

Exploring Nijhum Dwip: A Descriptive Analysis of Field Trip Data

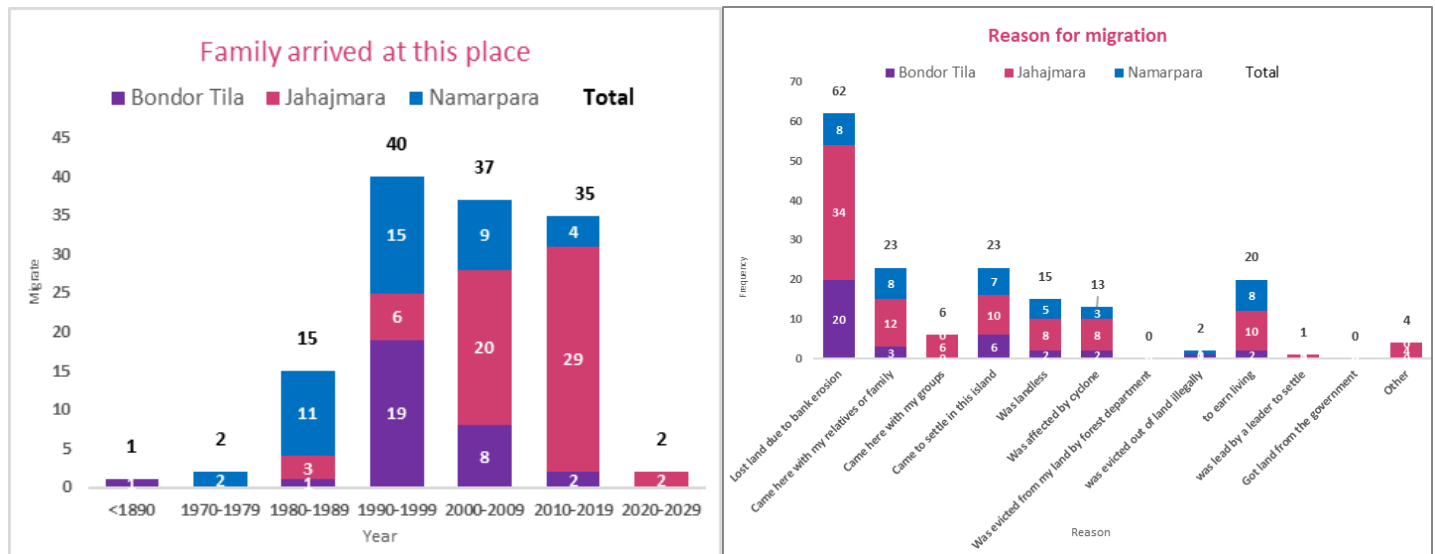
Data analyzed and report written by

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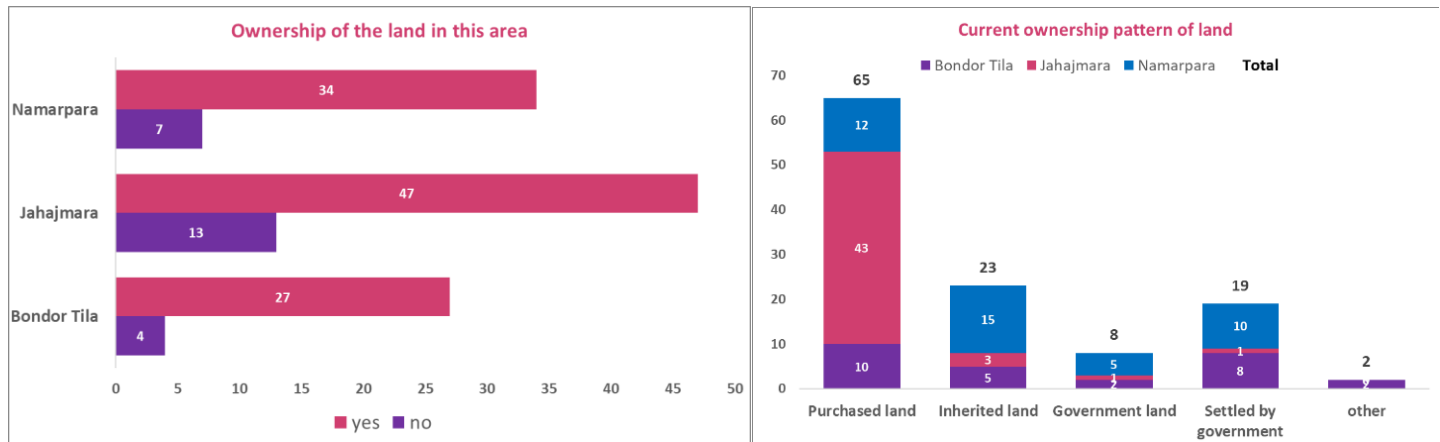
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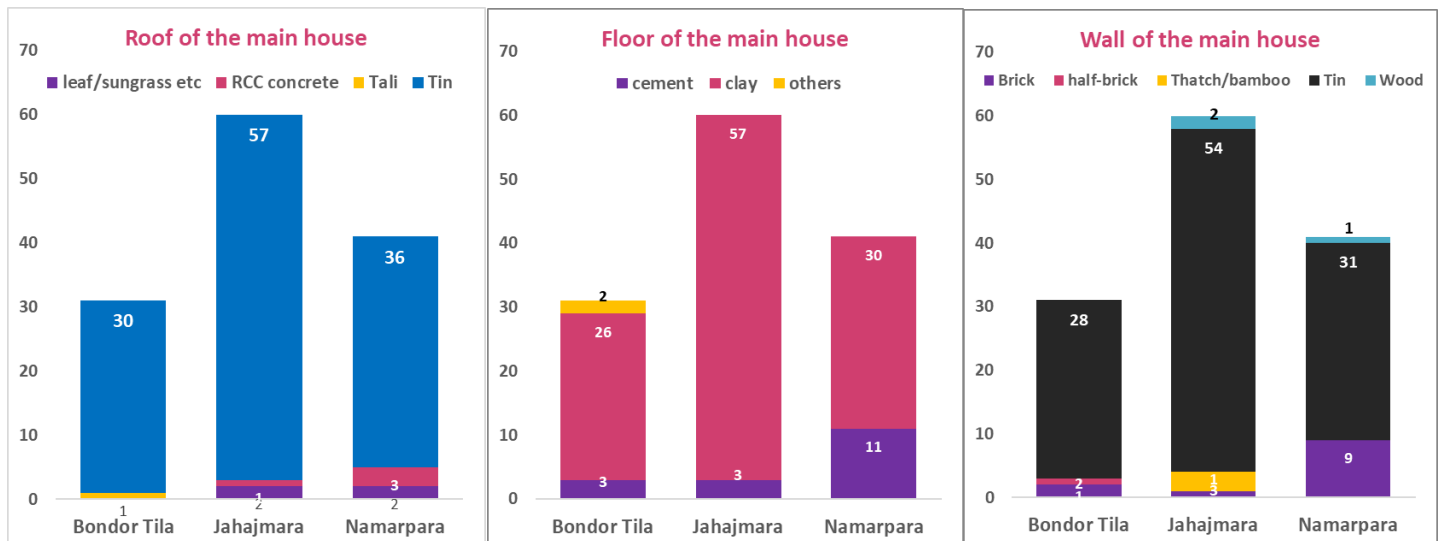
This paper analyzes data from Nijhum Dwip field trip, providing insights into the socio-economic profile, prevailing issues, and the relationship between surveyed individuals and the coastal environment. We have collected a total of 132 responses from three areas: 31 from Bondor Tila, 60 from Jahajmara, and 41 from Namarpara. Among them, 50% of the respondents were female, and the remaining 50% were male. By drawing meaningful conclusions, it aims to identify areas for intervention and improvement for the local community.



