

POST-DISASTER LIVELIHOOD RECONSTRUCTION AND RESILIENCE ENHANCEMENT BY THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERS AND TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES IN COASTAL BANGLADESH



VULNERABILITY TO VIABILITY
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

12:00 PM UTC to 1:15 PM UTC
8:00 AM EDT to 9:15 AM EDT
1:00 PM BST to 2:15 PM BST

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<https://youtu.be/fUn5a-ROyqQ>

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In the face of serious disruptions to local livelihoods and asset bases by extreme climatic events, it is paramount to reconstruct but also to transform and diversify livelihoods. In our study, we posit that two frameworks, namely the livelihood strategy approach and community resilience thinking, are useful tools for effectively analyzing post-disaster transformational changes. Social learning by the small-scale fishers is a vital key in their post-disaster livelihood reconstruction and in enhancing community resilience.



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In the empirical context of coastal communities of Bangladesh, our study specifically examines the changes experienced in livelihood assets due to Cyclones Sidr and Aila. Two coastal communities, namely Nilganj and Dhulasar Unions in the Kalapara Upazila of Patuakhali District, were selected to analyze the strategies used by local people to cope with and adapt to cyclone and storm surge disaster-shocks.

Our findings reveal that a significant number of cyclone victims were displaced from their homes by recent severe cyclones, changed their occupations - both intra- and intersectorally - and confronted increased consumption as well as social costs. We observed significant differences in impacts between fishers and those engaged in other occupations, such as farmers, with the former being far more likely to change occupation post-disaster. The study uncovered significant evidence that local people are learning to live with change and uncertainty by nurturing and combining various types of knowledge and social memory, generating diversified livelihood options, and self-organizing to enhance their resilience to future extreme weather events.

Speakers' Biography:

C. Emdad Haque is Professor in the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba, Canada. Dr. Haque earned his PhD in geography and environmental management from the University of Manitoba, and served as Director of the Natural Resources Institute for two terms (2001-2011). In recognition of research excellence, he was awarded a Visiting Research Fellowship by the University of Oxford, UK, in 1995 and the Visiting Research Professorship by the USA-Canada Fulbright Foundation in 2008. He is a research team member of SSHRC Partnership projects on Dried Fish Matters: Mapping the social economy of dried fish in South and Southeast Asia as well as V2V. Dr. Haque's research and academic interests focus on social learning from environmental shocks, community resilience to disasters, vulnerability and risk assessment, common property resources, environmental and resource policy, and climate change adaptation and policy. Two of his recent contributions to the area of environmental hazards, from an integrative perspective, are the books, *Hazards in a Fickle Environment* (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998), and *Disaster Risk and Vulnerability: Mitigation through Mobilizing Communities and Partnerships* (McGill and Queen's University Press 2012).

Mohammed Salim Uddin is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo, and contract staff faculty in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is also an Associated Fellow at the Centre for Asian Climate and Environmental Policy Studies, Windsor, Canada. Dr. Uddin is pursuing interdisciplinary, mixed-method, community-based research on climate change and environmental disasters. His work includes social learning and community resilience to disasters, disaster management, community development, and institutional and/or policy interventions to climate change adaptation. Dr. Uddin has been involved in research in Canada, Bangladesh, Malaysia and India. He is an active member of multiple national and international research forums and professional organizations.