



**Climate Change Induced Gender Based Violence against Women
during Water Collection: A Case Study in Shatkhira Upazilla,
Bangladesh**

Case Study Report

Submitted to

Cap-Net

5th October, 2020

Report Prepared by

Sabrina Zaman, Research Officer, BCAS

Case Study Team

Md Asaduzzaman, Senior Research Officer, BCAS

Sazzadul Karim, Senior Research Officer, BCAS

Jebunnahar Ahmed (Tuli), Programme Manager, BCAS

Mohammad Adeeb Sharif, Research Officer, BCAS

Ayesha Sharif, Research Officer, BCAS

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)

Secretariat, Cap-Net Bangladesh

Table of Contents

Summary	2
Background	3
Literature Review	4
Definition of sex, gender and gender based violence (GBV)	4
Current Scenario of Climate Change Vulnerabilities.....	4
Interlinkages between Climate Change, Water vulnerability and Gender violence.....	5
Objectives	6
Research Questions	6
Methodology.....	6
Study Site Selection.....	6
Data Collection Method.....	6
Focused Group Discussion (FGD)	7
Key Informant Interview (KII).....	7
Case Story Collection	8
Findings and Discussions.....	9
Major Vulnerabilities in the Study area	9
Climate Change and Vulnerability to Drinking water	9
Current Practices of Water Collection	10
Climate Change and Gender Roles in Water Collection	10
Water Collection and GBV against Women	11
Differentiated Opinion on GBV between Men and Women.....	12
COVID-19 Situation and Increased Vulnerability to Water Collection.....	12
COVID-19 and Gender Violence	13
Family, Social and Institutional Support	14
Recommendations	14
Challenges during Conducting the Study.....	15
Conclusion.....	15
References	16
Annex: All Stories	18

Summary

Bangladesh is one of the worst affected countries in the world while being the less contributor to climate change. The coastal district of Satkhira is one of the vulnerable areas in Bangladesh. This study has been conducted in the two uazillas of Satkhira district to explore the climatic vulnerability to water collection and associated gender based violence (GBV). A qualitative approach has been followed to find the results. The study revealed that the area faces numerous water related vulnerability which causes vulnerability to drinking water. Women are mostly vulnerable to this as they are mostly responsible to collect drinking water for the family. Sometimes they are also accompanied by their husbands and children mostly girls. Men assisting women in water collection is perceived as shameful act and men are insulted and mocked if they help women in water collection. Women face different types of harassments during water collection however, they avoid to disclose such cases in fear of judgement and social shame. The COVID-19 issue has increased the vulnerability of women not they have to collect more water and do extra household works. Participants recommended to provide supply water, improved water supply facility, creating awareness through education and training etc. to eliminate if not stop cases of violence against women.

Background

Bangladesh is one of the most climate change vulnerable countries (UNDP, 2007; Huq and Ayers, 2007) due to its disadvantageous geographic position, low topography, high poverty level resilience on many climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and inadequate infrastructure (Climate Change Cell, 2006). The adverse effects of climate change for example, sea level rise, higher temperatures, and monsoon precipitation obstruct development by causing water vulnerability and crisis (MOEF, 2005). The southwestern part of Bangladesh is vulnerable to shortage of safe drinking water caused by salinity intrusion and contamination of arsenic.

The deep groundwater in the coastal region is relatively vulnerable to impurity due to saline water intrusion that causes groundwater inappropriate for drinking or irrigation (Kim, Kim, Ryu, & Chang, 2006). Besides, excessive pumping and over use of groundwater in the coast increase saline water intrusion. The changes in the climatic condition cause direct and indirect impacts on water resources.

Some of the districts of Bangladesh such as Satkhira, are particularly at a higher level of vulnerability due to its proximity to the coast and the dependency of its inhabitants on natural resources. For example, population dependent on cultivation of fisheries in small ponds in Satkhira and other vulnerable districts may fail to continue the practice due to increase in salinity and decrease in depth of water in the ponds. Lack of freshwater for irrigation caused by climate change will also be a challenge for homestead vegetable gardening. These concerns in water and health sectors in the coastal zone might aggravate in the future (Rabbani et al., 2014).

The World Disasters Report (2005) recognizes that women and girls are more vulnerable to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse physically and mentally besides domestic violence in times of disasters (IFRCRCS, 2005). Women are more adversely affected by climate change, as they are associated with agriculture, water resources and livelihoods which are the most vulnerable sectors. In rural areas in Bangladesh women are responsible primarily to collect water. Women and girls make regular and long travelling to obtain water which makes them vulnerable. A study revealed by ActionAid Bangladesh in 2007 has revealed that around 71% of women face are tortured during the period of flood and about 52.3 % of them were physical violence (The Daily Star, 2018).

Literature Review

Definition of sex, gender and gender based violence (GBV)

Sex and Gender

‘Sex’ denotes the biological and physiological features of women and men, and ‘gender’ is defined as the socially created norms, roles and relations that a particular society consider suitable for men and women. Gender determines the factors that is expected, allowable and appreciated in a woman or a man in a determined context (WHO, 2011a).

Gender Based Violence

The term gender based violence against women refers to “any act that cause or likely to cause in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, consisting threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life ((United Nations, 1995, Platform for Action D.112). The term is used to recognize violence which is shaped b gender roles and status in society.

Current Scenario of Climate Change Vulnerabilities

Bangladesh is cited as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change as many of the adverse effects of it are adding and increasing the already existing stresses which are causing a hindrance on the development of the country, such as reduction in water and food security as well destruction of various infrastructure. Most of the climate change impacts have a much greater effect on the coastal regions of Bangladesh because all the tropical cyclones, flood, salinity intrusion, coastal erosion and storm surges depend on the oceanic currents of the nearby Indian Ocean (Islam, Bhuiyan and Ramanathan, 2015).

