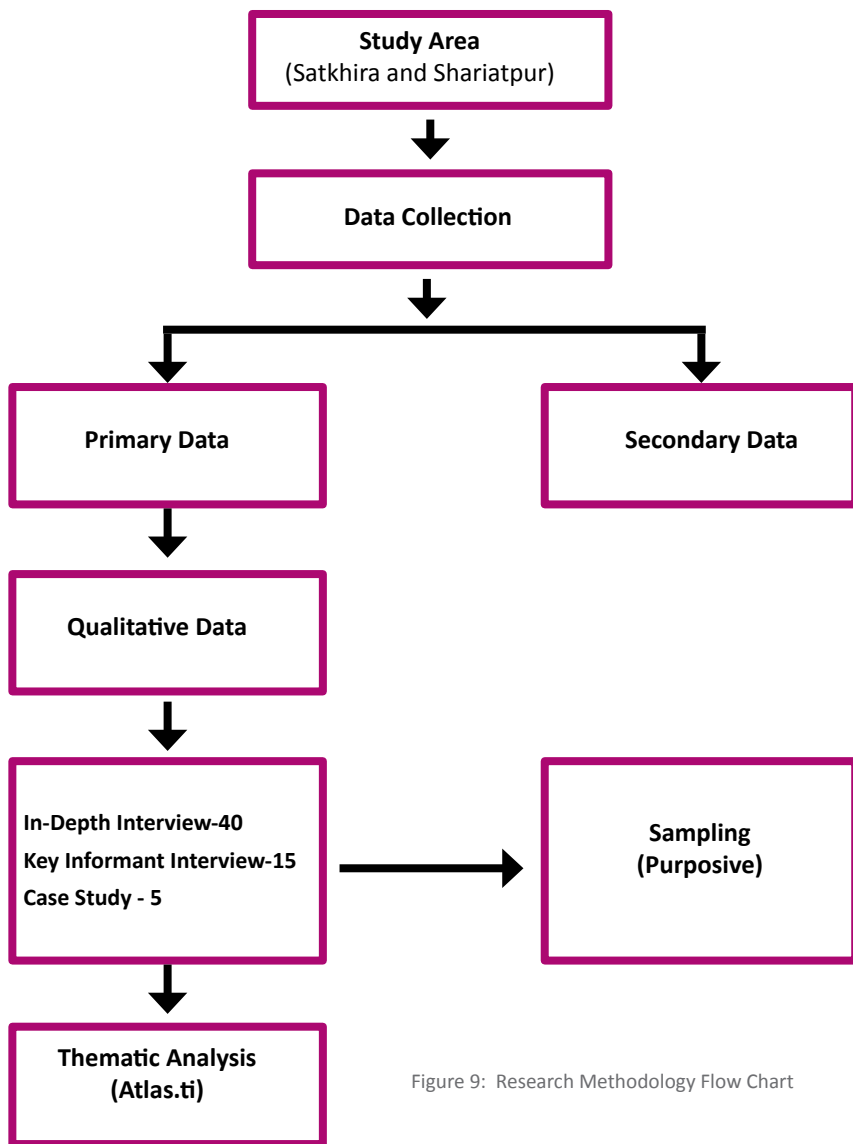


Figure 9: Research Methodology Flow Chart

4.3 Study Areas

The study was conducted in two selected Upazilas from the Shariatpur and Satkhira districts in Bangladesh, one of Bangladesh’s most geographically vulnerable areas. Due to the geophysical settings, the coastal belt of Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change, and natural disaster is one of the burning issues for climate displacement in such locales.

4.4 Research Design

The assessment was both from primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was collected following the qualitative method approach. Data was collected through various methods such as in-depth interviews (IDI), key informant interviews (KII), case studies, and field observations.

Participants/Study Population

Table 4 represents research methods and the number of interviews. The participants of the qualitative interview were selected purposively, and the proposed sample was as follows:

Method	Respondent Criteria	Satkhira	Shariatpur	Dhaka	Total Respondent
In-Depth Interview (IDI)	Who have been experiencing gender-based violence as a result of climate-induced displacement	31	9	-	40

Method	Respondent Criteria	Satkhira	Shariatpur	Dhaka	Total Respondent
Key Informant Interview (KII)	Officials of Government and Non-governmental humanitarian actors who are implementing varied humanitarian interventions related to Gender-Based on the ground.	7	4	3	15
Case Study	Direct victim of gender-based violence	5	-	-	5

Table 9: Research Methods and Number of Interviews

4.4.1 Inclusion Criteria

- People who were displaced due to climate induced natural disasters in last 15 years
- Women who faced violence by their partner and others
- Local stakeholders (Government officials, aged people, NGO workers, local politicians etc.)

4.4.2 Exclusion criteria

- People who were not displaced due to natural disaster in last 15 years

4.5 Duration of the Study

This study was conducted between June 2021 to October 2021, inclusive of topic guide development, data collection, transcription, translation, analysis, and report generation. Due to countrywide lockdown amid corona pandemic, the researchers face difficulties during data collection.

4.6 Data Entry and Analytical Approach

Each interview was recorded by digital recorder. Each interview was transcribed by a research assistant and carefully checked by the expert researcher. The analyzed results were translated into English by RA & checked by expert researchers and supervisors before submission. For analyzing data, Atlas.ti Version 9 software was used. Appropriate graphic presentation is given after calculation and summarization of data.

4.7 Supervision and Quality Control Mechanism of Data Collection

A robust quality control measures were taken during the time of the field data collection and study in Satkhira and Shariatpur. The collection of quality data from the field was safeguarded through the proper selection of the field team. A team was formed for the collection of quality data from the respondents. The following criteria have been considered for the recruitment of field team members: educational qualification, previous relevant work experience, and capacity to work in a team; for this study, especially females were prioritized as women and girls were extremely conservative to come front

of male persons. Instrument testing as part of piloting was done in the field. Young researchers supervised the team and collected data in person. A Voice recorder was used for conducting KII and in-depth interviews whenever possible; otherwise, detailed notes were taken. Collected data were transcribed and coded right after the end of data collection for further analysis.

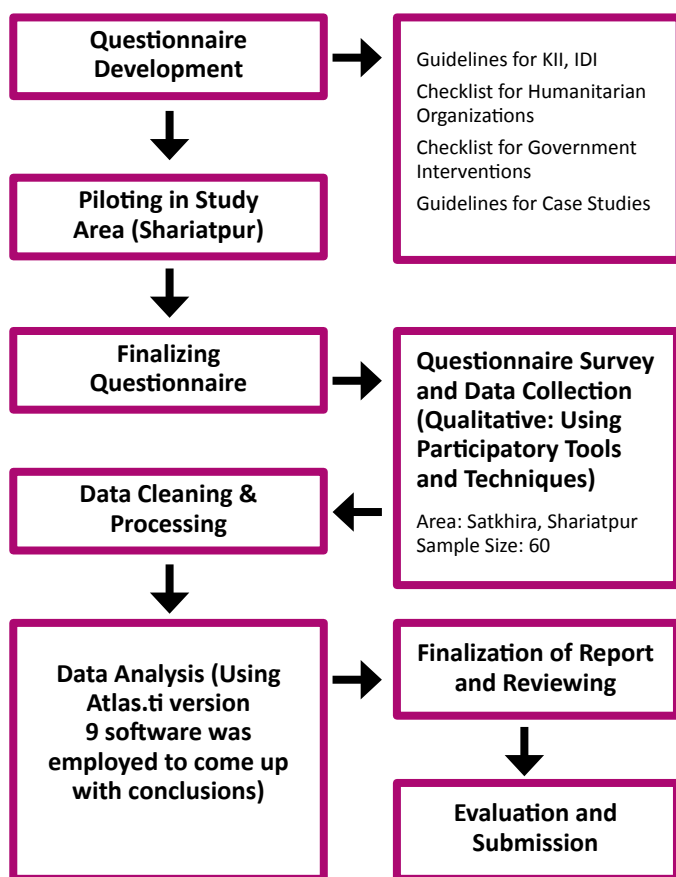
4.8 Informed Consent and Ethical Considerations

As social research is very dynamic in nature, there are issues of relation and understanding between respondents and researcher. It is essential to follow a specific code of conduct while conducting any study which involves specific data related to respondents (Creswell, 2006). Negotiation with physical access to study areas was a vital concern for the researcher as the area has constraints for visitors. Bryman (2012) said that in the research process, ethics must be acknowledged in the way that no one should be harmed in the research process. The study was ensured the ethical issues involved, including risks and benefits of the respondents.

