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Individual Rights and the Impacts of Climate Change in Bangladesh's Coastal Zone

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ABSTRACT

A significant problem facing the entire globe is climate change. Ecosystems, human systems, urban systems, economic systems, social systems, as well as individual rights, are all impacted by climate change. One of the countries in the world that has been most badly affected by climate-related calamities is Bangladesh. People in Bangladesh are the most impacted by the effects of climate change in the coastal zone. In the coastal region of Bangladesh, climate change violates individual rights. Through the analysis of data and news, that was discovered. This study found an intriguing link between the impacts of climate change and individual rights in the coastal zone of Bangladesh. People's livelihoods, health, and burdens are all adversely affected by climate change.

Keywords: *climate change, individual rights, loss and damage, livelihoods, health, coastal area.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The topic of individual rights and the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal zone is an important and a significant problem. Bangladesh is one of the country's most at risk from the effects of climate change due to its low-lying coastline region. Millions of people reside in the coastal region, many of whom depend on it for their well-being and means of subsistence. However, the rights and way of life of the locals are being impacted by the effects of climate change, such as increasing sea levels, an increase in the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes, and increased salinity of the land.

The issue investigates how the rights to life, food, water, and health, as well as the right to a safe and secure dwelling, interact with the effects of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal region. It also looks at how the government and other actors might address these problems and defend the rights of those who are being harmed by climate change. The purpose of this study is to better understand how individual rights are being impacted by climate change in Bangladesh's coastal region and to determine how the government and other actors can better

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address these issues and safeguard the rights of individuals who are impacted.

The research questions for the topic is what effects does climate change have on Bangladesh's coastal regions, particularly the violation of individual rights?

(A) Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study is to comprehend the type and scope of climate change's effects on Bangladesh's coastal region and the rights of those who live there. Determine the main issues that the coastal residents must deal with, such as the threats to their food, water, health, and homes. Evaluate the governments and other actors' contributions to addressing how climate change may affect people's rights in Bangladesh's coastal region. Comprehend the type and scope of climate change's effects on Bangladesh's coastal region and the rights of those who live there. To make suggestions on how to solve the issues and guarantee the preservation of individual rights in the context of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal zone for the government, civil society, and other players. The ultimate goal of this research is to further knowledge of how climate change is affecting people's rights in Bangladesh's coastal region and to inform practical solutions for overcoming these difficulties and defending the rights of individuals who are impacted.

(B) Methodology and Source of Data

Only secondary study has been done on "Individual rights and the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal zone."

Review of the literature: A analysis of the body of work on the effects of climate change on individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal region, including scholarly journals, research, and online sources.

An overview of the current state of knowledge about the effects of climate change on individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal region will be given based on the findings from the literature study and data analysis.

Academic journals: Studies and papers on the effects of climate change on individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal region that have undergone peer review.

Government reports: Studies and reports on the effects of climate change on the coastal zone that have been produced by the Bangladeshi government and pertinent international organizations.

Reports from non-governmental organizations: Studies and reports written by non-governmental organizations, including international NGOs, on how climate change has affected

Bangladesh's shore.

Online sources: Useful online resources on the effects of climate change on individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal region, including websites, news articles, and databases.

II. CONTEXT OF BANGLADESH'S COAST

In South Asia, Bangladesh is a low-lying deltaic nation with a coast that is particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. The coastline region is home to 35 million people, or 29% of the total population. Jessore, Narail, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Chandpur, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirozpur, Jhalakati, Barguna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Feni, Chittagong, and Cox's Bazar are the 19 coastal districts that make up Bangladesh's coastal zone.²

A large portion of them depend on it for activities like agriculture, fishing, and tourism. With important cities and ports situated along the coast, the coastal area also serves as a center of economic activity.

However, due to climate change, Bangladesh's coastal region is experiencing serious difficulties, such as increasing sea levels, an increase in the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes, and the extinction of coastal habitats and biodiversity.³ These effects have an influence on local communities' rights and means of subsistence, including, among other things, their right to food, property, and life. In order to address these issues and defend the rights of populations in the coastal zone, there aren't enough governance and legal safeguards in place.

Understanding and addressing the effects of climate change on individual rights in this region is crucial given the significance of the coastal zone for the lives and rights of millions of people in Bangladesh.

