

Socio-Economic Condition and Livelihood Status of the Fisherman Community at Muradnagar Upazila in Cumilla

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ABSTRACT

The present study become carried out to assess the socio-economic condition and livelihood structure of fishermen community at Muradnagar Upazila under Cumilla district during the period from February 2019 to July 2019. This Upazila is very close to Gumti River. Data were collected from randomly selected 40 respondents of local fishermen community through questionnaire interview. The study was performed on the basis of personal interview and Focus Group Discussion. From the survey, it was estimated that most of them are directly or indirectly involved in fishing. They are engaged in different fishing-related activities during banning season. The study shows that the majority (66%) of fishermen were Hindu, where 34% were Muslim. The literacy rate was only 18% here. The research indicates that 70% of fishers directly involved in fishing. They were provided license card from Upazila Fisheries Office. Their jointed family was 70%. Most of them live in a tin shed house which is 90%. The survey also informed that most of the fisher, like 80% use tube-well for drinking water. Treatment facilities were developed, but it depends upon their economic condition. Poor fishermen go to village doctor and kabiraj for treatment. Comparatively wealthy fishermen go to Upazila Health Complex and Sadar hospital in serious condition. In the study area, there were no training facilities for local fishermen. Sometime they could not get enough loans for lack of proper management program. As a result, fishers became helpless while flooding occurs. Electricity facilities in the study area were better than before. Annual incomes of the fishermen were varied from BDT 50000-100000. Except fishing, fishermen were involved in net making, boat construction, agricultural activities etc. The government should come forward to take necessary steps to manage their problems and to motivate them for creating significant opportunities for their better livelihood structures.-

Moreover, fish farming in the pond appears to be a profitable business compared to rice cultivation. Currently, rural farmers are found to convert their rice field into aquaculture pond [3]. We know that Bangladesh is a riverine country. About 700 rivers including tributaries flow through the country. Although few fish farmers in rural areas accepted pond aquaculture as their secondary occupation, most of them involved in fish farming, this is the typical scenario of rural people livelihood in Bangladesh. However, it may vary from one area to another area. In broad aspects, livelihood includes the capabilities, assets and activities, which are essential for continuing daily life. In another way, the components which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks can be considered as a livelihood [4]. Rural livelihood diversification is defined because the technique via which rural livelihood construct a more and more diverse portfolio of functions and belongings with a purpose to survive and to enhance they're widespread of living [5]. Household combines their livelihood resources within the limit of their contact and utilize their institutional connections to pursue many different livelihood strategies. Strategies can consist of diverse styles of production and earnings-generating functions (e.g., agricultural production, farm employment, formal sector employment etc.) or processing and exchange activities (e.g., informal sector traders, merchants, commodity processors, etc.) or some combination of two. Household Livelihood Security (HLS) analysis should determine the livelihood strategy portfolios that different households pursue and the classical pathway they have taken. The present study aims to study the socio-economic condition and livelihood status of fishermen community at Muradnagar Upazila in Cumilla, Bangladesh.

Keywords: Gumti river; Livelihood; Socio-economic; Fish farmer