The study's validity was presented to the spokesperson and respondents in written format with the supervisor's concern. Respondents of the study must clear idea about the research objectives and further implications of research outcomes. Verbal consent was taken for conducting participatory qualitative data collection. This part was ensured that information gathered for this study was anonymously coded to safeguard the respondent's confidentiality. Similarly, they had the right to refuse to give the interview. For upholding the credibility of the data, the researcher was made audio recordings. The researcher was asked permission from the respondents to record their interviews. The interviews were recorded only after getting permission from the respondents.

4.9 Overall Implementation Profile

Step by step procedures has been followed to conduct, prepare and submit the study.



5. FINDINGS

5.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents:

Table 5 represents the demographic profile of the respondents. The first session of the study tools contained questions about their sex, age, occupation, years in the same area, and type of family.

- A. In-depth Interviews: Forty IDIs were conducted in Satkhira and Shariatpur to identify the evidence of women who have been experiencing gender-based violence as a result of climate-induced displacement and concurrent conditions of life. Their needs and challenges from the displacement. Therefore, their voices were essential to draw the overall picture of violence against women.
- B. Key Informant Interview: Fifteenth interviews were conducted as follows: Government Officials (3), University Professor (1), School Teacher (2), NGO Professionals (3), Youth Volunteer Leader (4) and Local Politicians (2) Included officials of Government and Non-governmental humanitarian actors who are implementing varied humanitarian interventions related with Gender-Based on the ground. The key informants were selected based upon their knowledge of the relevant field to analyze the issue thoroughly.
- C. Case study: Five (5) cases were taken from the direct victim of gender-based violence from Satkhira to assess the vulnerability, insecurity, and psychological distress.

SL	Variable	Number
01	Age of the Respondent	28.15 (Mean)
02	Sex of the Respondent	
	Male	15
	Female	45
03	Level of Education	
	No Education	34
	Primary Education	8
	SSC	3
	HSC	1
	Honors	14
04	District of the Respondent	
	Satkhira	47
	Shariatpur	13
05	Religion	
	Muslim	53
	Hindu	7
	Occupation of the Respondent	
	Housewife	44
	Student	1
	Politician	2
	NGO Professionals	3
	Journalist	1
	School Headmaster	1
	Government Officials	3

SL	Variable	Number
	Volunteer	4
	University Professor	1
06	Years in same area	10.36 (Mean)
07	Type of Family	
	Nuclear	50
	Joint Family	10

Table 10: Demographic Table of Respondents

5.2 Reasons of Displacement

The underlying factors triggering displacement are widely known and acknowledged in the academic arena. However, numerous reasons aid in internal/cross-district displacement within a country; apparently, environmental and social factors are the two predominant drivers in the spectrum of reasons behind displacement. This study also suggests similarity in its findings while surveying people who had to shift or move out of their original homelands and residents.

5.3 Environmental

Whenever it comes down to the environmental factors of displacement, we look at the catastrophic impacts of disasters (mainly natural). Being a disaster-prone country, the people of Bangladesh are constantly trying to work their way out of the grave consequences of disasters. For instance, natural disasters like frequent river erosion, cyclone, landslides, etc., often result in the obliteration of residence, livelihoods, and motivation to continue living in the existing system of the rural

people. As a result, the people are left with no choice and forced to consider migrating to urban areas which are already bombarded with millions of people. With the desire to find a settled residence and livelihood, people become subject to displacement.

This study of ours resonates exactly the same notions as it has been described in the upper section. Whenever asked the reasons behind the displacement, our respondents from the field echoed words like ‘disasters,’ ‘river erosion,’ ‘no choice’ time and time again. In their opinion, frequent river erosion had claimed their farmlands, cattle, and even their residences to the extent that they had literally no money even to afford their migration to other cities. Let’s hear it directly in the voice of two of the respondents. Two respondents stated the following:

“Facing cyclone was like one of our daily chores. Every year we fell victim to cyclones like ‘Amphan’, ‘Foni’ etc. Each year some of our belongings and means of livelihood were reducing as a consequence of such disasters. Finally, one day it was all over for us when almost everything was taken down by another cyclone. Thus, we had to leave our origin and move here”

In-Depth Interview -2

“We were living under the constant threat of losing it all to the river erosion, and one day it happened right before our very eyes. We wept and mourned as our houses were getting engulfed into the mighty river after our farmlands had been already claimed by the river days before. We lost our 2 kathas of farm lands and houses to the river erosion. Then we had no other choice but to migrate to the current location.”

In-Depth Interview -15

Other respondents had apparently striking resemblance as the reasons behind their displacement into a new location. It can firmly be asserted that environmental factors spearhead the reasons for population displacement.

5.4 Social

Social reasons are not very far behind in terms of the triggering impacts of displacement. Social reasons, as standalone factors, causes a significant amount of displacement. The existing social system with lack of education, lack of employment, absence of facilities to exercise civil rights, poor living conditions, discriminatory and exploitive attitude towards women, etc., have been repeatedly found to be among the leading causes for displacement—the underlying sayings of a respondent sum up the whole point.

“Our living condition had always been below par from where we originally hail from. We did not have enough jobs for the people of the community to support our family. Even the existing jobs were not stable. Lack of education, health and other civil facilities made life miserable to the point that sooner or later each start to realize that migrating to urban cities has become a must”.

In-Depth Interview -32

In association with the environmental reasons, social reasons can be more lethal and compelling for the afflicted people to opt for the displacement option.

5.5 CAUSES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

From what has been observed throughout the study in Satkhira and Shariatpur, the root causes of gender-based violence can be traced back to deeply ingrained patriarchal social norms, which indicate that violence against women is more prevalent than against their male counterparts. Gender inequality exists at almost all levels of societies, and along with patriarchal structures, women are often victimized and more likely to face violence (*See Case Study 1*)

However, over the last couple of decades, another force has

Case Study 1: Laili

At the age of 41, Laili came here from her parental law house due to the disruption of the Kopothakko River. Here she has been living for nearly 14 years. Her husband is a vagabond and the unemployed person who is a polygamies person and demands dowry and forces/pressures his wife laili to bring money or others from her paternal house. Laili stated that her father is a poor man who doesn't have any assets/ land and manages his livelihood by begging. Although her father gave her husband a van to drive, her husband sold it and ran away by leaving her two little children behind and marrying another woman. Laili said her husband beat her always and without any issues. One example, one day, her mother in law took one kg of broken rice for cooking, and she cooked when her husband came home she gave her the lunch than her husband through this hot rice to her face and beat me with a stick till now the wounding sign is visible in my hand. She bearded all these tortures silently in a sense that her husband will be good one day will look after her one day. He did not give me anything like clothes, oil, food, etc. nothing. Even she said she passed her life by wearing one Shari (wet) for two days. He left my two little children and me & did not give me any costs of our livelihood. He marries another woman & living with that woman now. After that, she worked in other houses and fields, caring for two children with her, keeping children behind/in front of the field (land corner/corner) where she was working. Nobody was there to look after my children or assist me anymore. She passed and till now is passing her life with great hardship and suffering. Laili said she is working in other fields, sometimes begging others and

rearing & feeding her children. Even she went to India to manage her livelihood and worked there one year. But she came back with some money her husband managed her by sweets words and took all her earnings after then beat her and claimed her as a characterless & pulled her out from the house. Even her husband and mother-in-law for murdering her children mixed poison with food. After that, she returned to her father's house but found severe misery there and came back to her husband's house and bearded his inhuman torture. She mentioned that due to her husband's severe and continuous beating, she is wound/half-dead now. Now she is living in Govt. provided khash land beside the river in a small hut. During Amphan and flood, her small hut was destroyed, but she stayed inside the hut with her children; she had no other options to go other places and passed that time without any meals of 2 days, so she passed that terrible night inside that hut. Just water and water everywhere but no works and food for a living. In the morning she came out in front road from the hut and found the chairman was coming, but he didn't assist her just gave her half kilo chira, but I refused that then T N O came and gave me 20 sathak lands in the upper area and am living here now. But I could not work and bear the cost of studying my daughter so trying to marry her but couldn't because of money, and people said her father is a characterless person so how could we take his daughter as our daughter in law! Her son studied in class 5 and went to find work.

been linked directly to gender-based violence in Bangladesh. Disasters, the majority of which are climate-induced, such as cyclones, saline intrusion in Satkhira, and flooding (Rabbani et al., 2021; Parven et al., 2020) and river-bank erosion in Shariatpur (Islam and Hossain, 2020; Titlee, et al., 2020), all result in changes that eventually bring about vulnerability of women to violence (Rahman, 2013; Nasreen, 2010; Sultana, 2010).