According to Rabbani et al., (2014) the coastal plains situated on the southern part of Bangladesh suffer from cyclones, storm surges, salinity intrusion, coastal inundation and waterlogging. These have direct and indirect adverse impacts on water resources and human health. The climatic factors could also affect ecosystem functions and services, resulting in decline in aquatic yields like fisheries. For example, salinity in freshwater sources are increasing in coastal districts including Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira, Bhola, Khulna, Feni and Noakhali.

Water scarcity in drought periods and floods caused during long monsoons in coastal areas, high salinity intrusion in ground and surface water along with arsenic contamination in the southwestern region and the challenges of water management systems due to excessive demand of water for agricultural purposes are the three major reasons identified in the paper which are making safe water unavailable for the people of Bangladesh (Abedin and Shaw, 2014).

Additionally, Islam et al., 2015 mentioned that escalation in weather extremity due to climate change has forced the coastal communities to face higher risks of causality and danger making them vulnerable than ever before. The study states aquaculture, fisheries, population, agriculture and tourism are some of the major affected sectors of climate change in Shyamnagar Upazila. With

the majority of the population living in poverty the drivers are not only adding up to the misery but also causing an impact on the socio-economic, physical and environmental health of the population.

Furthermore, the paper titled, "Safe water adaptability for salinity, arsenic and drought risks in southwest of Bangladesh" by Abedin and Shaw (2014), conducted in Khulna and Satkhira stated as the two districts of Bangladesh which are severely suffering from safe water scarcity. Additionally, the research also stated that 5 sub-districts of the two districts have medium adaptability, 10 have low and 1 has very low adaptability. The study claims that the adaptability index measures the capacity and the gaps of the sub-districts which can guide the review of the policies and give recommendations to safe water adaptability action plans.

While many people already struggle to get access to water sources for sustaining livelihoods, domestic uses and health services, climate change further limits the accessibility. Consequently, the health implications may be severe for the communities who are exposed to both climate and non-climate factors relating to freshwater availability. Ultimately, the people whose consumption and livelihoods depend on such aquatic habitats are also expected to be affected. (Rabbani et al., n.d.). Furthermore, Islam et. al., (2015) mentioned that as per the Livelihood Vulnerability Index (LVI) it is stated that the major vulnerable components of this area reside within the natural capital, local economy, water and natural disasters as majority of the people in Shyamnagar highly dependent on natural resources for livelihood. Upon observation and long term research LVI states that most of the unions in Shyamnagar are highly vulnerable to the changing climate in terms of exposure and sensitivity, but Gabura which is one of the unions showed to be the most vulnerable among others because majority of the households in this union reported of having conflicts related to water resources which further hampered their social integration. Therefore, to make the communities in Shyamnagar even more resilient to climate change we need to identify these vulnerable groups and the potential impact of the changing climate so that awareness among the local communities can be enhanced.

[Interlinkages between Climate Change, Water vulnerability and Gender violence](#)

Shabib and Khan (2014) elaborated in their paper how social confines (accessibility to services, violence, mobility and responsibility), gender roles and unique physiological and nutritional requirements (during pregnancy and menstruation) act as catalysts in women being disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. Poverty and gender have symbiotic relationship in magnifying climate impacts, thereby making the 12.8% of female-headed households in Bangladesh more vulnerable.

Women are more adversely affected by climate change, as they are associated with agriculture, water resources and livelihoods which are the most vulnerable sectors. Almost half the population of Bangladesh are women, consequently, they can play an active role in resource and energy efficiency as well as community dynamics. To address such issues, the Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP: Bangladesh) was prepared in 2013 to "mainstream gender issues in development initiatives to increase resilience" through coordinated efforts, gender-sensitive assessments and gender-responsive interventions (MoEF, 2013).

Through the review of UNFCCC, NAPA, BCCSAP, 6th FYP and various policies, it was found that domestic policies address gender sensitivity in Bangladesh but are only partially operational. Gender impacts and Climate change are addressed as reciprocally exclusive issues in policy objectives; therefore, it is necessary to incorporate all stakeholders' interests and "integrate gender into the culture and lexicon of Climate Change and Adaptation Programming". Furthermore, for sustainable development women need to be focal in designing and implementing current and emerging adaptation actions (Shabib and Khan, 2014).

Objectives

- To understand gender roles in fetching water in climate change induced water vulnerable area
- To explore whether and how the differentiated gender roles in fetching water expose women to violence.

Research Questions

- I. What are the current and potential climate change induced hazards that affect/may affect the water resources, water supply and water availability?
- II. What are the major sources and current practices of water collection in the study area?
- III. How the socially rooted causes and practice exaggerates the water crisis in resulting violence against women?
- IV. How much support do the women, in case of violence, get from family, society and institutions?

Methodology

The study is qualitative in nature. in two upazillas of Shyamnagar upazilla of Satkhira district. The study will follow a qualitative approach to justify the objectives.

Study Site Selection

The study is qualitative in nature. The coastal region is highly vulnerable to climatic hazards due to its geographical location, proximity to Bay of Bengal, poverty etc. Cyclone, tidal surge, soil salinity, and flood are common phenomena in this area with increasing intensity, frequency and type. The study has been conducted in coastal district of Shatkhira, which was the most impacted areas of cyclone Sidr in 2007 and Aila in 2009 (Islam et al., 2015). Besides, numerous vulnerabilities the area is also vulnerable to safe drinking water due to salinity intrusion and storm surges, (Abedin and Shaw, 2014) which leaves the coastal women vulnerable to access water for drinking and other purposes. Study by Cap-Net Bangladesh in 2019 on climate change, water and health in coastal zone of Bangladesh revealed that, women are exposed to different types of violence while fetching water. To further assess the situation this case study has been conducted to explore the scenario of gender based violence due to water related crisis in the coastal district of Satkhira of Bangladesh. Two upazillas of Satkhira district i.e. Shyamnagar and Kaliganj has been selected by evidence from literature review and simple random sampling.