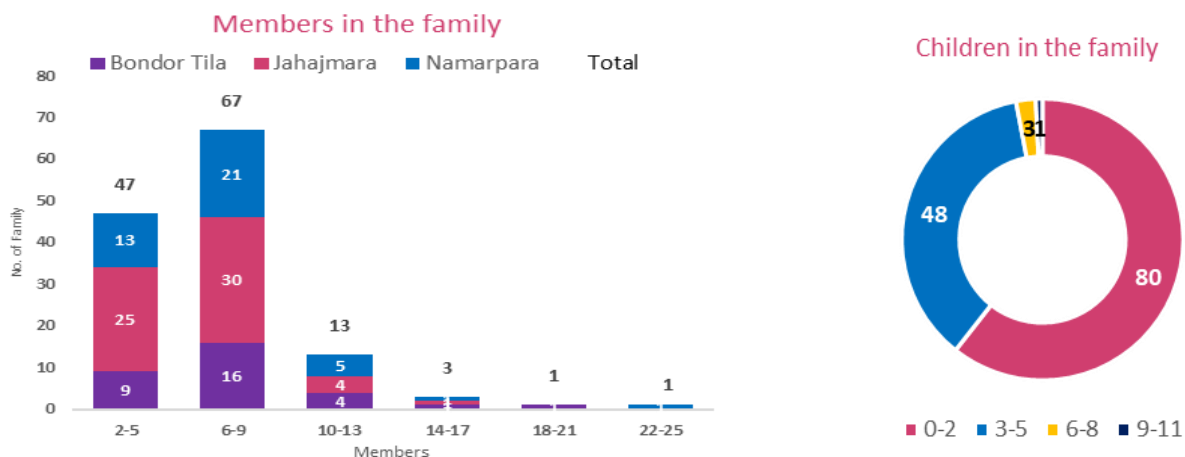
First, let's begin with the arrival time of the respondent families. It is surprising to see that one family arrived at Bondor Tila before 1890. From the graph above, we observe that the majority of respondent families migrated after 1990, with more people choosing to settle in Jahajmara compared to the other two places. Out of the 62 families who migrated to these islands, it was primarily due to the loss of land caused by bank erosion. Additionally, 23 families mentioned that they came here to join their relatives or settle in this place, while 20 individuals migrated to earn a living. Interestingly, according to them, the government did not allocate any land for these migration purposes.



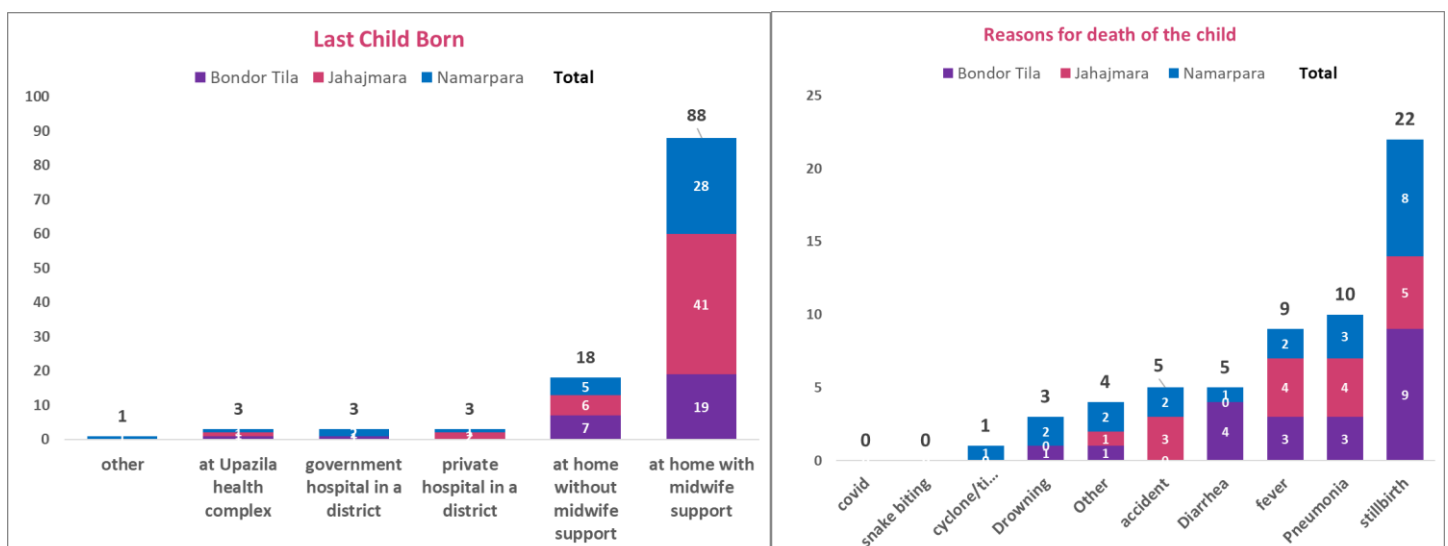
From the above graph, In Bondor Tila, 12.90% of the respondents do not own land, while 87.10% of the respondents' own land. In Jahajmara, 21.67% of the respondents do not own land, while 78.33% of the respondents' own land. In Namarpara, 17.07% of the respondents do not own land, while 82.93% of the respondents' own land. It shows that a higher percentage of respondent's do not own land in Jahajmara and Namarpara compared to Bondor Tila. Out of the 132 respondent families, 88 families have obtained land through purchase and inheritance, while the remaining families acquired land from government-owned land, governmentsettled land, or other sources.