Displacement due to disasters has become a common phenomenon in the southern parts of Bangladesh primarily because of frequent cyclonic storms battering the coast and coastal people as well as their livelihoods and devastating their homesteads. Water logging and saline intrusions are the most prevalent outcomes of these storms and lead to large-scale internal displacements in Satkhira. In many ways, displacements give rise to GBV. One of them is the adjustment-related issue in the new places. Uprooted from their very own residence, many people find it hard to cope with the new circumstances of the new places. This happens mostly for the men, and they succumb to despair and distress, which often provoke them to violence against the female members of their own family. As one of the respondents from Satkhira (IDI-15) stated:

“We have had numerous problems upon arriving at this new place. My husband provides for the family, but it became extremely difficult for him to find any work here. With each passing days without work, his despair and stress would turn into rage and quite invariably, me and my daughters became the victims of his violence.”

IDI -15

Displacements often lead to precarious economic conditions for displaced families. The majority of the families who were interviewed in the study found out to be living below the poverty line. Unemployment is a major issue among the displaced population. Many live from hand to mouth and work daily, mostly on nearby brick fields as a day laborer or pursue other viable seasonal occupations, as data from Satkhira and Shariatpur revealed. But when there is now work to be found, sufferings become unbearable. Their abject poverty repeatedly fosters GBV, and women are the victims here as usual.

Dowry has been observed as a prominent factor behind GBV in both the study locations. Many instances were found in the study where the female respondents claimed that they frequently fall victims to violence by their husbands and in-laws upon failing to fulfill their demand for dowry. Women are often beaten up for money. One respondent from Shariatpur (IDI-27), whose family has recently been displaced as the might the Padma devoured their houses and belongings, stated:

“My father had to sell his only cow to satiate the thirst of his son-in-law. But my husband never gave up. He constantly expresses his anger towards me. It’s the poverty which may have led him to do so.”

In-Depth Interview -27

As found in the study, most of the reasons behind GBV can be linked to the poor economic conditions and financial security of those families. But other issues, as observed that in some families, the instance of the husband’s second marriage

5.6 PATTERNS OF GBV

As we asked the interviewees from the displaced families in Satkhira and Khulna, we received quite similar responses even though the causes of displacements differ greatly for both locations. As an inevitable outcome of displacement, gender-based violence sounded rather identical from the interviewees of different locations. The patterns of GBV caused by displacement can be classified into four distinct sections as per the study findings.

5.6.1 Physical Violence

Many of the women interviewed during the course of the study reported that they had experienced physical violence. Their husbands committed most of the violence, and sometimes the in-laws indulged themselves in this heinous crime. One respondent (IDI-14) from Satkhira mentioned:

“I was literally a child when my parents married me off with my husband and he used to beat me up every other day without any valid reasons.”

In-Depth Interview -14

One local key informant from Shariatpur explained how women in displaced families constantly become victims of physical violence in their own houses. He (KII-6) further added:

“The victims usually don’t want to share her experiences as she fears it would bring much grave consequences if her husband become aware of that. Another reason could be, victim is often afraid of the shame it may result into”

Key Informant Interview - 6

5.6.2 Sexual Violence

When asked about physical violence, the vast majority of female respondents from Satkhira and Shariatpur stated that it is not uncommon and is frequently perpetrated by their husbands. More often than not, the victims of such acts of violence are the wives. However, as they pointed out, young unmarried women are the most vulnerable victims of such violence. And if they happen to have additional vulnerabilities (for example, a disability), life becomes even more difficult for them. One of the mothers of a young disabled girl from Shariatpur shared the following dreadful experience, with tears in her eyes:

“My girl was 15 back then. We were on the lookout for a suitable groom to marry her off. However, few men desire a disabled woman as their wife. We were having a difficult time. She was alone in the house as I left for work in the brickfield when the incident occurred. A man came and forcefully raped my little girl. She became pregnant.”

In-Depth Interview -27

5.6.3 Psychological Violence

As we asked the respondents, it became clear that psychological violence against married women is extremely common and is practiced by their husbands on a regular and consistent basis, as one of the cases from Satkhira described regarding this common phenomenon.

“It’s a fairly common occurrence in their neighborhood. Women are frequently subjected to verbal abuse by their partners, as well as humiliation in front of other people. This increases the strain on their psychological well-being, but they never voice any concerns. They tend to accept such instances as inevitable”

In-Depth Interview - 25

5.6.4 Economic Violence

The term “dowry” was mentioned in nearly every interview conducted in both study locations. As they stated, the phenomenon is still prevalent among the poorer section. And it becomes increasingly difficult for parents to find a groom who is not interested in dowry. Parents frequently retorted that they became impoverished because of providing dowries to their sons-in-law. Numerous female respondents stated that they, too, had been victims of economic violence perpetrated by their partners. And key informants from Satkhira and Shariatpur concurred that such violence continues to occur within displaced communities, primarily due to poverty, despite the existence of legislation prohibiting such crimes.

5.7 CONNECTING THE DOTS: DISASTER, DISPLACEMENT, GBV AND CHILD MARRIAGE

The most common form of disaster experienced by the people of Satkhira and Shariatpur is river erosion, which has resulted in the displacement of many people in recent years. Every year, the government estimates that thousands of hectares of the floodplain are lost due to riverbank erosion, resulting in thousands of landless and homeless people. The people who lose their lands, houses, and other belongings due to this disaster, are the poorer section of society who try to relocate within the adjacent village at first, putting them in the front line of future climate effects. In interviews with several respondents from Shariatpur and Satkhira, we found that many people were displaced 2/3 times or even more.

Women tend to be the worst affected group due to frequent natural disasters (Alam and Rahman, 2014; Azad, Hossain, Nasreen, 2013), which was also found in our study. However, the vulnerability caused by disasters varies concerning the magnitude of such disasters and geographical location. For instance, respondents who participated in the study from Naria, Shariatpur live mostly on rented land (on a yearly basis). They do not consider the houses they build as their own, or their settlement is not lengthy but rather temporary. They might need to leave their houses if the owners of the land have other plans with their lands. On the contrary, disaster-induced displaced people in Tala, Satkhira live on *Khas* lands allocated by the government with the support of Uttaran. They might have the ownership of the land assigned to them subject to some legal procedure. The respondents of Naria, Shariatpur reported to be facing the effect of displacement even after settlement; as a local mentioned:

“Maximum families have more or less contain violence [against women]. Since their situation is so critical and devastating, it is assumable they are always having issues in their families. Suppose, in a family there are two boys in the house, but they don’t have any work and they support their families; it creates various problems. As a result, women face mental and physical violence so often.”

KII - 6

As Fisher (2010) argued, the vulnerability of a particular group of people due to disaster is inherently social based on prevailing social norms, gender, ethnicity, etc. Gender, as already discussed elsewhere, as a significant social component, matters in any disaster. Women’s issues are rooted in unequal power distribution, gender roles, subordination, etc. factors. As Bangladesh is predominantly a patriarchal society and the manifestation of ‘unequal power distribution’ is more apparent in village societies, any disaster affects women more severely than men. In addition, poverty and marginality add more fuel to the fire.

