

Is Climate Change Migration an Adjustment to Extreme Weather Events? A Study on the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh

Mozharul Islam

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye,
ORCID: [0000-0002-7872-0046](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7872-0046)

Abstract

This paper explores the internal migration of fishers from coastal communities of Bangladesh in response to extreme weather events. It also assesses the vulnerabilities to extreme weather events of these coastal areas, in general, and of targeted fishing communities, in particular. This qualitative study employs a combination of methods, semi-structured interviews and observations, in two villages located in the eastern part of Kalapara Upazila, Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. The results indicate that the participants of the study are susceptible to the vulnerability of extreme weather events due to their households' socio-economic and geographical location. This study shows that most people from the fishing communities do not migrate to other places to escape from the vulnerabilities as they have high dependency on fish-related activities. Also, there are various socio-economic and cultural factors that hinder their migration, including the *Mohajon-Dadon* system, migration costs, lack of skills and resources, and fear of income security. Instead of migrating, they develop their own traditional adaptation mechanisms to ensure their survival. These people remain underrepresented and are not adequately recorded in national or regional migration data.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Climate Change, Coastal Areas, Fishing Communities, Internal Migration and Adaptation