In these islands, the majority of houses have tin roofs, clay floors, and tin walls. However, there are only four houses with roofs made of RCC concrete, and 3 of them are located in Namarpara. Also, houses made of RCC concrete, cement, and brick are more prevalent in Namarpara compared to Jahajmara and Bondor Tila.

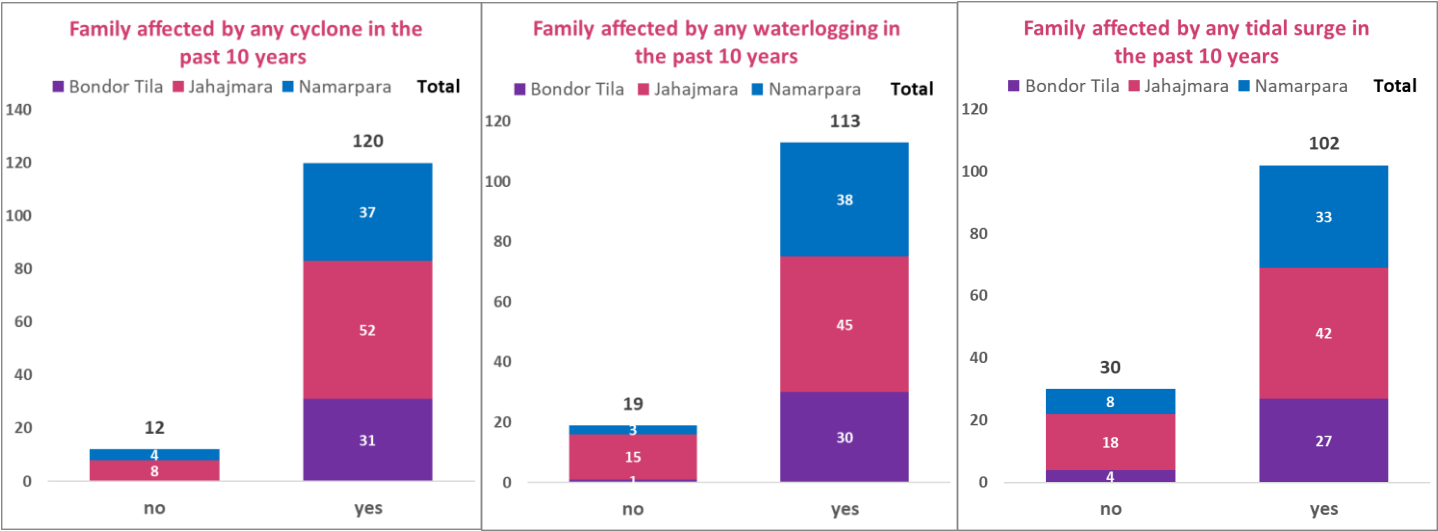


Out of the 132 respondent families, 47 have 2-5 members. Most families are larger, with 6-9 members, and one family in Namarpara has 24 members. Furthermore, 52 families have more than 2 children among the respondents.

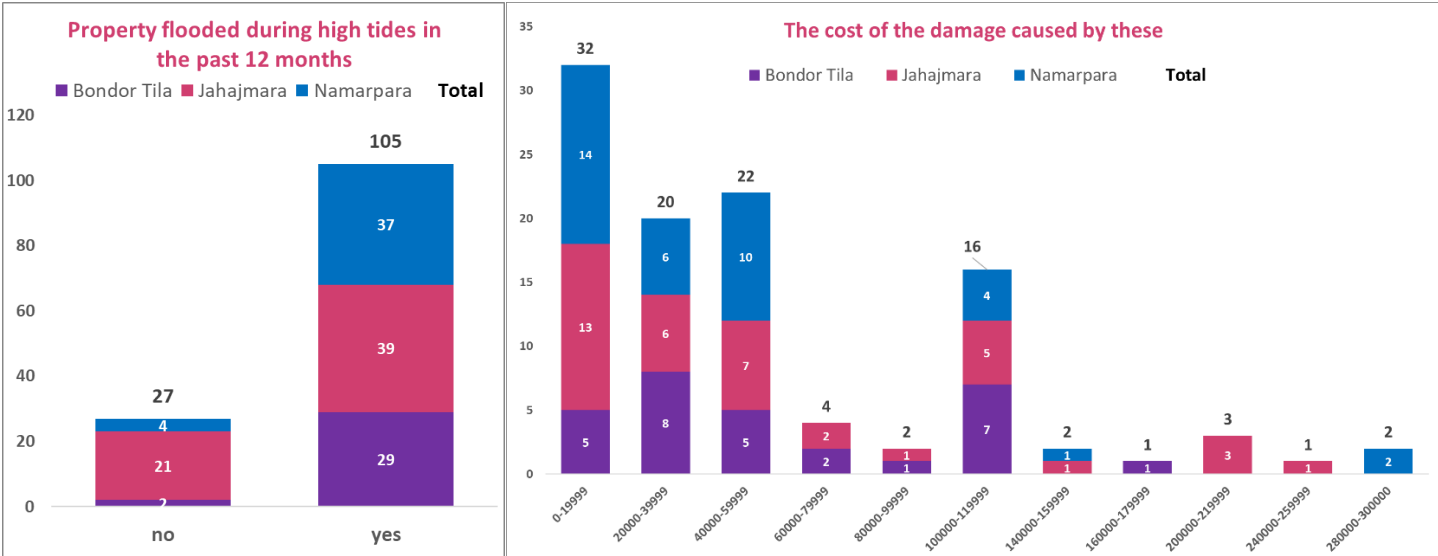


The people in this area are currently lacking adequate maternity hospital services. According to the graph, a majority of children are born at home, with or without midwife support, while only 9 of the last births occurred

