



United International University

Report

SOC 3101: Society, Environment and Engineering Ethics

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Date of Submission: April 23, 2022

Living on the Edge: A Study of Survival in Char Jhaokhanda.

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Field location: Char jhaokhanda, Faridpur (Adjacent to minot ghat, Dohar, Dhaka).

Introduction: Bangladesh is a very densely populated country. A small island in the Bay of Benge contains around 170 million people. Everyone has their own types of surviving style. In Bangladesh most of the people live in cities. For better lifestyle, better income, better education healthcare etc. To have a better lifestyle they also have to sacrifice a lot. The environment of cities is totally polluted. Sound pollution, traffic jam, worst drainage system, worst waste management become their daily life companion. Unlike cities, villagers are free from toxic environment, sound pollution etc. But education system, technologies are not that good compare to city. This is not the end! There are still people left. They survive in a different way. Unlike city and village, they do not care much about education and technology. Environment, pollution, technology is not even an issue for them. Their major concern is their existence. They are call char people. Bangladesh has the most rivers consider to the total area. Char is separate part of mainland. The people of char comprise a different lifestyle. They do not have a good connection with mainland and mainland people. Their only communication system is troller or something similar to it. We arranged a survey trip Char jhaokhanda, Faridpur. Char Jhaokhanda is union and part of Char Jhaokhanda. We had discussion with local people of this char. We had a conversation with the local people of this char. Gathered knowledge and information about their everyday life, different impacts, culture and so on. Though it is hard to explain exact lifestyle but we will try to explain as much as we understood.

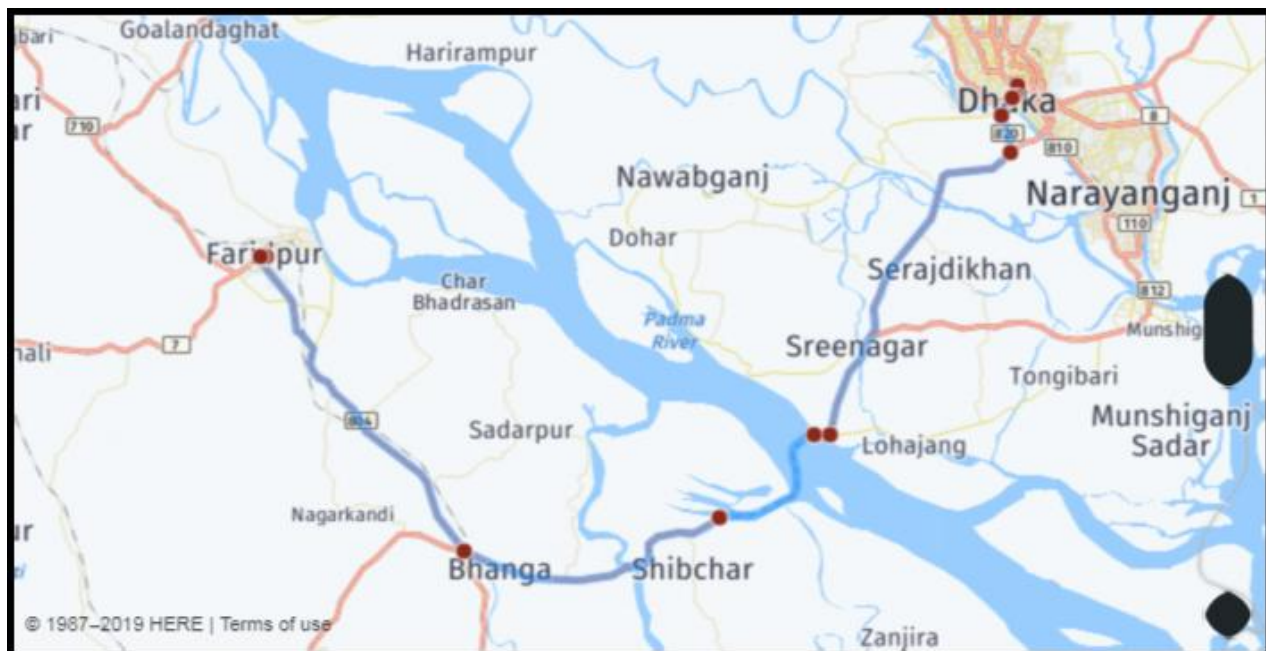
Literature review: Our honorable faculty of SOC 3101 course arranged a field trip so that we can observe how root level people survive and this is related to our course and part of society environment and ethics. Selected location was char jhaokhanda, faridpur. Char jhaokhanda is a union. Minot ghat, dohar, dhaka probably the only way through visited this char. We reached this