(A) Climate Change and Global Scenario

One of the biggest global issues of our day is climate change. It results from the release of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, which warm the earth by trapping heat in its atmosphere. Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe natural disasters, changed rainfall patterns, and a loss of biodiversity are just a few effects of this warming.⁴

² Ahmad, H. (2019) Walsh Medical Media: Journals: Open Access Journals, Journal of Coastal Zone Management. Walsh Medical Media. Available at:<https://www.walshmedicalmedia.com/open-access/bangladesh-coastal-zone-management-status-and-future-trends-18228.html> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

³ Id.

⁴ Pragma Nema a et al. (2012) an overview of global climate changing in current scenario and Mitigation Action, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews. Pragma Nema. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1364032112000457> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

Around the world, both industrialized and developing nations are feeling the effects of climate change. The effects are most severe in developing nations, with the communities and nations that have made the smallest contributions to the issue suffering the most.

At both the national and international levels, cooperation is required to address the global problem of climate change. This entails lowering greenhouse gas emissions, increasing community resilience to climate change effects, and making sure that the rights and livelihoods of impacted populations are safeguarded and supported. A crucial international framework for tackling the effects of climate change and encouraging action to decrease emissions and improve resilience is the Paris Agreement, which was signed by approximately 200 countries in 2015.⁵

(B) Sea Level Rise and Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, which is situated in a low-lying deltaic region and has a lengthy coastline, sea level rise is one of the most important effects of climate change. As a result of its coastal region and the millions of people who live there, Bangladesh is one of the nation's most susceptible to the effects of sea level rise.⁶

By the end of the century, Bangladesh's sea level is projected to rise 0.4 to 1.5 meters on the Bangladesh coast by 2100.⁷ Having a substantial effect on the coastal region and its residents. Increased coastal flooding frequency and intensity, saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources, and loss of coastal habitats and biodiversity are all potential effects of rising sea levels. These effects may have an influence on local communities' rights and means of subsistence, including, among other things, their right to food, shelter, and property.

Effective adaptation strategies, such as building dams and other coastal protection measures, as well as the creation of early warning systems and evacuation plans, are required to handle the issues brought on by sea level rise in Bangladesh. In order to guarantee that the rights and means of subsistence of communities in the coastal zone are safeguarded and encouraged, more effective governance systems and legal protections are also required.

⁵ Unfccc.int. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/most-requested/key-aspects-of-the-paris-agreement> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

⁶ Sea level rise hits Bangladesh Islanders hard: United nations development programme (2019) UNDP. Available at: https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/news/sea-level-rise-hits-bangladesh-islanders-hard?utm_source=EN&utm_medium=GSR&utm_content=US_UNDP_PaidSearch_Brand_English&utm_campaign=CENTRAL&c_src=CENTRAL&c_src2=GSR&gclid=Cj0KCQiA2- (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

⁷ As sea levels rise, Bangladeshi islanders must decide between keeping the water out-or letting it in Science. Available at: <https://www.science.org/content/article/sea-levels-rise-bangladeshi-islanders-must-decide-between-keeping-water-out-or-letting>. (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

III. DISASTERS VICTIM OF BANGLADESH'S COAST

Due to its location in a low-lying deltaic region and exposure to the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh's coastline zone is especially susceptible to natural disasters such as cyclones, storm surges, and floods. Millions of people living in the coastal zone are at risk because climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of these disasters.

Local populations in Bangladesh's coastal region have been devastated by disasters, especially the impoverished and disenfranchised. These catastrophes frequently cause fatalities, property damage, evictions, and loss of livelihoods. Disasters can also impair a community's rights to things like life, food, and property, among other things.⁸

Enhanced disaster risk reduction measures, such as early warning systems, evacuation plans, and risk-informed land use planning, are required to overcome the problems posed by disasters in Bangladesh's coastal zone. In order to guarantee that the rights and means of subsistence of communities in the coastal zone are safeguarded and promoted in the wake of disasters, there is also a need for more efficient governance systems and legal protections. Additionally, it is crucial to increase a community's resilience to the effects of disasters, especially through methods of risk reduction and community-based preparedness.