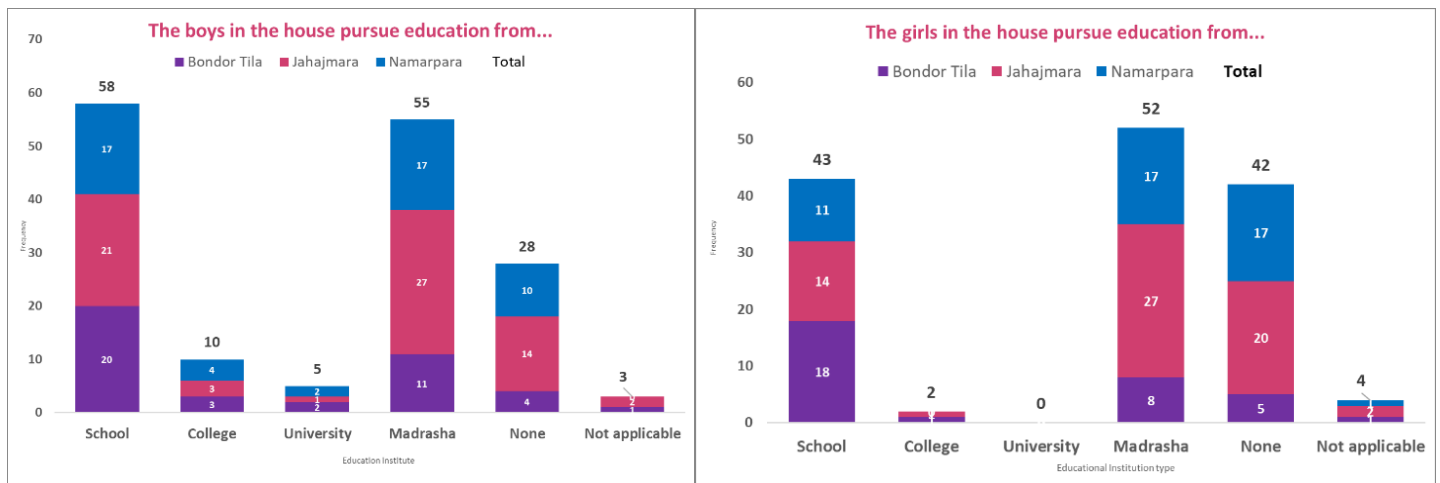
in a hospital, accounting for only 11.11%. It is concerning that approximately 34% of respondents reported experiencing the death of a child within their families. The leading causes mentioned were stillbirth, pneumonia, fever, and diarrhea. These findings highlight the urgent need for improved hospital services in this area.



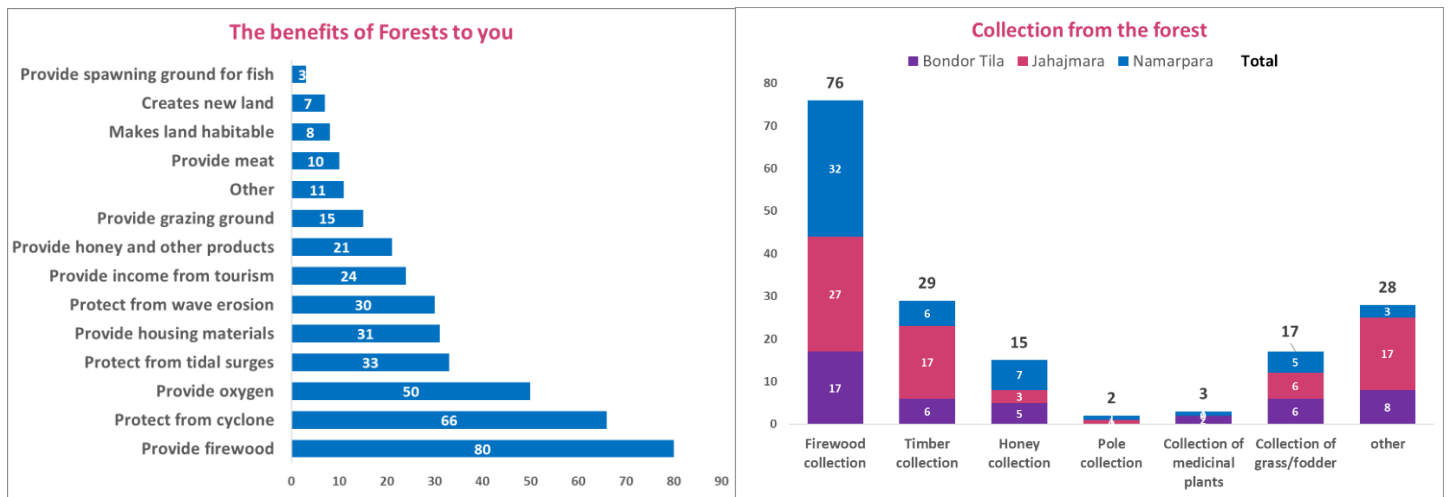
According to the graph provided, a significant number of families have been impacted by cyclones, waterlogging, and tidal surges in the past 10 years.