One of the respondents (IDI 26) from Satkhira narrated a story of a girl with disability. Her mother went to her uncle’s house one day. She was the only one in the house. A lusty boy bound her face and physically abused her at the moment. She became pregnant as a result of this later. Her family then offered to her to marry that boy. But they turned it down. Her father then went to the police station to file a report in the boy’s name. That boy married her after the police alerting him. Romjan was the boy’s name. After that, she gives birth to a son. They used to look after her. Her husband, on the other hand, married at a different location. The second wife tormented her as well. Her mother then stated, “I will never send my daughter to that house.” Her child grew up in this house after she divorced her spouse. ”

Another significant finding from the interviews is that rainy season mark the peak point of GBV. Displaced women in Satkhira mentioned the extensive prevalence of violence against them during the rainy season:

“Yes, women face more violence in that time [rainy season]. We tend to be at risk during 6 months of rainy season [as we don’t have work at that time. In winter, we work in the brickfields and we can support our families. The other 6 months, we do not have any work. Our husbands stay at home the whole day except a very few. In that time we tend to face violence.”

IDI - 8

Many people were displaced 2-3 times due to river erosion both in Satkhira and Shariatpur. Sometimes – as they usually build their settlement nearby after displacement – they lose their houses and other belongings just after a short time due to another river erosion. Women and children become the worst sufferers at that time. Men, troubled by such disasters frequently, tend to be violent and intolerant and exploit their wives as one of the respondents from Tala said:

“Our land and house have gone into the river. We have lost our house and other assets due to river erosion. During that time [when river erosion was occurring in her area] my husband tortured me repeatedly. He used beat me a lot. He ordered me took money from my father’s home. For this reason we came here.”

IDI - 27

We also noted that the practice of polygamy is prevalent among these displaced people. The causes of such practice can be traced out by looking at both sides of the coin (from the perspective of men and women). Women, as we repeatedly mentioned elsewhere in this report, are forced to marry, considering their families' vulnerable conditions. Such vulnerabilities tend to be intensified by exposure to multiple natural disasters. Women hardly have any sayings or agency over their marriage as their families prioritize their concern for security, respondents mentioned. Families' concern for the security of their girls results in child marriage. On the other hand, men tend to be (or expected to be) dominating and exercise power over women in many forms. Due to abject poverty and lack of employment, many men marry for dowry – an exploiting practice that has been sustained in Bangladesh society for a long time.

Case Study 2: Amena

Amena's family experienced river erosion in Chapra, Ashashuni, lost their livestock, and moved to Shalikha. Her grandfather had 14 Bighas of land (housing and agricultural), and they lost all of their property. Her father tried to cope with their needs by riding a cycle (a local way of transportation known as a helicopter) and working in the fields of others. She has five more brothers and sisters. She heard from his mother that this huge family size and the loss of property made their condition vulnerable and they tried to find a shelter to live. At an early age, her two elder brothers started to work in others' houses as. They faced a lot of difficulties here. They are not welcomed warmly by the local people. The local people tried to harm them, and her father and her mother experienced

verbal abuse from their neighbors. Even after her grandfather's death, they did not get access to the local graveyard to inhumate her grandfather.

They were more than 12 members in their family. This huge size of the family leads them towards starvation most of the time. She describes this situation as,

"Most of the days, we didn't have enough food to consume. My mother prepared soaked rice (panta vat) with a lot of water in it. We ate the water first and there little rice on the plate. The female member of the family was the worst sufferer. They basically consume leaves, roots, and vegetables that were brought from the local fields."

The aftermath of this situation was very pathetic. As her father lost most of his lands, there was a severe clash between his brothers and sisters. And after her father's death, her brothers scolded her with her mother. Her husband also leaves her for their economic condition.

"My parents didn't give anything to my husband, not even a piece of clothes in the ceremony of Eid. If my parents provided those things that he wants, probably my condition will not like this." She explains.

Her husband used to beat her several times after their marriage. Their married life lasted for five years, and every single day, she was beaten up by him. She was treated with outrage if she demanded anything like basic necessities (clothes, food). In her locality, most girls faced early marriage for their impoverished condition as most families were displaced from different parts. And when the girls don't fulfill the needs of their groom's house, then they are beaten up or experience different sorts of violence.

Another respondent mentioned her experience of facing violence following:

“I live in my father’s house now. My husband got married for the second time, so I had to do all the work of his second wife in my mother-in-law’s house. I was tortured by my husband for several times. For all these reasons, I moved to my father’s house. Now I look after my mother and I am less afraid of drowning (from river erosion). Besides, I was afraid of being tortured in my husband’s house. I had to do a lot of work, now I don’t have to do that. I don’t even remember that place now.”

DI - 4

Child marriage was raised as an outcome of climate-induced displacement among the displaced populace of Satkhira and Shariatpur. Respondents from both locations pointed out the negative consequences of child marriage. The major causes of child marriage differ depending on the situation, but some reasons are widespread, like poverty, helplessness, and social customs. One of the respondents mentioned:

“One and a half months passed since my daughter got married. My daughter is in class 8 now. We faced difficulties to bear the educational expenses of my daughters. Due to poverty, we couldn’t manage to bear the expenses of both children. My daughter was a brilliant student. If she could get opportunities, she could have done well in her studies. However, we couldn’t afford to give her the opportunities. My daughter didn’t deny for the marriage. She obeyed us and accepted our decision.”

DI - 2

Even many respondents were married off at an early age and shared their experiences, and in most instances, those stories reflected grave repercussions. According to the respondents, child marriage poses a significant threat to the physical health of the brides. Often underage girls are married to aged persons what leads to the psychological distance between them. Such circumstances also lead to physical distress. There were several cases found in the study where the brides become widow early after marriage and have to undergo enormous struggle in lives. Physical and sexual violence is often perpetrated against those girls by their husbands. One such victim (IDI-3) from Satkhira stated:

“I got married when I was only 13. By then, I didn’t know how to cook or do other household chores and I was constantly abused verbally, physically, mentally by my husband and in-laws for that each passing day. I conceived early as well. Me and my child suffered huge ordeal as a consequence.”

In-Depth Interview - 3

Among respondents from both study areas, many of them opened up about the experience of child marriage. Respondents from Satkhira said:

“Sometimes, girls face physical and mental violence in their in-laws house. They don’t even get help from their paternal family. As a result, they commit suicide. If the husband is not good, or have extra-marital affair, they abuse their wife. In most of the cases, the girls don’t get help from anywhere and they decide to commit suicide.”

IDI – 2

“They have to obey all of family members, if they could not obey then they face torture. They cannot cope with new family very soon. Sometimes, they cannot cook anything. Then mother in law said she cannot do anything. Etc.”

IDI - 19

Child marriages affect the health condition of girls to a great extent. From interviews, we found evidence of girls facing health issues due to child marriage. Many girls even died while giving birth to a child. In addition, lack of availability of pregnancy-related services leads to even severe conditions.

“Early marriage can affect the girl’s physical health. Even, they can face family problems that can affect their mental health in that early age. Besides, if they get pregnant in an early age, that can be harmful for both mother and the child. I don’t think, my daughter will face huge difficulties because of her marriage. Even if, she face any problems to handle her in-laws family, she will guided by the elders of the family, I think.”

IDI - 2

“Yes, I agree that girls face several problems due to child marriage. They can’t complete their education as they get a lot of responsibilities in an early age. They can get pregnant in an immature age. As a result, they have difficulties on pregnancy and physical issues. They become neglected in some of the cases where girl and boy get married against their families’ will. Most of the time girls commit suicide as they don’t get enough respect and care in their in-laws house. Also, those children are too naive to handle all the problems, they face.”

IDI - 1

One social activist from Satkhira described a horrific incident he encountered recently. A young girl was brought to the nearby district hospital by her in-laws. As he stated, the girl was pregnant and was due at least a day earlier. But her in-laws insisted that she give birth to the baby at the house in the presence of a midwife. But unfortunately, the baby was in malposition, making the labor longer for the mother. Unable to perform the task, the midwife suggested that they take her to the hospital. The baby and mother both reached the hospital but as dead bodies. He further added:

“Difficulties like this are frequent among the girls who are married off at an early stage of life. Constant violence from partners traumatizes them. Often, the burden becomes too much for them to bear, and they begin to suffer from depression and anxiety. Usually, the parents’ intention is to get rid of an extra financial burden but unfortunately fall into the trap of dowry which eventually devastates their lives.”