(A) **Violates individual Rights**

Individual rights may be violated as a result of climate change and natural catastrophes in Bangladesh's coastal region. Individual rights can be violated in this situation in a variety of ways, including:

Right to life: Natural disasters like cyclones and storm surges can cause fatalities, which is against people's right to life.⁹

Right to food: Natural disasters can affect fisheries and agriculture, leading to food insecurity and hunger, which violates people's right to food.¹⁰

Right to property: Disasters may result in extensive damage to buildings and other types of property, leading to the loss of or eviction of occupants from their houses, which is against each person's right to property.¹¹

⁸ Climate change impact and disaster vulnerabilities in the coastal areas of Bangladesh Prevention Web. Available at: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/climate-change-impact-and-disaster-vulnerabilities-coastal-areas-bangladesh>. (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

⁹ Office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

Right to a livelihood: Natural disasters can interrupt or threaten people's livelihoods in coastal areas, including small businesses, farming, and fishing. This is against each person's individual right to a livelihood.¹²

Right to equality: In the wake of disasters, women, children, the elderly, and those with disabilities are frequently the most disadvantaged and at risk of having their rights infringed.

It is crucial to make sure that the rights and requirements of coastal communities are properly taken into account in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery operations in order to remedy these violations of individual rights. Effective strategies for disaster risk reduction are needed for this, such as early warning systems, evacuation schedules, and risk-aware land use design. In order to guarantee that the needs and rights of coastal communities are adequately met in the wake of catastrophes, it also calls for more effective governance structures and legal protections, such as disaster risk reduction laws, policies, and institutions. The protection of individual rights in the face of climate change and natural disasters can also be promoted through strengthening the resilience of communities to the effects of catastrophes, particularly through community-based preparedness and risk reduction strategies.

IV. PARIS AGREEMENT RELATE TO THIS

The twenty-first Conference of Parties (CoP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concluded with all 195 member countries of the world agreeing to the "Paris Agreement" following a lengthy session at Le Bourget in Paris from November 29 to December 11, 2015.¹³

A significant international agreement, the Paris Agreement intends to address the threat posed by climate change and keep the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The coastal region of Bangladesh, where the effects of climate change are already being seen, is affected significantly by the Paris Agreement.

In order to achieve net zero emissions, Parties are required by the Paris Agreement to take ambitious and practical steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This requires Bangladesh to reduce emissions from sources including energy, industry, and transportation as well as improve its capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change, especially in its coastal region.

¹² Id.

¹³ Rahman, A.A. (2015) Paris Agreement and the Bangladesh Perspective, The Daily Star. Available at: <https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/new-year-special-2016/paris-agreement-and-the-bangladesh-perspective-195028> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

The Paris Agreement acknowledges the need to support developing nations, such as Bangladesh, in their efforts to build resilience to the effects of climate change. This comprises resources for funding, creating capacities, and transferring technology and information, all of which are essential for enhancing coastal communities' ability to withstand the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and natural catastrophes.

The Paris Agreement, in its entirety, offers a framework for group action to address the issue of climate change globally and is essential for guaranteeing the preservation of individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal zone. Together, the Parties can increase resiliency and reduce the effects of climate change on people's lives and livelihoods in coastal areas.

(A) Relevant Laws

Bangladesh has a variety of laws and regulations in place that deal with the protection of individual rights in this context as well as the effects of climate change in its coastal zone. Among the important laws and regulations are.

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009: This is Bangladesh's national policy for dealing with the effects of climate change, and it includes steps to strengthen coastal communities' resistance to the effects of sea level rise and natural catastrophes.¹⁴

Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (CERP): In response to the devastating cyclone of 1987, the Bangladesh Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (CERP) was started and sanctioned in 1995. It was completed in 2003. Enhancing protection of people, property, crops, and livestock along cyclone-prone coastal areas was the project's main goal.¹⁵ This project includes building seawalls and creating early warning systems to safeguard coastal settlements in order to protect the coast from the effects of sea level rise and storm surges.

Bangladesh Disaster Management Act, 2012: The legal foundation for disaster management in Bangladesh is established by this law, which covers the creation of plans for disaster preparedness as well as the use of measures for response and recovery.¹⁶

National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA):

This is Bangladesh's national adaptation plan, which describes the country's top adaptation priorities as well as the steps necessary to increase its resistance to climate change's effects.¹⁷

¹⁴ Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009.

¹⁵ Bangladesh Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project (2013) Earth. Available at: <https://www.eartheval.org/evaluation/bangladesh-coastal-embankment-rehabilitation-project>. (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

¹⁶ Disaster Management Act, 2012

¹⁷ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Available at:

Coastal Zone Management Policy 2005: This policy describes the steps necessary to safeguard and manage Bangladesh's coastal region, as well as steps to lessen the effects of natural disasters and sea level rise on coastal populations.¹⁸

In order to address the effects of climate change and natural catastrophes in Bangladesh's coastal zone and to guarantee individual rights in this environment, these laws and policies serve as the framework for action. The implementation and enforcement of these laws and policies, as well as the availability of resources to support their execution, will determine how effective they are.