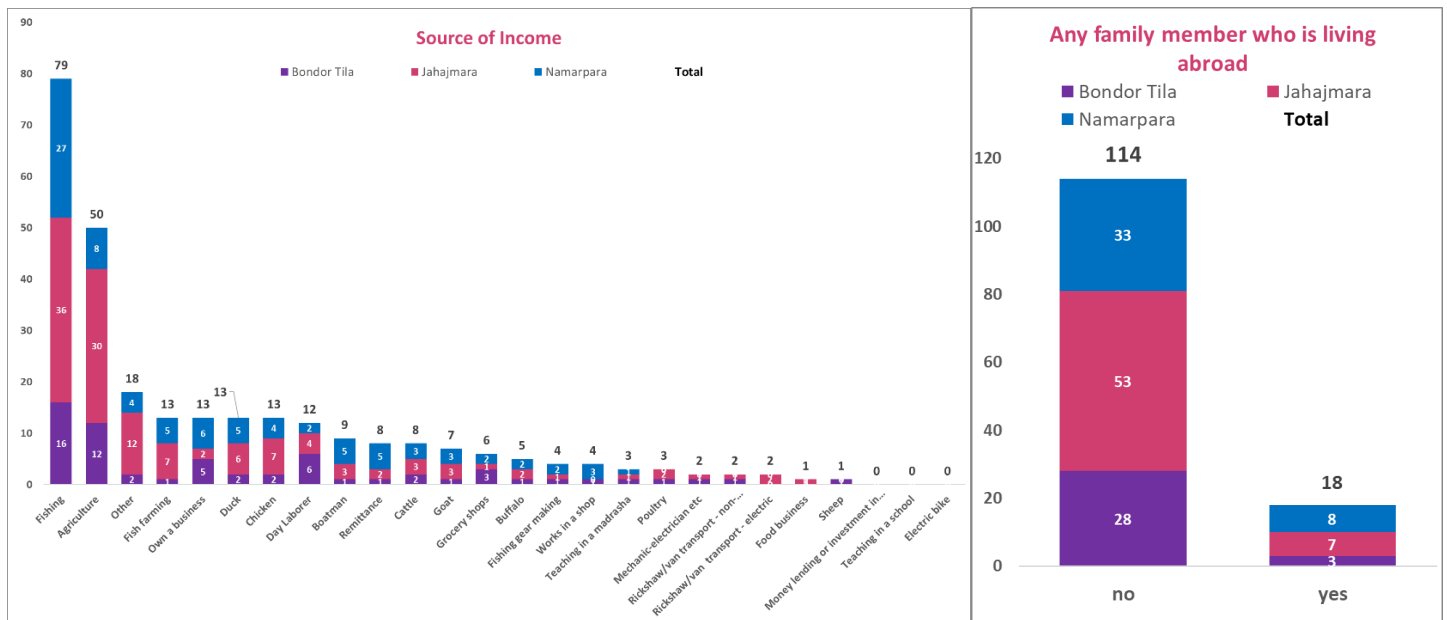
According to the data, 105 respondents reported their properties being flooded during high tides in the past 12 months, while 27 denied experiencing such flooding, with 21 of them from Jahajmara. From the cost of the damage chart, it is evident that while most families incurred damage costs below 60,000 Tk, there are instances of extreme damage exceeding 2 lakhs in Jahajmara and Namarpara. Such significant damage is typically observed in coastal areas, and it cannot be denied that the damage has occurred despite its severity.



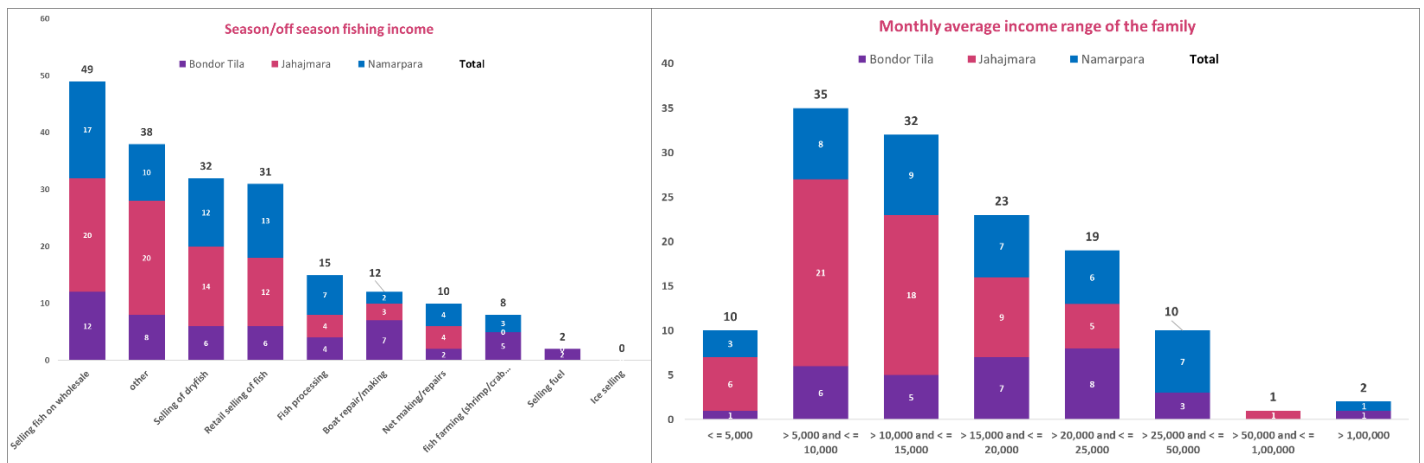
The education levels of the respondents, revealing that 47.3% of them do not have any educational background, while only 1.52% are university students (equivalent to 2 individuals). Now, if we compare the education of boys and girls within their households, we observe that a majority of both genders receive education in schools and madrasas. However, the number of boys and girls pursuing higher education at the college and university level is considerably lower. Notably, among the 132 families surveyed, there are no girls who attend university. Additionally, out of the 28 families, no boys are enrolled in any educational institution, and 42 families report that their girls have no participation in any educational institution.



The majority of participants (80) emphasized the importance of forests in providing firewood. This highlights the significance of forests as a valuable source of fuel for cooking and heating purposes. Furthermore, 66 respondents acknowledged the protective role of forests against cyclones, recognizing their ability to act as a natural barrier, shielding communities from destructive winds and reducing the impact of such severe weather events. 50 respondents identified the vital role of forests in producing oxygen, underscoring the critical contribution of forests to the overall air quality and ecosystem balance. Additionally, 33 participants highlighted the protective function of forests in safeguarding against tidal surges, while 31 respondents recognized the importance of forests as a source of housing materials, underscoring the relevance of forest resources in construction and shelter needs. From the data presented in the forest collection graph, we can observe that 76 respondents collect firewood, while 29 respondents collect timber, 15 respondents gather honey, and 3 respondents collect medicinal plants etc. These findings emphasize the multi-faceted and essential role of forests, showcasing their significance in meeting diverse needs such as fuel, protection, livelihoods, and ecological balance.