Data Collection Method

The data has been collected from primary and secondary sources (Fig. 1). Based on the secondary

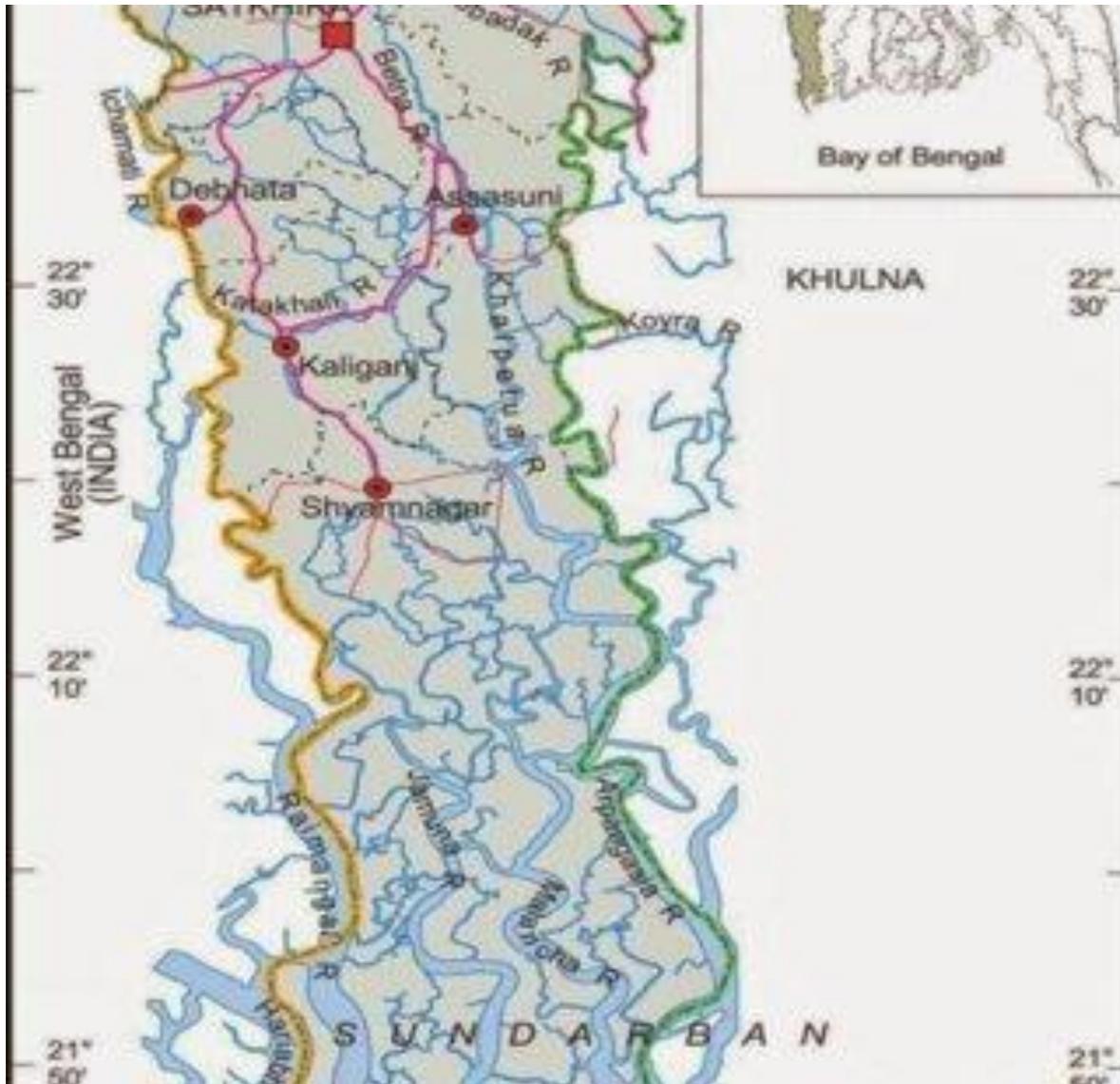


Fig: Map of Satkhira District of Bangladesh

literature and the qualitative approach of the study, the research followed three different types of data collection method (1) Focused Group Discussion, (2) Key Informant Interview and (3) Case Study Collection.

Focused Group Discussion (FGD)

Total eight FGDs has been conducted in the study area, consisting four in Kaliganj and four in Shyamnagar upazila. Based on the women focused motivation, three of the FGDs has been conducted with all women and one of the FGDs has been conducted with mixed group consisting both male and female. There were 6-8 participants in each group.

Key Informant Interview (KII)

In total twenty (20) KIIs has been conducted of which 10 KII has been conducted in each of the upazillas. Stakeholders were selected from local health providers, local communities, community

leaders, representatives of government and non-government organizations, representatives of women led local NGOs which are as follows-

Table 1: List of stakeholders for Key Informant Interview (KII)

Serial	Interviewee	Number of Interview
1)	Union Parishad Member	1
2)	DPHE	1
3)	NGO (involved with water, women lead organizations ,gender violence, gender equality)	1
4)	School Teacher	1
5)	Community Leader	1
6)	Local (male)	1
7)	Local (female)	1
8)	Disabled / Excluded Group	1
9)	Doctor/ Health care provider/ Local level health care provider	2
	Total	10
	Total in Two Upazilla	(10+10) =20

Case Story Collection

The study team has collected stories of vulnerable individuals or victims who have experienced violence of any kind regarding water collection in the study area. The findings has been analyzed to reveal the effects of climate induced water based violence on women in the study area.