KII - 4

A headmaster of a school shared with us his understandings and experiences regarding the child marriage issue in Shariatpur district. He claimed that child marriage is still fairly prevalent among displaced households. Child marriage results in dowry issues, family discord, and worsening of the brides’ mental and physical health. Additionally, he stated that death rates among girls who are married off early are significant as well.

Traditional gender norms and powerlessness of women are the main contributing factors of GBV, the study found. Unstable conditions in families sometimes lead to child marriage due to their parents being uncertain about their future. To prevent

GBV in displaced communities, some women suggested that they need employment opportunities. Among IDI respondents, almost everyone talked about their economy and helplessness are the leading factors for the prevalence of GBV.

“Our husband beat us when we face financial crisis. They don’t have any work for a long period of time in every year. I also worked in the brick field in order to support family but it was not enough. I hope the government will do something for us by providing us employment so that we can come out of this situation.”

IDI - 21

In recent years, due to various interventions by the government, NGOs, and other stakeholders, the rate of child marriage reduced, as the respondents mentioned. Some people are becoming aware of the adverse effects of child marriage, while some people remain intact to their longstanding customs of child marriage practices. Respondents mentioned strict laws and awareness as the critical steps towards reducing child marriage.

“If a girl get married at a young age, most of them can’t have a good family because they don’t understand the housework properly and as a result they get beaten up. In their husband’s house, sometimes the girls die due to trouble with dowry. Due to these reasons, child marriage has reduced a lot now.”

IDI - 3

“When a girl is married at a younger age, both the mother and the child become weak, resulting in increased maternal mortality or the child cannot be saved. In addition, sometimes girls are beaten by the husband at home for not doing the job properly or for dowry.”

IDI – 5

“We should get our girls married after they are 18 years old. If the government takes adequate measurements like awareness programs, strict laws, child marriage can be reduced. People don’t tend to follow the instructions in this case. Making them aware can be a good step to stop child marriage.

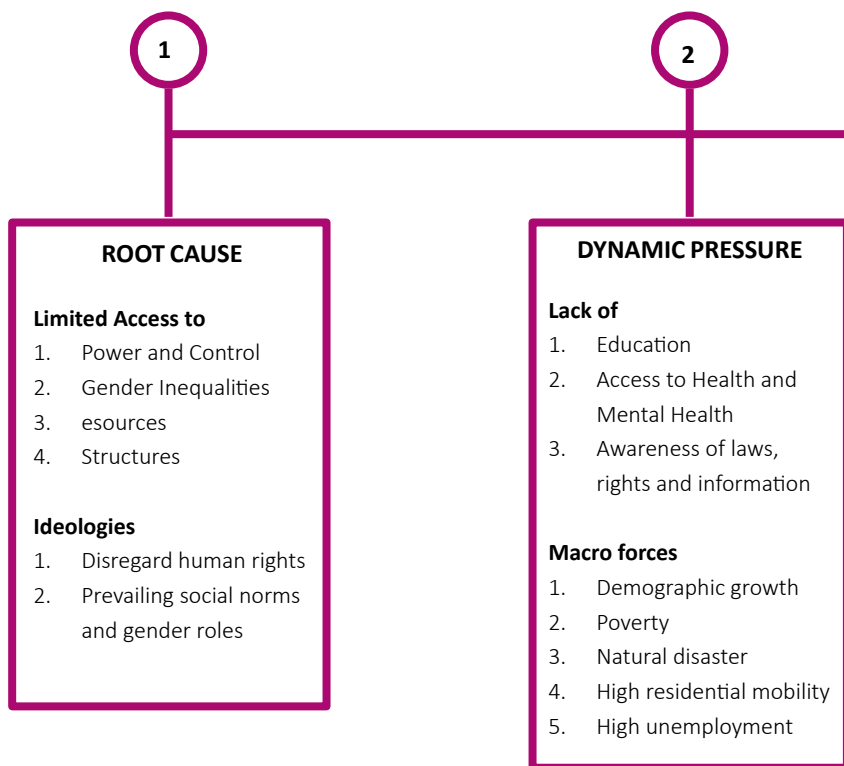
IDI - 1

Two key respondents mentioned some latent factors contributing to child marriage despite interventions by the government and NGOs. Many times, local UNO or government representatives might stop a child marriage from being taken place. Afterward, with the help of local politicians and representatives (union members, chairman), parents marry off their girls secretly. They help the parents to be fake their age in the birth certificate.

6. PRESSURE AND RELEASE (PAR) MODEL

With regard to conceptualizing risk in the context of disasters and emergencies, the PAR model developed by Wisner et al. (1994) is undoubtedly the most well-known and widely acknowledged model in the field. It provides a thorough and convincing framework for understanding the role of (social) vulnerability in risk.

The PAR model in figure 5 attempts to analyze the progression of vulnerability and resulting hazards from the intricate interactions of different other aspects pertaining to the spectrum of root causes, dynamic pressure, and unsafe conditions of violence against women. Identified root causes that have been identified are the limited access of women to power and control, structures, resources, etc. certain ideologies have been the reasons for the aggravated manifestation of existing root causes. Women's lack of education, health services, awareness of legal rights, and macro forces like poverty, pressing disasters, unemployment problems, etc. are the core components of dynamic pressure. The concurrent unsafe conditions, including the fragility of the livelihood system, unsettling social coercion, cultures of victim shaming/blaming, religious dogma, the culture of the spiral of silence etc. are only deteriorating the whole system that triggers disasters or climate change on a broader scale through the development and fixation of vulnerabilities. Natural disasters like cyclones, river erosion, flood, storm surges, etc., are some of the climate-induced, agonizing consequences resulting from the interplay of all these factors that have just been briefed about.



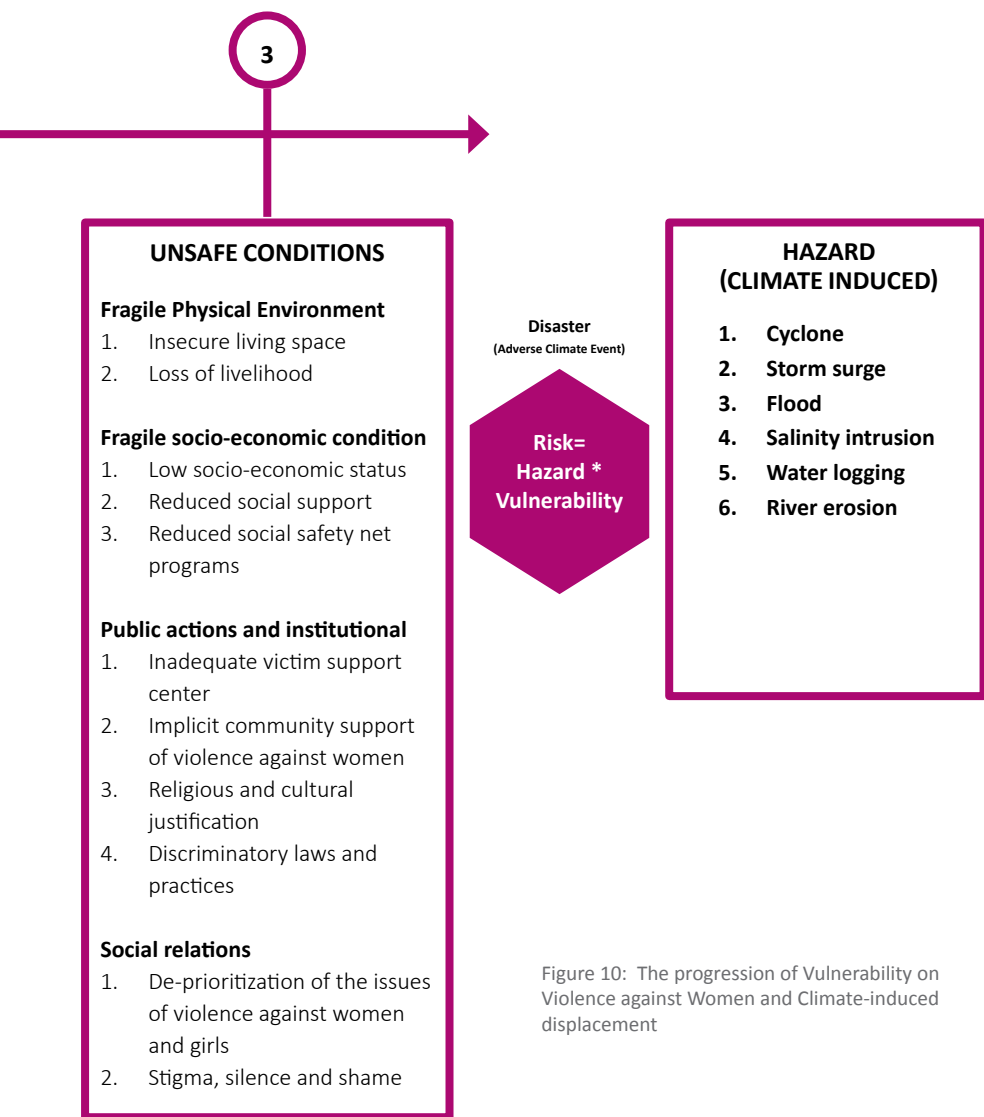


Figure 10: The progression of Vulnerability on Violence against Women and Climate-induced displacement