(B) What kind of steps needs to be taken in this matter?

In order to address the effects of climate change and safeguard individual rights in Bangladesh's coastal region, a variety of actions must be implemented. Among the crucial actions are:

Enhancing adaptation strategies: Bangladesh must keep enhancing its capacity to withstand the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and severe catastrophes. This can be accomplished by taking steps like building seawalls, creating early warning systems, and improving disaster preparedness plans.¹⁹

Tackling the underlying causes of climate change: In order to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the effects of climate change, Bangladesh must take immediate action. This can be accomplished by taking steps like promoting renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and implementing low-carbon development routes.

Supporting vulnerable communities: In its coastal zone, Bangladesh must help the most defenseless populations, such as women, children, and the elderly. This can involve granting access to vital services like healthcare and education as well as assistance with housing and livelihood reconstruction in the wake of natural disasters.²⁰

Enhancing community involvement: Bangladesh must increase community involvement in decisions on the effects of climate change and natural catastrophes. This can involve creating plans for local disaster preparedness and giving communities the chance to participate in the creation and use of adaptation strategies.

Increasing the legal and policy framework is necessary for Bangladesh to confront the effects

<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/ban01.pdf> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

¹⁸ NDA, B. (2018) Coastal zone policy (2005) • national designated authority to GCF, National Designated Authority to GCF. Available at: <http://nda.erd.gov.bd/en/c/publication/coastal-zone-policy-2005> (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

¹⁹ Usual and unusual suspects - CIFOR . Available at: https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/infobrief/7592-infobrief.pdf (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

²⁰ Vulnerable communities. Available at: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20180723-Vulnerable_Communities.pdf (Accessed: February 3, 2023).

of climate change and safeguard individual rights in its coastal region. This might involve both the creation of new rules and regulations as well as their implementation and enforcement.

These actions are essential for safeguarding the rights of people living in Bangladesh's coastal region and for increasing the resilience of coastal communities to the effects of climate change. Bangladesh can contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and ensuring a more sustainable future for its coastal inhabitants by acting on several fronts.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the effects of climate change pose a major threat to Bangladesh's coastal populations, including the infringement of personal freedoms. Sea level rise, an uptick in the frequency and severity of natural disasters, and the destruction of land and livelihoods are all effects of climate change. These effects are compromising coastal people' already precarious condition and their rights to life, health, and property.

In order to defend people's rights and address the effects of climate change in its coastal region, Bangladesh must act. This necessitates a comprehensive strategy that includes mitigation strategies, a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, assistance for vulnerable populations, more community involvement, and an improved legal and policy framework.

In the end, safeguarding the rights of people living in Bangladesh's coastal region is not only morally required, but also essential for ensuring the nation and its coastal communities have a more resilient and sustainable future. For Bangladesh and the entire international community, addressing the effects of climate change and defending individual rights in the coastal zone must be top priorities.

(A) Recommendation

Several suggestions might be made in light of the difficulties that climate change presents to Bangladesh's coastal communities as well as the abuses of individual rights. These consist of:

Strengthening the legal and policy framework: In order to address the effects of climate change and defend individual rights in the coastal zone, Bangladesh must create a thorough legal and policy framework. The Paris Agreement and the fundamentals of human rights should serve as the foundation for this framework.

Increasing community participation: Coastal communities' participation in climate change-related decision-making is essential for assuring the protection of their rights. To do this, it is necessary to create opportunities for community involvement, information access, and capacity growth.

Supporting vulnerable groups: In order to help vulnerable populations in the coastal zone adapt to the effects of climate change and defend their rights, the government and the international community must provide them with enough resources and support.

Bangladesh must put into action effective adaptation strategies to deal with the effects of climate change, including building sea walls, establishing early warning systems, and creating new sources of income.

Emissions reduction: Bangladesh must take steps to minimize its emissions of greenhouse gases and support international efforts to slow global warming. Changes in consumption habits and investments in renewable energy and energy-saving devices will be needed to achieve this.

These suggestions can help Bangladesh handle the effects of climate change and safeguard the rights of people living in its coastal region. Governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and the international community will need to work together to accomplish this.

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