Table: Methods of primary data collection

Type	Kaliganj	Shyamnagar	Total
FGDs	4 (Mixed 2+ Only Women 2)	4 ((Mixed 2+ Only Women 2)	8
KIIs	10	10	20
Story	6	10	16
Total	-	-	44

Findings and Discussions

Major Vulnerabilities in the Study area

Shatkhira is one of the most vulnerable coastal districts of Bangladesh in terms of climate vulnerability. Various types of natural disaster such as—cyclone, storm surge, flood, tidal wave and salinity intrusion are very common phenomenon in this region (Islam et. al. 1998; Ahmed, 2006; Pender, 2008). Findings from the study reveals that Cyclone, tidal wave, river bank erosion, drought, excessive rainfall, salinity, waterlogging, broken embankment are the notable challenges that the people of the area experience. Socio-economic condition of Shayamnagar Upazilla as well as people are mostly dependent on shrimp farming, fishing, agriculture and natural resources. The vulnerabilities of the coast is estimated to be exacerbated because of climate change such as increased intensity of natural calamities (Islam et. al, 2015).

Climate Change and Vulnerability to Drinking water

Natural resources and water are one of the most sensitive issues that gets affected by hazards. The water resources in the coast are particularly vulnerable as the economy is based on agricultural, forestry and fishing activities in the study area. Saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, storm surges cause the water resources to become saline which threatens the drinking water availability (Islam et al., 2015). Study findings reveal that potable water in the Satkhira district is a scarce and valuable good. Participants from the Kaligang upazilla said that all the disasters mentioned above affect the quality of their drinking water sources. Due to the cyclone, trees fall on road, making it difficult to collect water. Cyclone causes damage broken embankment which force the affected people to wait until the relief water arrives.

Due to the cyclones, rivers break into ponds and the surface of the ponds get covered with leaves and branches of trees which later decomposes turning the water undrinkable. However due to lack of options Anowara begum from Datinakhali village from Shyanagar Upazilla continues to drink this water despite being polluted. Even the filters in those area are not hygienic. Mrs Anowara from Datinakhali village from Shyanagar Upazilla reported that that mice enter these filters through holes as they are not well protected. Since they have no other option they continue to drink water from that filter until the mice decomposes. Salt water intrusion into ponds/bodies are also turning the water saline and killing the fishes further polluting the water and turning it undrinkable. Mrs Rupa Rani from Jelekhali village, Shayamnagar upazilla reported that during Aila they didn't get any relief water rather they bought it from the market.

Table: Climate change and water vulnerability

<u>Climate change vulnerability</u>	<u>Vulnerability to fresh water</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sea level rise• Cyclone• Storm surges• Saline water intrusion• River bank erosion• Excess rainfall• Drought• Water logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scarcity of fresh water for drinking• Decreased water quality for drinking• Tree fall on roads makes water collection difficult• Dependency to relief water during disasters• Water resources gets covered by tree leaves and branches

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken embankment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusion of salt water to fresh water resources • Decreased water quality because of decomposition of tree leaves on water sources • Unhygienic filters due to creation of pathogens • Pollution of water sources due to rottenness of aquatic creatures i.e. fish due to saline water • More expenditure for drinking water during disasters if no relief is provided
---	---

Current Practices of Water Collection

In the study area current sources of water collection are rain water harvesting, pond water, filtrated water by PSF, tap water from Upazilla. In Shyamnagar, some women travel a distance of 2km or more with pitchers, drums, bottles to collect filtrated or pond water. During low tides they walk and during high tide they mostly travel by boats to collect water. Often men travel by bicycle when asked to fetch water, at times women accompany them in bicycles and vans. Participants from Jelekhali village, Shyamnagar upazilla said that there are four water collection ponds in this area. Out of these four, two of these ponds dry out during drought season and the other two as a result of individual ownership, water has to be collected by waiting in long lines.

Climate Change and Gender Roles in Water Collection

Climate is gender biased and gender is a significant determinant in climate change context. Since climate change magnifies existing vulnerabilities and existing inequalities, with gender inequality being one of the most prevalent, has significant effects on the wellbeing of women (Zayed and Islam, 2013). A number of factors cause women, particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Women are expected to experience negative impacts of climate change because of their socially constructed roles and responsibilities and mostly they are dependent on their husband. Women have less adaptive capacities than men as their livelihood depend mostly on natural resources (United Nations 2009).

Findings from this study revealed that men from the study area think that it is the responsibility of the women to collect water and therefore only they should perform this task. In the study area if a man/ boy brings water, society does not take this with good intentions. Society wants women to suffer because of water shortage, so they force women to walk long distances to collect for the family. This attitude is fueling violence against women. If a man collects water for his wife people tend to insult and make fun of them. However, the mindset is changing according to some people and nowadays men are also performing this duty.

Nazma Begum had two children. She said “I have a small family. One day I went to fetch water while my mother was taking care of my children as I have to go 2 kilometers for that. After coming

back home I found that my elder son was missing while my mother was feeding the younger one. We started looking for him. After a while, we found his body floating in the pond. Local people took out him from the water but he was dead by that time. I am responsible for the accident. If I had not gone to collect water that day my son would have been with me now.”

In water logged condition during floods, poor women find it very tough to guarantee safe drinking water for their family. Women of different age group travel distances by boat or raft to collect drinking water. Water sources become polluted with pathogens. Moreover, because to lack of firewood water cannot be purified, which eventually causes spread of water borne diseases.