7. DISCUSSION AND KEY FINDINGS

7.1 Vulnerability, insecurity, and psychological distress as triggering factors of GBV

The study details how climate-related displacement fosters an environment conducive to escalating violence against women in Bangladesh. Additionally, it outlines the consequences of climate change, including the vulnerabilities, insecurity, and psychological distress they entail and the sociocultural, economic, and political factors that gradually trigger violence against women among the displaced populace. As the study highlighted climate change and climate-induced disaster as the most conspicuous reasons behind displacement, so did the existing literature. According to recent data as argued by (Warner et al., 2008), the upcoming decades will observe a significant rise in the number of climate migrants exclusively owing to climate change. The coastal regions of Bangladesh have already been suffering from water logging and saline intrusion, driving thousands of locals from their homesteads to settle elsewhere (Kartiki, 2011). Our study also indicated similar findings from the displaced population of Satkhira while

in Shariatpur; we found river-bank erosion to be the most significant force behind large-scale displacements.

Our study findings were consistent with other studies (Bradshaw and Fordham, 2013; Fisher, 2010) regarding the triggering factors behind gender-based violence induced by these displacements. Existing studies suggest that disasters significantly aggravate the marginalization and oppression for the women by their male counterparts, and in displaced communities, the rate is even higher (Sultana, 2010:48). Studies show that financial instability & insecurity, insolvency, dowry, etc., are the most common reasons an ingrained patriarchal social norm that bring about GBV within families and society. Often, women are the victims of this crime. (Hossain and Sumon, 2013; Kabeer et al., 2017; Rahman, 2019; Bhattacharya et al., 2018). In both of our study locations, it became evident that women face the burden of displacement significantly more than their counterparts. Their partners and in-laws frequently perpetrate domestic violence against them, and economic insecurity has been uttered as the major reason that stimulates violence repeatedly.

Numerous global studies indicate that between 15% and 71% of women who have ever lived with a man report having experienced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partners. A survey conducted in Bangladesh on VAW reports that almost 87% of women experience some sort of violence from their partners at least once in their lives, whereas psychological, physical, sexual, and economic violence are predominant in societies of Bangladesh (BBS, 2013; Hossen, 2014). In the displaced communities of Satkhira and Shariatpur, our study findings generated corresponding patterns of gender-based violence perpetrated against women. Additionally, several instances of sexual violence to young girls of displaced families from outsiders were identified in our study.

7.2 Climate Change, GBV and Child marriage

Climate change and displacement have a direct influence on the increase of child marriage in displaced communities. According to a study performed in 2011, more than 75% of all marriages can be classified as child marriages in the context of Bangladesh (Kamal et al., 2015). One study reflected that, in rural Bangladesh, climate change seems to facilitate child marriage along with factors like economic fragility and ingrained social norms (Koelle & Shackleton, 2011). Our study in the displaced communities of Satkhira explored a significantly higher rate of child marriage occurrences where insolvent economic condition drives the families to reduce the burden by marrying their young girls off at an early age. The effects of child marriage are felt nonetheless. From malnutrition & physical abuse to early deaths from adolescent pregnancy has been documented in a multitude of studies worldwide (Hampton, 2010). Physical and sexual abuse and dowry-related violence against child brides have been observed at a significantly higher rate in Satkhira and Shariatpur. Displacements have triggered child marriage culture in those communities, although there exists legislation against the practice. The young girls there deserve a life free from any kind of abuse and violence.

7.3 Socio-cultural factors shaping child marriage practices

Gender is a major social component, matters in any disaster. Women's issues are rooted in unequal power distribution, gender roles, subordination, etc. factors (Fisher, 2010).

Because village societies in Bangladesh tend to be patriarchal and the manifestation of 'unequal power distribution is more pronounced, disasters affect women disproportionately more than their counterparts. Our study findings as well concurred with these notions. More frequent cyclonic disasters in the recent decades along the southern parts of Bangladesh have fostered displacements through long-term secondary disasters, i.e., waterlogging & salinity intrusion; and in Satkhira, in thousands of displaced families, women endure violence from their partners and in-laws but are unable to raise any voice owing fear and subordination. Similar scenarios were observed in the displaced communities in Shariatpur as well; although the reason for displacement there was mostly riverbank erosion nonetheless, women must bear the burden of displacement and face domestic violence simultaneously. Disasters bring about displacements and, consequently, violence against women.

With its limited range, the current study points out the interconnection between climate-induced displacements and GBV. Deeply rooted social patriarchal norms and culture already exhibit violence against women in regular societies and in communities displaced by climate-induced factors; these instances are quite frequent and conspicuous. Appropriate measures to stop further displacement and reduce GBV in displaced communities, along with regular DRR steps, should come to light.

7.4 KEY FINDINGS:

- Displacement, financial crisis, gender-based violence, early marriages are the most critical and common disaster impacts in Satkhira and Shariatpur.
- Economic crisis and financial insecurity are the major reasons for gender-based violence.

- Physical violence against women is frequent in Satkhira, with most cases perpetrated by their spouses or in-laws.
- Displacement due to cyclones and river erosion increases violence against women in both study areas.
- Those who lose their homes and other possessions as a result of a disaster put pressure on their spouses to get money from their families.
- The majority of families have faced difficulties adapting to a new place after being displaced, especially building new shelters and looking for new jobs.
- Child marriage is a common phenomenon in Satkhira due to climate-induced displacement.
- The core reason for child marriage is the economic condition and prevailing social norms of the family.
- Due to traditional customs, parents marry their girls off within 12-16 years in Satkhira.
- Due to covid-19 Schools remains closed and half of the girls of school got married in this period in Satkhira.
- Women are not aware of menstrual hygiene as they use cloth instead of pads during their period.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The incidence of frequent and severe disasters has increased due to fast changes in climatic patterns. Various natural disasters have forced many people to leave their homes in recent years, mostly in Bangladesh's coastal regions (Mohammad, 2015). In accordance with the increasing frequency of disasters, the number of climate refugees is increasing beyond comprehension. Vulnerability, misery, and hostile environmental factors undermine life and communities, places, groups, and society as a whole. These are all connected in the same way as the components of a human body are. Climate-induced displacement has been identified as one of the most concerning issues for the world's population in the twenty-first century. It must be addressed so that policymakers can feel the pulse of the rapidly deteriorating situation toward displacement.

Natural disasters such as cyclones, river erosion, and tidal waves frequently damage houses and property in the coastal areas of Bangladesh (UNICEF, 2020; Rahman & Rahman, 2015). Many people in coastal areas work as farmers or day laborers, and many of them lose their houses and fields as a result of recurrent natural disasters, leaving them vulnerable. Many of these individuals seek shelter in slums or other informal settlements in semi-urban or urban regions. In many respects, such forced migration exacerbates their vulnerability. They are frequently exploited in the new colony in a variety of ways. Many of them are unable to find an acceptable job and, as a result, live in poverty.

Studies show that natural disasters have societal consequences that must be considered in order to implement effective disaster management practices (Rezwana and Pain, 2020; Dominelli, 2014). Gender-based violence is firmly ingrained in Bangladesh society due to the prevailing social structure. According to previous studies, violence against women increases during and after natural disasters (Rezwana and Pain, 2017; Rahman, 2013; Zaman, 2020). Forced displacement in the aftermath of the disaster increased the degree of violence and rendered women even more vulnerable. In addition, due to their gender roles and other socio-cultural factors, women are more vulnerable to natural disasters (Islam, 2010). Job loss, abject poverty, and the loss of individuals, according to Memon (2020), cause stress in people, which leads to violence against women.