Looking at the sources of income, it is evident that the majority of families in these areas are engaged in fishing activities, which aligns with their proximity to the coast and forest. Agriculture is relatively less prominent as a source of income. Only two respondents identified themselves as mechanic-electricians, and a few individuals mentioned working as teachers in madrasas. Some families are involved in the transportation sector, working as rickshaw drivers. From the upper right chart, it is evident that out of the 18 families, there are family members living abroad. Additionally, based on the income sources, remittance serves as the primary source of income for 8 families.

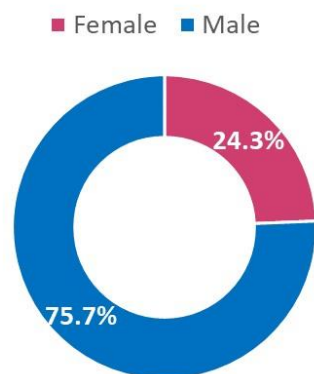


Based on the survey results, it can be concluded that a significant number of families primarily rely on fishing income, whether during the fishing season or off-season. Among them, 49 families engage in wholesale fish selling, 32 families sell dry fish, 31 families sell fish on a retail basis, and 15 families are involved in fish processing. It is worth noting that no respondents reported selling icefish. The upper right graph illustrates the monthly average income of families, indicating that the majority fall within the range of 5000 to 25000. These families are typically engaged in professions such as fish agriculture activities, boatmen, day laborers, and rickshaw drivers. On the other hand, those earning more than 25000 are usually involved in businesses or own grocery shops, work as mechanics or electricians, receive remittances, or engage in fishing or cattle-related activities.

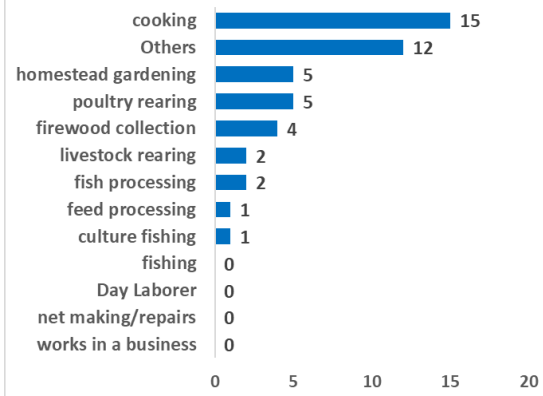
The following table presents the top 5 income-earning families from the respondents:

Income	Respondent name	Source	Location
> 1,00,000	Tahmina Akter	Own a business	Namapara
> 1,00,000	Taslina	Grocery shops	Bondor Tila
> 50,000 and <= 1,00,000	Md Mohi Uddin	Other	Jahajmara
> 25,000 and <= 50,000	Juwel Mozumder	Own a business	Bondor Tila
> 25,000 and <= 50,000	Saiful Hasan	Fishing Cattle, Agriculture, Fish farming, Boatman, Remittance, Teaching in a madrasha	Namapara