Water Collection and GBV against Women

Lack of sufficient water facilities has significant impact on women and children, serves as a driver for gender based violence risks (IUCN, 2020). In most developing countries those are affected by climate change such as Bangladesh, women’s gender roles (collecting fuel wood or water) force them to be more dependent on natural resources that are vulnerable to climate change. The lack of water in proximity can raise the probability of violence towards women and girls while searching for water. (Sommer et al., 2015). These vulnerabilities are similar in nature of those related to collection of natural resources i.e. firewood and forests goods. Although nation-wide data are not available on such cases study findings reveal that women and girls are disproportionately susceptible to violence while fetching water (IUCN, 2020). According to WHO, (2017) women and girls are responsible for collecting water which exposes them to the risk of harassment, sexual assault and rape in every 8 out of 10 households.

In the study area of Shyamnagar, there is no security at the site of water sources. Women are being subjected to violence and harassment of different kinds such as: stalking, forced conversation, verbal harassment, eve teasing, criticisms, men demanding to take water first even they come late and promoting inequality. Girls are teased on the way of water collection, create obstacles during water collection. These incidents happen mostly in the early morning, during noon and evening when there are less people around and if the women or girl is alone. Parents often verbally and physically assault their adolescent daughters if for some reason they come home late from water collection.

Water collection practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly women and girls fetch water• Women travel long distances• Walk during low tide and travel by boat during high tide situations• Collect water from nearby water sources• At times men also accompany women with bicycle and vans• Has to wait in long queue for water during dry seasons• Collect water in pitches, pots, large containers• Reserve water during rainy season

GBV against women during water collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stalking• Forced conversation• Verbal harassment• Teasing• Criticism• Men demanding to take priority in collecting water• Pulling on clothes• Create obstacles of different kinds• Verbal and physical abuse by family members• Cases happen during early morning, during noon evening or if women are alone

40 year old Rokeya said “Since my daughter is married now so I do not want to share the incident with anyone. However, I am telling you secretly. One day I was going to fetch water from the Kalabiniya pond with my 16 year old daughter. Suddenly a man came on a bicycle, stopped in front of us, took all his clothes off and stood naked in front of us which scared both of us. I thought if I get scared, he would grab the opportunity and something worse can also happen. So I started screaming and confronted him with a stick from the roadside. Then the man got on the bicycle and raced away. Something very bad and serious could have happened that day but we survived. I did not even dare to tell anyone. My daughter is now married and I do not even know the man.”

Differentiated Opinion on GBV between Men and Women

From the focused group discussion in the two upazillas i.e. SHyamnagar and Kalliganj of Shatkhira district it has been found that there has been differentiated opinion and perspectives between men and women regarding GVB cases.

In the mixed group discussion male participants portray that there has been no issues of GBV and women tends to rely quite in these FGDs as they don’t want to reveal & accept the stories of GBV. Male participants think that only women and girls are responsible to fetch water and men or boys should not take part in such activities.

Perspective of men	Perspective of women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women is responsible for water collection ➤ Force women and girls to travel long distances ➤ Men gets mocked and insulted if they help women in collecting water ➤ No issue of gender violence during water collection ➤ Verbally or physically abuse women or girls if they come late from fetching water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both should do the work ➤ Women finds in difficult to collect water for the whole family ➤ Women requires assistance by men of their family ➤ Does not accept cases of GBV during water collection ➤ Finds it shameful to share cases of GBV with family and close ones ➤ Thinks it’s their own fault to face such cases

However, in the FDGs with all women group reveals a different angle. Female participants states that they find it difficult to collect water from long distances. There has been no change in the role of women in collecting water. In fact, during the COVID-19 situation there is seen to have been an increase in pressure on women to collect water in the study area.

COVID-19 Situation and Increased Vulnerability to Water Collection

The COVID- 19 situation has caused difficulties in collecting water due to lack of awareness about the COVID-19 issue among the village people. At the beginning of the pandemic people were very scared and confused. When people from another village travel to collect water, people of that area used to bully them and prevent them from collecting water. People used to misbehave and bully the villagers from neighboring area by accusing them of being infected by COVID-19 in case they

try to collect filtered water. In the beginning, people also used to force the fellow villagers to wear masks even though it was not easily available and they themselves didn't wear any.

“Shefali Begum from Daninakhali village of Kaliganj upazilla says that there have been changes due to the COVID-19 situation, earlier at least 5 women used to travel together to collect water now she goes alone. Water has to be collected while maintaining a certain distance. At the beginning of the COVID-19 situation she used to wear mask but now she doesn't care much about the safety and leaves the house without a mask.”

Resident of the village Harodda, Kaliganj upazilla, Dr. Hayat Ali died because of COVID-19. Soon this news spread among the locals. Though Dr. Ali kept himself in quarantine after being affected, fear entered people's mind as well as it affected the process of water collection. Whenever the women of Harodda village went to fetch water from PSF, it was turned off. They shifted towards collecting water directly from the pond. Later collecting water from pond was also prohibited for women of Harodda. People, around the pond and the PSF, said that women of Harodda should not come to collect water for some days as one of their neighbor died because of COVID-19. Thus, that time wherever they went to collect water it created a lot of difficulties for them.

Participants reported that Mr. Kerani Aulia of Kochukhali village of Shatkhira owner of a pond, introduced some rules due to lack of water and the COVID-19 situation. For example, the owners started keeping soaps near PSFs and if seen people did not wear mask or cover their mouth with cloth, the collection of water was prevented.

COVID-19 and Gender Violence

During the COVID-19 situation people from the study area reported that there have been family quarrels which can be categorized as unrest/unstable home environment, blasphemy, physical abuse if women are found to be coming home late while collecting water.

This study found that since COVID-19 situation has emerged, violence has escalated further. Husbands have started to become more involved in the lives of their women as they sit home being unemployed. Due to lack of work and added financial stress, they are constantly in a bad mood and therefore often exert or release this frustration on women by physically and verbally abusing them. Husbands tend to hit their wives if they are late in collecting water and returning home.