Our study has shown the furthest ramifications of climate change-induced coastal displacement in Bangladesh. The primary objective of this study was to see how climate-induced displacement impacts both the coastal population and the displaced group and how such conditions lead to GBV. As a result, the initial work incorporates a great deal of academic and empirical evidence to reveal the situation of the displaced population, the current status of the displaced population, and the inconsistencies between responsibilities and realities of policy implementation in the context of climate change-induced displacement.

This conception, in line with this statement, indicates that, in the majority of situations, displaced persons lead a vulnerable life following their displacement. The haste with which they were displaced has significantly altered their level of living. These shifts not only provide them a breath of a new life experience, but they also force them to rebuild their lives as a result of the recurrent disasters. Indeed, inferiority, insecurity, and inhumanity have replaced traditional values, impunity,

social ties, and cultural baggage, as well as belonging and communal bonding in their current state. Such conditions often lead to many forms of violence and particularly GBV, as the study found. Such violence is accompanied by some other factors like abject poverty, unemployment, insecurity, and uncertainty. Such conditions alongside traditional social norms accompany violence against women- often justified or to some extent encouraged.

8.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The need to adopt appropriate policies and measures to address the untenable condition of the vulnerable group is exemplified by climate-induced displacement. Of particular relevance to climate displaced people in Bangladesh are the following principles:

8.1.1 Addressing climate-induced displacement

1. For the time being, displacement has been addressed in a limited manner in the national climate change action plan. To deal with increasing climate-induced displacement situation, existing national policies and plans must be updated.
2. It has been noted in past years that there are some discrepancies in the execution of the national plan and policies at the grassroots level and in the impacted coastal area due to a lack of appropriate monitoring. The future work plan must prioritize ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of all financial measures, relief distribution, and displacement reduction projects.

3. In general, countries that have experienced the negative effects of disaster-induced displacement must evaluate and examine their current condition regularly. Bangladesh, like other countries, needs to establish a specialized government-based monthly and yearly report on the displacement situation. Publishing reports on a monthly and annual basis assists responsible officials and researchers learn about the situation of the dislocated people, comparing and contrasting it with previous displaced situations to develop a strategy for future decisions, and portraying Bangladesh's stairways against displacement to the rest of the world. In addition, the report on the displacement scenario covers the development project's progress as well as forthcoming regulations on disaster-induced displacement.
4. Every disaster-prone area (community, unions, Parishad, Upazila, and Zila) should appoint local representatives who should be charged with updating reports in times of disaster by hours by union representatives, union to Parishad, Parishad to Upazila representatives, and Upazila to Zila representatives about their respective work at the time to help the area's potentially affected people. As a result, a community representative at the local level should take the lead in reducing displacement and reporting to recognized officials on a regular basis.

8.1.2 Mitigating challenges in post-disaster situation

5. In a disaster-prone region of the country, a lack of access to clean water is a common problem. Despite the fact that it has been suggested in several research reports, the policy is still under consideration in some areas. As a result, this study recommends expanding the number of tube wells in each community so that a lack of pure

drinking water does not become a serious issue for displaced people. Several alternative plans like rainwater harvesting should be promoted, and local people need to be trained. Government must act on this issue by extending various water projects for these displaced people, mainly in Satkhira.

6. Considering disaster is an unavoidable companion of local inhabitants in coastal areas, the displacement protection fund is a modern and innovative project that may provide assistance to those who have been displaced as a result of a disaster. As a result, local NGOs should establish a Disaster Protection Fund, into which local residents may deposit money on a monthly basis in order to receive large sums of money in the event of a disaster. Uttaran, a Satkhira based NGO, has initiated such a program for displaced people in Tala.

8.1.3 Identifying needs of Women

7. After disasters, protecting women and girls must be included in the overall context of gender aspects in disaster response. One of the numerous effects of the disasters that can be mitigated by better gender-sensitive disaster management that would also reduce susceptibility of girls and women to violence. To address post-disaster violence, disaster management must take a broader, gendered perspective, taking into account the complexity of needs of women during and after a disaster.
8. Organizations must strive toward implementing a gender mainstreaming plan in the long run. Such action would guarantee gender equality in disaster management and prevention.
9. Mechanisms for violence monitoring, reporting, and intervention must be put in place during the actual

emergency. Reporting of humanitarian and women-focused events should provide evidence to support advocacy efforts for improved protection measures.

8.2 STUDY LIMITATION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The researchers consider the study's limitations concerning time, the focus of the study, budget, and other matters associated. Some of these limitations could not be mitigated. These are the following:

- Many previous studies are available covering the topics of climate change and disaster, the impact of the disaster on the displacement of population, disaster and women, disaster and GBV, etc. But, there were few studies that connected climate change with GBV among climate-displaced people. The study was an attempt to demonstrate the nexus.
- The researchers recruited two female RA's for interviewing women who faced violence by their husbands or others. Still, it was difficult to extract information regarding GBV from them since many of them did not want to talk about it.
- The researchers had to build a strong rapport with the respondents before the interviews. Some women declined to participate, fearing their partner as the study is related to GBV.
- The limited extent of time to finish the study was another limitation. Qualitative research requires an extensive period of time as it focuses on multiple aspects of life at once.

8.2.1 Future Scope

In this study, we primarily focused on one of the social aspects of climate change and disaster among displaced people. There are many more issues to be studied on these displaced people, considering the existing literature gap. Future studies can focus on livelihood, hygiene and sanitation, economic vulnerability, and social exclusion of displaced populations in coastal areas of Bangladesh.

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10. ANNEXES

10.1 CONSENT FORM

INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

Written Consent

Study Title: Nexus Between Climate-Induced Displacement and Violence against Women and Girls: Evidence from Disaster Prone Areas of Bangladesh

Young Researcher: Md. Shakhawat Hossain and Arifur Rahaman

What you should know about this study

- You are being asked to participate in a research study.
- This consent form explains the research study and your part in the study.
- Please read it carefully and take as much time as you need.
- Your participation is voluntary. You can choose not to take part in the study. If you join, you may quit at any time. There will be no penalty if you decide to quit the study.
- Not participating in this study will not affect any of your existing facilities that you are receiving.

Purpose of research project

1. To assess the vulnerability, insecurity, and psychological distress triggered by climate-induced displacement
2. To find out the evidence of violence against women due to climate-induced displacement
3. To identify the effects of child marriage practices with a special focus on gender based violence
4. To investigate economic and socio-cultural factors shaping child marriage practices among climate induced

Why you are being asked to participate

- You are being asked to participate in this study because you have been displaced due to climate-induced disasters.

Procedures

If you agree to participate, we will administer a questionnaire with you. We may also ask you to participate in group discussion.

Risks/discomforts

- The risks are no greater than those usually encountered in daily life.
- Some of our questions could make you feel uncomfortable, but it is unlikely.

Benefits

- You will not receive any direct benefit from this study.

Payment

- No compensation will be provided for your participation in this study.

Protecting data confidentiality

Your information will be kept confidential.

Protecting subject privacy during data collection

We will not use your name in any report of the study and we will not give your identity to any unauthorized person. In case of future use of the information collected from you, we will keep it anonymous, and your identity will not be identified.

Cost of participation in the study

There are no costs associated with participation.

What happens if you leave the study early?

If you agree to join the study, you can decide later to withdraw from the study. If you withdraw from the study, we will not use the information you provided. Your decision will not affect the facilities you receive here.

Conflict of Interest

None

Payment of treatment costs for injury or illness from study participation

Not Applicable

Clinical Trial Registration

Not applicable

Who do I call if I have questions or problems? You can contact:

Name of Young Researcher: **Md. Shakhawat Hossain, Arifur Rahaman**

Contact number of Young Researcher: **01684435347**

What does your signature on this consent form mean?

Your signature on this form means:

- You have been informed about this study's purpose, procedures, possible benefits and risks.
- You have been given the chance to ask questions before you sign.
- You have voluntarily agreed to be in this study.