long way by UIU shuttle service. Then took a trawler. It takes an hour to reach the char. The local name of this char is Char Gupalpur. We tried to visit this char as early we can. It takes around three hours. Our field trip was on the summer time. That is why the temperature was really hot. There was not any Bazar(market), high school, college, shop, hospital etc. the char is residence to around 200 families. We have to walk through a broken bridge. This bridge can be dangerous for children as well as their women. There are huge sectors that need to improve. Authorities have to focus on it. Technology like mobile, television, agricultural machineries and even electricity is newer for them. We found that the agricultural machineries are not that much necessary but increase their costs. The old way of farming by cow and Langol (Agricola) is much more efficient and better for the field also. We also noticed a huge brick mill. Which makes the environment polluted and makes their life in a risk. Char is temporary so the people are mainly refugees. The government provided houses and lands to the very poor people of this char. Most people build their own house. Those houses are not strongly made. Because they have care about floods. Though they are surrounded with problems but their major concern is flood and tsunami. It is related to their existence. It will fade them away, make them disappear. If it cannot be controlled, then there will be no human being left in chars accept their footprints.

Methods of data collection:

Survey Area:

Our SOC3101 course faculty selected an island (in local language which is call char), it was an Upazila located to the north-east of Dohar Upazila and to the west-north of Faridpur Sadar Upazila. It takes around two hours from Dhaka city. The fieldwork was completed on March 24, 2022.



This char is located between Dhaka and Faridpur. It is hard to find the exact map of this char. Char Jhaokhanda is residence of around 200 families. The total population will be not more than 1000.

Selection:

On that char land we try to interact with that type of people who lead below poverty level. Almost all of them live under poverty line. There were some planned and government made houses. But we were looking for someone who already living this char for at least 10 years. Because old citizens have better knowledge about their land. They have noticed every change they have been through. We were a group of five people together. We talked with some families and few outsiders.

Interviews:

Our group was in intimate contact with the inhabitants of Char Land. We take notes and write down necessary facts for our required information. Almost 4 families are included in our data.

They are: Shamim Khalashi, Muhammad Abdur Rashid, Muhammad Altaf Hossain Aftab and Shukurjan. Our team makes an effort to communicate with the local residents of that particular region. We gathered information based on their perspectives on their living environment, health, social economic situation, economic situation, education, and technology.

Questionnaires:

We asked them some relevant questions about their family, occupation, why they do not want to leave this particular area, how technology helps them in farming, how they earn and spend their money, what about their healthcare, what their children do, and, finally are they pleased with their lives?

Observations:

We noticed that they live their lives by farming crops, raising domestic animals, and catching fish. As a result, they require fewer purchases and hence spend less money. They use some recently additional farming tools for less suffering in order to improve their situation. They ate fresh fruits and vegetables; therefore they aren't concerned about their health. Agriculture is their main occupation. Fishing is their side business.

Findings from the field and discussions

Livelihood options:

The people of char jhaokhanda (Char Gopalpur) are quite energetic in terms of their way of living. Almost all residents have more than one source of income. This is due to the fact that nature does not allow them to settle into a single definite livelihood approach. Off-farm opportunities are scarce in this area. This study discovered different sorts of livelihood possibilities that residents use as their primary means of subsistence. Farming, livestock, fishing, day labor, boat steering are examples. The majority of residents rely on agriculture as

their primary source of income. In terms of secondary livelihood possibilities, cattle are considerably ahead of other options such as business, day laboring, and fishing.

Major Livelihoods and Responsible Stressors:

Various forms of livelihood possibilities can be discovered on the study site. Agriculture is the most common primary source of income, whereas livestock is the most common secondary source of income. There are two types of stressors: climatic stressors and anthropogenic stressors.

Category	Items
Livelihood Options	Agriculture, livestock, poultry, fishing, day laboring, cloth business, soil lifting, shop keeping, steering boat and vehicle driving.
Climatic Stressors	Flood, river bank erosion, drought, thunderstorm, rainfall variation.
Anthropogenic Stressors	Very poor communication, lack of market, undeveloped market, high input costs, inadequate institutional support, scarce training and skills, inadequate micro-credit facilities, Robbery.