Chandrika Ghosh, ED of Nokshikatha, an NGO in Shatkhira told that the burden of work on women has increased during the COVID-19 situation. She stated that women get no time to relax as all the family members who used to live in other places came home during the COVID situation. So they need to do extra household works and collect more water for more people for drinking. Due to the provision of washing hands frequently during this time, some reported that they need to fetch increased amount of water. She also mentioned that during this pandemic women is seen taking more birth control measures. She also reported that women are complaining against their husbands that there has been an increased intensity of using mobile phone and engaging in adultery as they are sitting home and doing no work.

Family, Social and Institutional Support

Violence against women considered as a taboo and a private issue within the family in the majority of countries, therefore women mostly avoid reporting such cases because they are ashamed or afraid of assault by attackers and particularly when they are known members of the community or the family, and due to police reluctance to intervene in many countries (Amnesty, 2011).

Participants reported that there are no organization in the study or they are not aware of any that can help women in such kind of cases. When women face violence they do not receive any kind of support from family, society or any organizations. They try to solve their problems on their own. Many a times they accept violence and does not share anything with anyone around them because they believe the society will raise fingers at them and accuse them for all the incidents. Further, traditional gender norms and stereotypes not only reinforce GBV, but also extend it. In many countries, the involvement of men in water-fetching is seen as shameful and demeaning, as it is considered a woman's job. In these cases, gender inequalities are so rooted in society that any attempt to alter gender roles by either men or women can be seen as an attack on the status quo of patriarchal systems, prompting more GBV.

Recommendations

It is significant to note that dearth of water access is not a direct reason of GBV, but somewhat a trigger to prevailing patterns. Access to better water facilities can decrease the danger of experiencing GBV during water fetching, but unable to prevent additional types of violence in other circumstances, let alone eliminate GBV. Given the numerous cases of domestic violence and sexual and physical violence related to fetching water, improving access to safely managed drinking water services can reduce women's workload and improve their health and wellbeing (Camey et.al., 2020). Participants in the study believe that to decrease or stop such cases of gender violence some measures can be of benefit. They are as follows

- Providing institutional support for the victims of GBV,
- Providing water tanks to every households,
- Pipe water supply from nearby fresh water sources,
- Introduction of small water management project to ease the troubles of the people of the study area.
- Creating awareness among the people through training and workshops
- Providing income generating training and livelihood support to make women financially independent
- Give vocational trainings or capacity building training to engage women in economic activity
- Emphasis on education of both men and women

Chandrika Ghosh, ED of Nokshikatha, an NGO in Shatkhira suggested that several income generating training workshops can be provided to women to improve their condition. She stated if women becomes economically independent, they can contribute to their family and decision making. They do not need to depend upon their husbands for any dictions and less vulnerable to such effects of uncomfoting. Her organization is conducting projects that can help women

improve their condition such as training for beauty parlor works, providing different vocational training, training on tailoring, and vaccination to cattle etc. Though these trainings women are becoming entrepreneurs. Through these activities eventually women are able to change their conditions.

Mr. Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy Assistant Engineer, DPHE, SHyamnagar, Shatkhira suggested that focus should be given more in girls education and creating awareness to eliminate such cases.

Challenges during Conducting the Study

COVID-19 was the main challenge for conducting the case study. Due to the situation we found it difficult to select participants for FGDs and KIIs. We modified the methodology of the case study considering current situation. We had to take phone interviews of few participants as they were not attending office during the COVID- 19 situation. Field visit of the team was also hampered for this situation. The field enumerators could not provide the field data on due time as they became sick after conducting the field visit.

Conclusion

Climate change is a global phenomenon however, its consequences are global as well as local. The coastal region of Bangladesh faces major consequences of climate change due to geographical and different socio-economic factors. The study conducted in Shyamnagar and Kaliganj upazilla of Satkhira district focused in climate change induced water collection vulnerabilities and associated GBV against women. The study found that women and men have differentiated gender roles in collecting water and mostly women are responsible for water collection in the study area. Men considers that the water collection activities are responsibility of the women and it's shameful for men if they help women in this activity. Participants recommended that there should be better water collection services such as pipe water by upazillas, increased awareness and better education of both male and female, training for women for different income generating activities.

References

- Abedin, M. A., & Shaw, R. (2013). Safe water adaptability for salinity, arsenic and drought risks in southwest of Bangladesh. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 4(2), 62-82.
- Ahmed A.U., 2006. Bangladesh Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability. Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Amnesty International (Amnesty) (2011). 'Where is the dignity in that?' Women in Solomon Islands Slums Denied Sanitation and Safety. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa43/001/2011/en/>
- Castañeda Camey, I., Sabater, L., Owren, C. and Boyer, A.E. (2020). Gender-based violence and environment linkages: The violence of inequality. Wen, J. (ed.). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 272pp
- Climate Change Cell, DoE, 2006. Who is doing what in Bangladesh? Report on the First Meeting, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
- Didar-UI Islam, S. M., Bhuiyan, M. A., & Ramanathan, A. L. (2015). Climate change impacts and vulnerability assessment in coastal region of Bangladesh: a case study on Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira District. *Journal of Climate Change*, 1(1, 2), 37-45.
- Didar-UI Islam, S. M., Bhuiyan, M. A., & Ramanathan, A. L. (2015). Climate change impacts and vulnerability assessment in coastal region of Bangladesh: a case study on Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district. *Journal of Climate Change*, 1(1, 2), 37-45.
- Huq, S. and Ayers, J.M., 2007. Critical list: The 100 nations most vulnerable to climate change. In: IIED Sustainable development opinion. International Institute of Environment and Development, London.
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2005). World disasters report 2005. Geneva, Switzerland. ISBN 92-9139-109-3
- Islam, S.M.R., Huq, S. and Ali, A., 1998. Beach Erosion in the Eastern Coastline in Bangladesh. In: S. Huq, Z. Karim, M. Asaduzzaman and F. Mahtab (eds.), *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change for Bangladesh*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.
- Kim, R. H., J. H. Kim, J. S. Ryu, and H. W. Chang. 2006. "Salinization Properties of a Shallow Groundwater in a Coastal Reclaimed Area, Yeonggwang, Korea." *Environmental Geology* 49: 1180–94.
- MoEF, (2013). Bangladesh Climate Change and Gender Action Plan. Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh. xvi+122 pp.
- MoEF, 2005. Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. National Adaptation Programme of Action. Final report, UNFCCC.

