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BARRIERS OF ADAPTATION TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE OF FISHERY BASED LIVELIHOODS COASTAL BANGLADESH

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Globally livelihoods of over half a billion-fisher folk are exposed to the multiple adverse impacts of climate variability and changes that affect their capacity to survive. Yet very few studies focused on coastal fishing people and remain in a neglected corner of climate adaptation policy. Based on field work in four fishing communities this study identifies the adaptation barriers of coastal fishing communities of Bangladesh to the impact of climate change using household questionnaires, oral history interviews, and focus group discussions in four fishing communities of Bhola and Patuakhali district. A livelihood framework was used to synthesize the impact of climate change on fishing communities. Existing adaptation strategies with their limitation were also identified to explore their impact on local livelihood and management strategy. The result showed that frequent occurrence of natural calamities like cyclone, storm and tidal surge, fluctuation of temperature and wind velocity due to global climate change deteriorate the situation. The cruxes include, scarcity of cyclone center, damage of embankment, negligence to early warning, inaccessibility of early warning during fishing, aloofness of the government officials and local representatives, acute poverty, attack of pirates, unemployment, inflexibility to credit, illiteracy, lack of skills and alternative income source, insecurity of future generation, poor communication system, sanitation problem, scarcity of medical treatment, outbreak of damning diseases, slight of fishing laws and improper distribution of relief. These factors hinder completion of fishing trips, response to extreme events, safe return of boat and adopt with environmental changes. A number of suggestions are elicited from fishers' perception for effective tackling of climate change that include construction of cyclone center and embankment, mangrove afforestation to protect embankment, assurance of sufficient buoys in boat, helicopter rescue system from fishing place, wireless network or specialized software response system and awareness by navy in case of any sudden adverse climatic condition.