Socio-economic condition:

We discovered that this char had been present for around 15 years. Their goods were devastated by river erosion, so they relocated to char land. They primarily rely on agriculture. They grow veggies and catch fish. They ate the vegetables and caught the fish themselves, selling them at the Char Bhadrasan. Char Bharasan is the center and upazilla. They do trade over there.

Water and sanitation:

The drinkable water of this char is mostly iron containing. And lots of iron containing tube-wells are available in char land. As a result of the high concentration of iron in the tube-wells, they are

unable to drink pure water. As a result, they must rely on a single green mark tube-well. They are occasionally required to drink iron water, which causes a variety of ailments in their bodies. They did not use anything to wash their hands prior to Corona. But they are now more serious about it. This reduces the number of diseases on the char land.

Education:

Most of the old age people are uneducated of this Char. But there is a primary school available in this char. Char land parents are now serious about their children's education and hope that they will not experience the same fate. If someone wishes to continue their education, they must cross the river and travel to Char Bhadrasan for secondary school. This indicates that they will have to come to a civilized place in some way. Even though the parents are aware of their education, the children still have to work on the field.

Technology:

We discovered that they employ advanced farming machinery. They also employ solar batteries. We were shocked to learn that the current connection was brought to this region about few months ago. Before government current facilities, they were using solar system for light and fan. The benefit of having both solar and current is that when the power goes out, they can still use the solar battery for 40-50 minutes as backup. So many people are using cell phone now. Some of the families have fridge, television and some daily usage electronics products. Some of them utilize Touch Smartphones, and the network level in that location is likewise excellent. The heavy machinery of this char is Tractor. Though it is helpful and less hard working, but it is more costly than old cultivation methods. For one bigha land a single cultivation by tractor need 600 taka. And a land need at least four cultivations. Also, the tractor cannot cultivate deeply. So, land need fertilizer like urea and DAP etc. which cost around 3000 taka. That is how the price of the products increased.

Healthcare facilities:

There is an upazila health complex, although it is only open one day in a week. As a result, they must cross the river to receive the necessary therapy. There are no emergency facilities. Dead is confirmed after a single bite of poisonous snake. It is hard for pregnant women as well as emergency patients. They need to cross the river and travel all way to Char Bhadrasan. The majority of the time, they receive treatment at home.

Overview:

Name of the place: Char Jhaokhandha (Char Gupalpur)

Population: 200 families. (approximately 1000)

Center: Char Bhadrasan

Environment: Non toxic

Soil type: Loamy

Occupation: Agriculture (main), Fishing (secondary)

Main Crops: Rice, Mustard seed, Corn, Barley, Coriander, Pea, Wheat, Mung bean.

Domestic Animal: Cow, Goat, Sheep, Chicken, Duck

Avg. Income: Approximately 50,000 tk (yearly)

Electricity: Available

Primary School: Available

High School: Not Available

Hospital: No. (small health complex available)

Vaccine Status: Vaccinated

Grave: Not available

Market/Bazar: Not available

Bank: Not available

Flood: Often

Conclusion:

The Char have quite distinct livelihood tactics than the rest of the country. Life is more difficult here. The isolated positions of Char, as well as seasonal floods, are the main sources of livelihood vulnerability. Furthermore, a number of climatic and human factors have made their livelihood more fragile. Because of its low height, the Char land was swamped by seasonal floods. The river water has overwhelmed their hopes, as well as their land. Almost all of the agricultural land is flooded. When an early flood took away their crops, their misery reached new heights. Drought is another factor that has pushed back the planting of seeds and increased the expense of irrigation. Char Gopalpur is an island Char that is comparable to Bangladesh's other Char lands. The residents are suffering as a result of their isolated location, lack of institutional support, and poor communication system. Almost all livelihood strategies are vulnerable in this area due to insufficient market facilities. This study addresses some immediate and long-term mitigation strategies, such as improved communication, institutional support, and Char hut development, all of which are critical for the development of the study area. Aside from these, expanding credit facilities will play an important role in reducing their livelihood vulnerability.

Reference:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charbhadrasan_Upazila
2. <http://charbhadrasan.faridpur.gov.bd/>