- Pender, J.S., 2008. What Is Climate Change? And How It Will Effect Bangladesh. Church of Bangladesh Social Development Programme, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Rabbani, M., Huq, S., & Rahman, S. H. (2014). Impacts of climate change on water resources and human health: empirical evidences from a coastal district (Satkhira) in Bangladesh. In Impact of climate change on water and health (Vol. 272, No. 285, pp. 272-285). ROUTLEDGE in association with GSE Research.
- Shabib, D., & Khan, S. (2014). Gender-sensitive adaptation policy-making in Bangladesh: status and ways forward for improved mainstreaming. *Climate and Development*, 6(4), 329-335.
- Sharmin, Zayeda, and Mohammad Islam. "Consequences of climate change and gender vulnerability: Bangladesh perspective." Available at SSRN 2200116 (2013).
- The Daily Star (2018). Gender based violence in development and humanitarian settings.
- UNDP [United Nations Development Programme]. 2006. MDG Targets and Indicators. <http://www.undp.org/mdg/goallist.shtml>. Accessed March 06, 2007.
- UNDP, 'Gender, Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation', New York, 2010a
- UNDP, 2007. Country-in-focus: Bangladesh. UNDP RCC web bulletin.
- UNITED NATIONS (1995). Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4-15 September 1995. New York, NY: United Nations.
- WHO What do we mean by “sex” and “gender”? Geneva, World Health Organization, 2011a (<http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/index.html>)
- World Health Organization (WHO) (2017). Safely managed drinking water – thematic report on drinking water 2017. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/safely-managed-drinking-waterJMP-2017-1.pdf>

Annex: All Stories

Kaliganj, Satkhira Stories

Story-1

Halima Khatun is a middle aged woman. She walks to a pond named *Kalabiniya* from her home every day to fetch water and usually some boys keep standing there during that time. She said “First I did not notice but later I figured that those boys were indicating some dirty signs towards me and kept following me. They were passing dirty comments as well. As I am an older woman, I was wondering why they would do such things to me because I do not face this usually. Later I understood that as I was wearing *salwar-kameez* they thought that I was a young girl. I often wear *sharee* but that day I wore a *salwar-kameez* while going to fetch water. After realizing this I turned towards them and asked what they wanted. They were surprised. One of them said that if I dress like a young girl how they would recognize me and then they all left the place while laughing on their way back. Later when I informed my family about this, they questioned me that why I had to go to fetch water being so well-dressed and added that if people see me like this they are surely going to pass comments behind my back. Since that day I believe that my outfit was the reason of the whole incident and after that I never wore a *salwar-kameez* or any new dress while going to fetch water.”

Story-2

Resident of the village Harodda, Dr. Hayat Ali died because of COVID-19. Soon this news spread among the locals. Though Dr. Ali kept himself in quarantine after being affected, fear entered people’s mind as well as it affected the process of water collection. Whenever the women of Harodda village went to fetch water from PSF, it was turned off. They shifted towards collecting water directly from the pond. Later collecting water from pond was also prohibited for women of Harodda. People, around the pond and the PSF, said that women of Harodda should not come to collect water for some days as one of their neighbor died because of COVID-19. Thus, that time wherever they went to collect water it created a lot of difficulties for them.

Story-3

40 year old Rokeya said “Since my daughter is married now so I do not want to share the incident with anyone. However, I am telling you secretly. One day I was going to fetch water from the *Kalabiniya* pond with my 16 year old daughter. Suddenly a man came on a bicycle, stopped in front of us, took all his clothes off and stood naked in front of us which scared both of us. I thought if I get scared, he would grab the opportunity and something worse can also happen. So I started screaming and confronted him with a stick from the roadside. Then the man got on the bicycle and raced away. Something very bad and serious could have happened that day but we survived. I did not even dare to tell anyone. My daughter is now married and I do not even know the man.”

Story-4

Nasima Begum said “A girl of our village was going to collect water one day. A local boy from the area grabbed and pulled the girl’s veil (*orna/dupatta*). That brought a lot of quarrels and hassles in the family. Soon after the incident, the girl was married off at a very young age.”

Story-5

News was heard that an elderly person died when he went to collect water. At last it was founded that it was Mr. Ishak. A resident of Chadkah village, 65 year old, Mr. Ishak’s daughter-in-law Khadiza said “We women have to go very far to fetch water that is why Mr. Ishak used to do that. Even that day he went outside to collect water. One has to wait in a long queue to get PSF water. That day, the old man was feeling extremely exhausted because of the heat. On his way back on the bicycle, he had a stroke and died. Later some people brought the dead body home.”

Story-6

Puja Rani from Pachbariya village said “When women of the village go to fetch water near the Uksa Camp of BGB (Border Guard, Bangladesh), the BGB members stand there. Sometimes they whistle, sometimes they ask for mobile numbers of some women, ask address and also pass unpleasant hints. As we do not have any other option and we have to go there every day to fetch water, some of the women gave their numbers. This caused them various problems. One BGB member called a woman frequently which created unrest between the woman and her husband. We heard that the family used beat the women as they believed it was her fault. Due to such incidents, some of the girls had to lose the privilege of education and were married-off very early.”