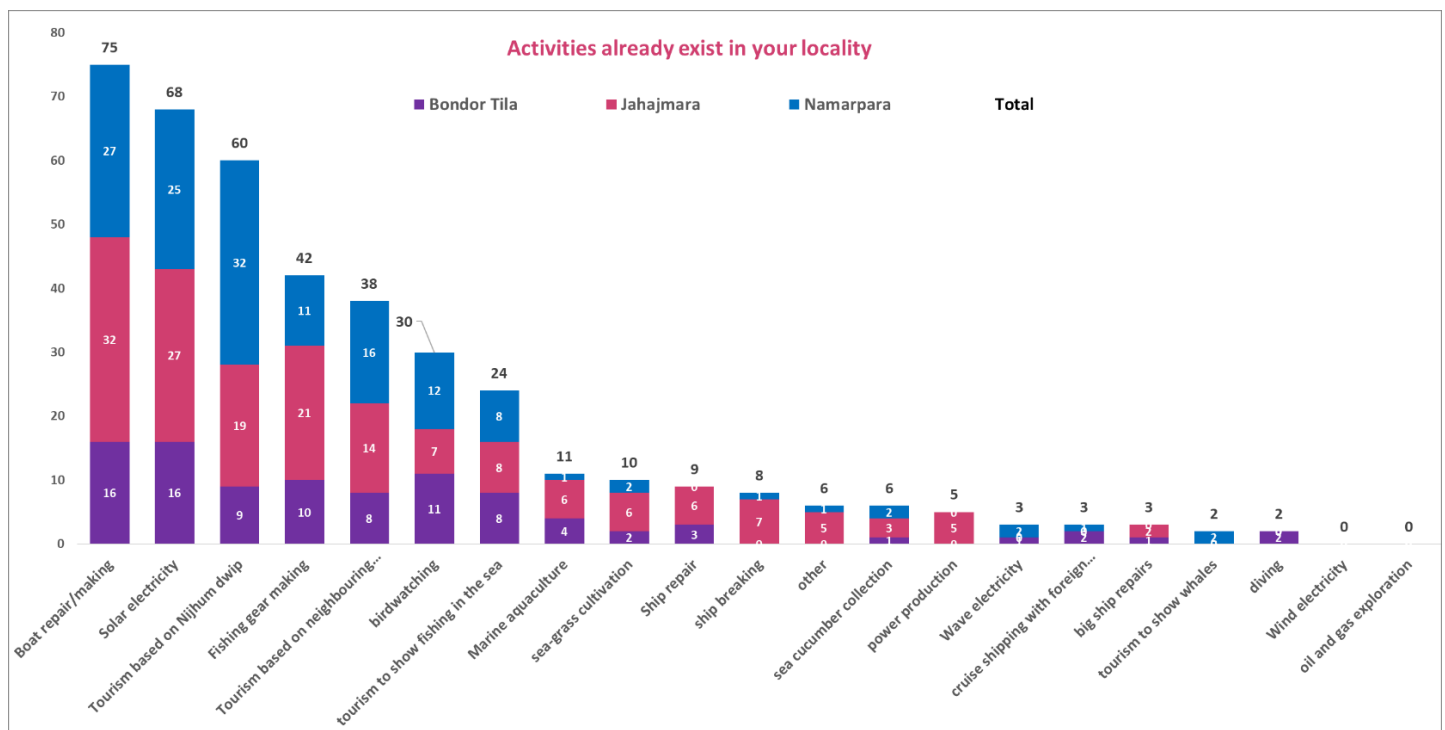
Earning members in the family



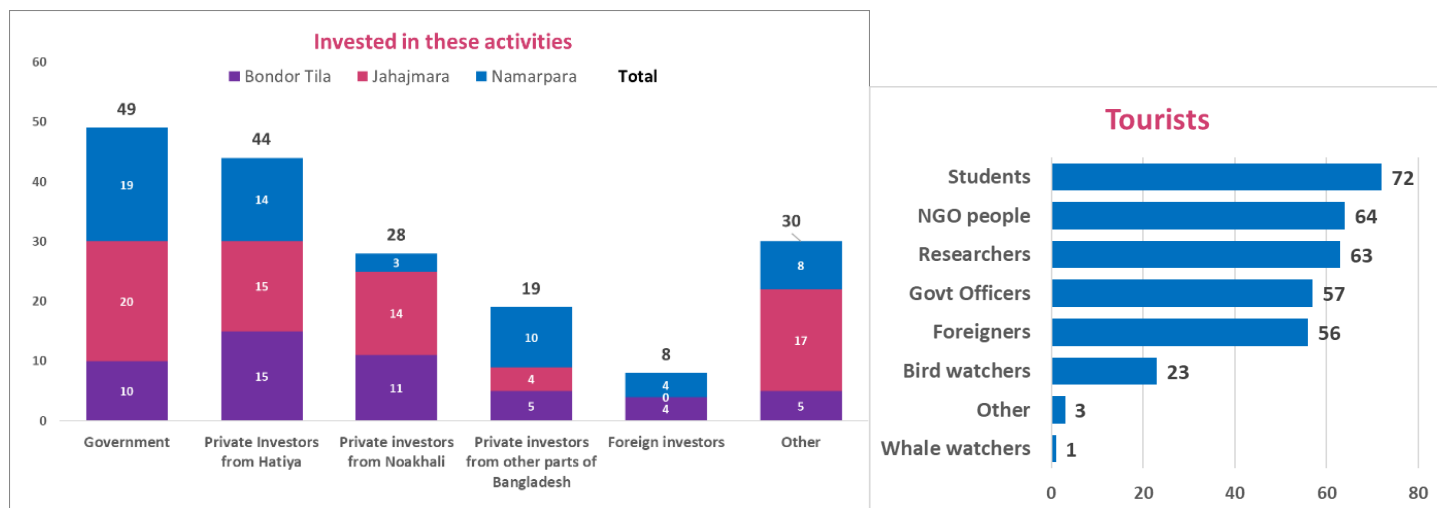
Occupation of female earning members



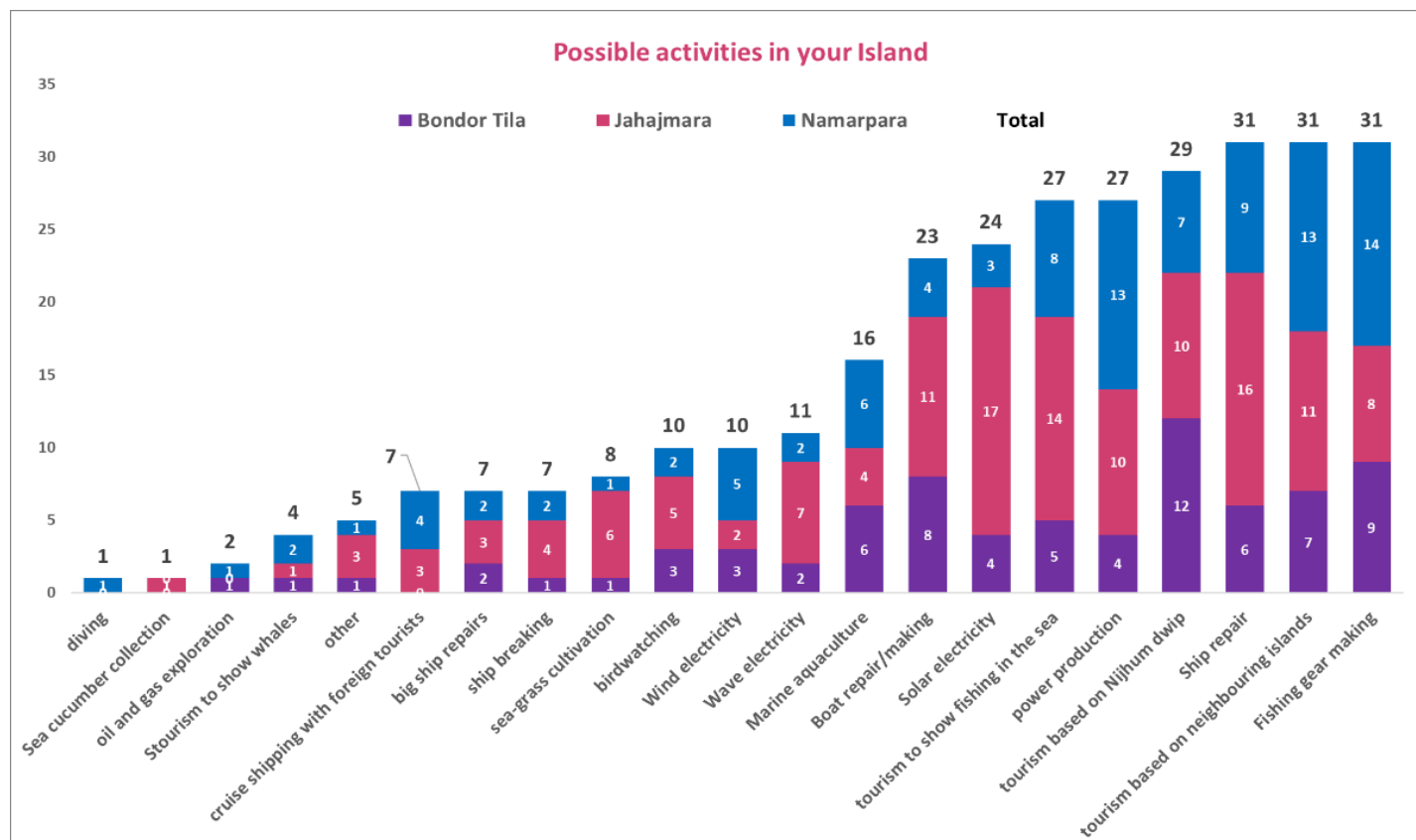
Out of the 132 respondent families, a total of 230 earning members were reported. It is worth noting that 24.3% of these earning members are female, which is a positive observation. However, when examining the occupations of female earning members, it becomes apparent that many of them are involved in tasks such as cooking, gardening, and poultry rearing. Encouragingly, there is an opportunity to enhance their skills and provide training in more diverse and skilled tasks, which could contribute to their personal growth and broader economic empowerment.