Name of Participant

Date _____

Signature of Participant

Date _____

10.2 Toolkit for Data Collection

10.2.1 IDI – In-depth Interview Guidelines

Objective 1: To assess the vulnerability, insecurity, and psychological distress triggered by climate-induced displacement

1. When and how were you displaced? How long you have been living in this settlement?
2. Can you please explain the circumstances of your former residence? How was your way of life?
3. What are changes take place in your life since your dislocation? How are you managing your new life here?
4. What is your past and present source of earning? Is it enough for you? [Prob: Changes in livelihood due to lessening/increasing of earning]
5. What came into your mind while choosing this particular region or place for migration?
6. What challenges did you face after displacement due to climate change? How did this displacement affect you mentally?
7. Do you feel emotionally connected with your previous locality? Does this decision of migration affect you emotionally? [Why or why not]
8. Do you feel safe in this settlement? [Prob: Why or why not?] Are women and girls mobility within community restricted?
9. How previous disasters intensified insecurity for women? Can you provide any examples?

10. Do you think women in your house face social restrictions as a displaced family? Can you please explain how?

Objective 2: To find out the evidence of violence against women due to climate-induced displacement

11. What are the main manifestations of GBV in post disaster situations? (Probe: Given that there are different types of GBV, such as domestic violence, rape, sexual harassments, eve-teasing, molestation, exploitations and abuse, trafficking etc.)
12. What are the factors that may trigger and lead to the perpetration of GBV?
13. Who are the perpetrators of such violence? How would you characterize them?
14. [For Women only] Did you encounter any violence before, during or after a disaster? If so, what are the reasons behind that/those occurrences?
15. Is the violence that you have endured emerging as an outcome of poverty? Did the displacement trigger the poverty in your family?
16. What are the driving reasons for perpetrators to commit GBV during post disaster situation?
17. Are there any factors that could decrease the likelihood of a person turning to violence in these situations?
18. How frequently does violence against women occur among displaced families? What are the factors associated?
19. How does gender role impact the decision-making process of the family? Can woman and girls participate in the family decision making process?

20. During disaster or aftermath of a disaster, does the rate of GBV increase? If yes, why?
21. Ask questions such as – are they verbally abused specifically because often they consider physical abuse as abuse only
22. Is the issue of menstrual hygiene a taboo in the society? Do girls face any difficulty in school? How do you take care of your menstrual hygiene during or aftermath of a disaster?
23. Whether they are provided with hygiene and dignity kits during and aftermaths of a cyclone or flood
24. What are the safety protection measures taken at the shelter? Are the measures adequate?

Objective 3: To identify the effects of child marriage practices with a special focus on gender-based violence

25. Did you see any case of child marriage in your community? Is child marriage common in your community?
26. What are the reasons behind the prevalence of this malpractice?
27. What are the reasons behind the parents marrying their daughter off at an early age?
28. Does the opinion of a bride or groom take into account before marriage?
29. Does child marriage lead to bride facing violence in in-law's home? Why such?
30. Why climate displaced families prefer child marriage? [e.g. lack of education, employment opportunity, insecurity, burden to family etc.]

31. What are the challenges that adolescent girls face in their in-law's house as a result of an early marriage?
32. What is your opinion on psychological immaturity of that age that contributes to gender based violence?
33. What is your opinion on the power barriers that exist between the male and female members of a displaced family?
34. What can be done to prevent child marriage practices?
35. Do local authority try to prevent child marriage practices? What actions they carried out till now?

Objective 4: To investigate economic and socio-cultural factors shaping child marriage practices among climate-induced displaced people

36. What is your opinion on economic instability being related to child marriage among displaced people?
37. Do religious beliefs play a significant role in child marriage? [Prob: what religious values encourage child marriage?]
38. Do traditional cultural norms of your society facilitate child marriage practices? Please explain how?
39. How 'Dowry' is being practiced in your community? Does dowry influence child marriage practices? How?
40. How to stop child marriage practices, according to you? What are the available measures being taken?
41. Are girls considered as burden in your society?
42. Do girls in your community go to school regularly?
43. Are they allowed to work outside their home?

10.3 Toolkit for Key Informant Interview

10.3.1 Climate Hazard and Displacement

1. What is your observation on the frequent key climatic hazards in the coastal or specific hazard prone area's system?
2. What role has environmental degradation or climate change played for displacement?
3. What is the trend of climate migration in your area?
[Where are environmentally induced migrants coming from and where are they going to?]
4. How does environmental degradation or climate change interplay with physical vulnerability, insecurity and psychological factors in decisions about migrating?
5. Why do some people remain in areas of environmental degradation/ climate change while others migrate?
(i.e. Having problem with vulnerability, insecurity and psychological distress?)
6. What is the level of vulnerability, insecurity and psychological distress duration or after the extreme events/climate change?
7. What do you think are the key factors that contribute to disaster induced displacements in our country?
8. What have been the impacts of climate variability and hazards on key environment, natural resource and development issues?
9. How a disaster intensify insecurity for women? Can you provide any examples?

10.3.2 GBV and Disaster

10. Does climate change and disaster affect Gender based violence anyhow?
11. What is the response of the community response against sexual violence? What is done to prevent violence? What is done to help survivors? How could these efforts be improved? Do women's support networks exist to help survivors?
12. What kind of violence women face before, during and after disaster?
13. How frequently do you come across GBV-related cases emerging from displaced families, and how do you handle them?
14. What role do the local community leaders (NGOs, Govt., political party etc.) to protect people from the risk of GBV?
15. Where do people most commonly seek help when they are exposed to gender-based violence?
16. How are women viewed differently from men in the community? (Probe for examples of sexual abuse. Clarify definitions of forced sex/rape, sexual harassment, sexual manipulation, etc.)
17. How do women/girls get help when they experience gender-based violence? (Probe: Do they tell anyone (family members, other women, health worker, community/LGA leader, police/security people/authorities, someone else)
18. What do you think needs to be done to break the barriers that women and girls or men and boys face to report GBV and access post-GBV services in this coastal area/ community?

19. What services do you think should be available in this coastal area/ community to help address GBV?
20. What are your future hopes for them who are living in the coastal area in Bangladesh?

10.3.3 Climate Displacement, GBV and Child Marriage

21. How often do you come across incidents such as child marriage within your administrative areas?
22. What are the effects of child marriage you have seen on women?
23. Are there any measures in place to stop this practice? If yes, what are they?
24. Do you think increasing opportunities for girls' education and employment for the displaced families can prevent this practice? Is there any plan for girl's education and employment?
25. Do you think existing laws and regulations on child marriage are sufficient in preventing this practice among the displaced population? Or do you have any suggestions for changes?
26. What in your view is the best way forward to solve this problem?
27. Is there any specific protection measure or safety net programs targeted at reducing GBV cases and empower women and girls?
28. Is there any ongoing GO-NGO collaboration or NGO interventions in this community? How do they support women and girls?

10.3.4 Factors affecting Child marriage

29. What's your view on the fact that there is a relatively higher prevalence of child marriage rate among the displaced families? What are the factors associated?
30. What factors mostly affect child marriage practices among displaced people? [Prob: economic, social, cultural or other]
31. What are the social factors that determine the severity of child marriage due to climate change impacts?
32. Why early marriage works as a coping strategy against poverty?

10.3.5 Specific Questions

- Does your department acknowledge the economic difficulties these displaced families experience which might directly influence GBV? What are the measures taken so far to diminish their economic instability?
- What actions should have been taken according to you by your department to eradicate such GBV in the coastal area and negative gender stereotypes?
- What are your future hopes for them who are living in the coastal area in Bangladesh?
- Further work that can be done which falls under the scope of your work.
- Feasible recommendations for GoB and relevant ministries and agencies to combat the vulnerability of climate changed induced migrants.

10.4 PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Caption: One of the key Research Assistants conducting interview with the respondents. These people lost their houses due to river erosion.



Caption: One of the Young researchers, Shakhawat Hossain listening story of the respondent in Satkhira.



Caption: Another young researcher Arifur Rahaman conducting interviews with the respondent in Satkhira in a displaced community. All of the people here were displaced from Balia. They were settled here with the help of Uttaran.



Caption: One of the Research Assistants conducting interviews in Satkhira in a displaced community.

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