Shyamnagar, Satkhira Stories

Story-1

Khukumuni said, “We usually store rainwater for drinking. As soon as the rain starts I tie plastic polythene or a cloth on the alabaster made roof to store water in the tank. If the quantity is good we can easily pass few days using that water. One day as the rain started I went to store water while my sick husband was at home. Though I knew due to climate change, when it rains nowadays, there are also thunderstorms. Suddenly lightning struck my house. My husband lost his consciousness at the sound of lightning. He regained his consciousness next morning but has lost his sense of hearing permanently.

Story-2

Dipa Rani Mandal has to walk few miles to collect water from a pond. She said, “After completing all my household chores I go to collect water. One day when I was coming back from the pond, a motorbike was behind me. The motorbike was frequently changing its speed behind me making me wonder if I was blocking its way. It took me a while to realize that the motorbike was actually following me. Though I am always careful when I walk by the side of the road but still I moved a bit more towards the edge of the road to give enough space so that the motorbike can easily cross. Suddenly, I figured that the motorbike was coming fast towards me and the person is going to touch my body, I stepped away and placed the pot (*kolshi*) forward. The person on the motor bike, being unable to touch me, snatched the pot and left quickly.”

Story-3

Leela Rani Mandal said, “I recently got married in a joint family. I have to do all the household work myself and that is why the responsibility of collecting water is also mine. I go to collect water every evening after completing all household chores. One day I was a bit late and it was already dark outside. When I started to take water, I heard the sound of throwing stones in the water. After a while, stones started falling on me and I heard some men laughing nearby. I got very scared and started screaming. Hearing my scream people came there and took me home safely. After that incident I never went to fetch water in the dark.”

Story-4

Bithika Rani shared a story of her after hearing others. She started by saying, “While going to collect water boys usually tease but that does not bother me anymore as I have already faced a lot of incidents like this. However, I could not forget a rainy season incident. There were many holes in the road and the holes were filled with rain water. While we were walking on the road, a motor bike purposefully splashed water on us. And after we shouted on them asking why they did this, they started laughing at us from a distance. There was enough space on the road and if they wanted they could have gone from a plain side of the road but they did not. It seemed like they did this just to annoy us. These kinds of incidents happen regularly.”

Story-5

Meena Munda belongs to an indigenous family of the *Munda* community. Their life is filled with various social injustices. They have not yet properly gained any of their rights. She said, “My daughter used to go with me to fetch water and it was quite far from where we live. But there she met with a bad boy. One day she said that she was going to collect water and fled away with that boy to marry him. My daughter was not even 18 years old then. She had just passed her SSC exam”. In our society it is very tough to educate a girl but I still did that even after being heavily criticized by the society. My daughter initially did not understand but after few months of her marriage she had to go through a lot of torture there. Everyone including my husband thinks that I am responsible for this. They say if I had not sent her to collect water this would not have happened.”

Story-6

Mojuwara Khatun is 35 years old. She said “During Covid-19 lockdown, one day we just reached home after collecting water. Suddenly a man came to my house and asked for water. I thought the man might be sick or thirsty and I gave him a glass of water. After giving him the glass of water he started cursing me. By that time, I realized the man might be drunk. I got scared and brought a full jug of water for him. The man started washing his face, hands and feet with that fresh water we fetched for drinking. This made me angry. I asked that why he would use that drinking water for washing as we had to go very far to bring water. As soon as I understood that something was wrong with that man, I went outside and started to scream and gathered people. Hearing that, the man fled and no one could catch him. The man had some bad intention but luckily I got safe as people were gathered by that time.”

Story-7

Selina Parveen’s husband is a drug addict. She said, “I have to work very hard. I have to do all the household work alone and go to collect water from a place which is very far from my home for which often I have to wait in long queues. This water collecting issue created a lot of trouble in my married life as my husband doubts me and always taunts me for being late. A few days back, I went out to collect water after serving my husband his lunch. After coming back my husband had beaten me a lot. Still I quietly endured everything and soon another incident happened. I went out to collect water after putting my child to sleep. When I reached home, I saw my drug addicted husband was sitting over my child pressing a pillow over my child’s face. Somehow I managed to save my child from him. And this is how I am spending my life in constant risk and torture.”

Story-8

Taslina Begum is a day laborer. She said, “My husband has a physical disability. From a long time I have been doing all the household chores all alone. I have to go to fetch water as well but the roads are not good and there is no easy way to collect water in a short time. A few days back, I came home from work and saw there is no water at home. I ran to collect water and because of a long queue I got a bit late. As soon as I reached home my husband started cursing me also while I was serving him water he had beaten me a lot for being late. Though he had some problem in his legs but it was never possible to escape from a man’s hand. That is why quietly I endured the beating and that is how we pass our lives.”

Story-9

Nazma Begum had two children. She said “I have a small family. One day I went to fetch water while my mother was taking care of my children as I have to go 2 kilometers for that. After coming back home I found that my elder son was missing while my mother was feeding the younger one. We started looking for him. After a while, we found his body floating in the pond. Local people took out him from the water but he was dead by that time. I am responsible for the accident. If I had not gone to collect water that day my son would have been with me now.”

Story-10

Tanzila used to go to collect water while her two daughters stayed in home. She said, “One day, when I was away to fetch water, my daughters heard that someone in their neighborhood caught a crane (*bok*). So the elder daughter along with the younger one went to see that. My younger daughter Razia was only seven years old and elder daughter was just 8 years that time. The elder one took her younger sister near the crane without having any idea that any accident might happen. The crane stumbled into my younger daughter’s eyes. Thus, my younger daughter’s one eye became blind for forever.”