Based on the feedback from local respondents, it is evident that several activities are already prevalent in their locality. The most prominent activities include boat repair/making, solar electricity, tourism, fishing gear making, birdwatching, and marine aquaculture. This is understandable considering the proximity to the seaside, which attracts tourists, and the reliance on boats for transportation due to the island's geographical nature. Additionally, the absence of electricity has made solar power a popular and widely chosen energy source in the region.

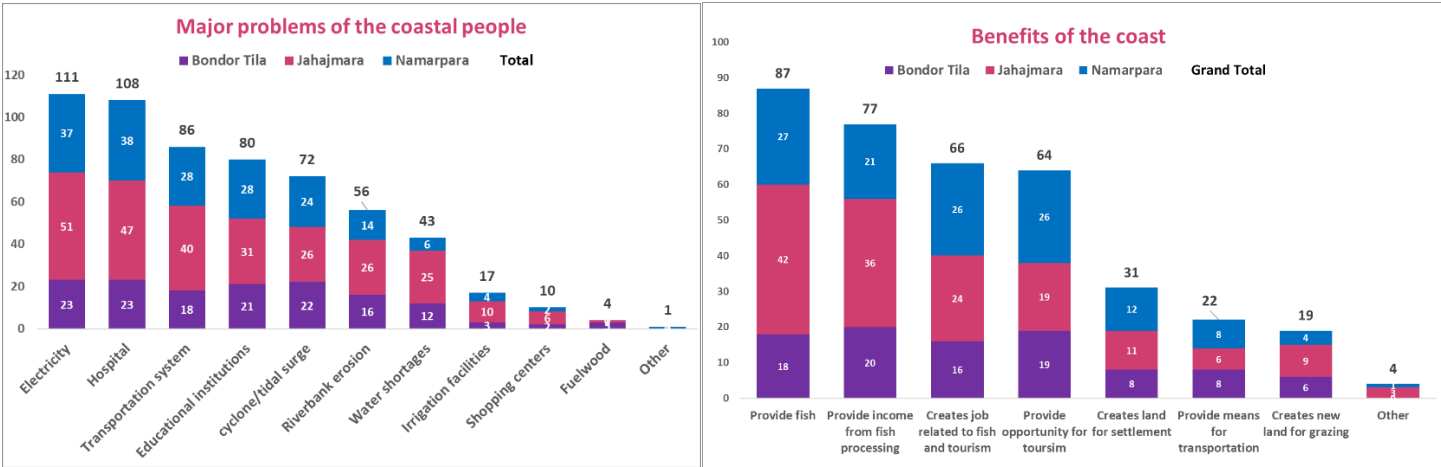


According to their reports, the majority of these activities are primarily invested in by the government, particularly from Hatiya and Noakhali. Foreign investments are relatively limited. Additionally, the respondents mentioned 30 other sources of investment. The upper right graph provides insights of tourist visits to this location.

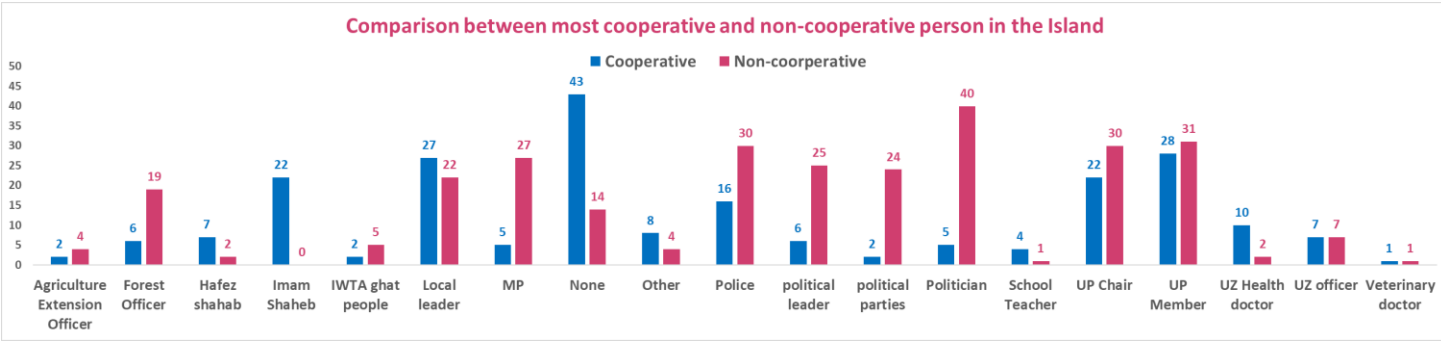


According to the locals, the most feasible activities for the island include fishing gear making, tourism, ship/boat repair, and power production. Given their strong involvement in fishing activities, establishing a fishing gear manufacturing industry would be beneficial. Additionally, with the presence of attractive places for tourism, further development and enhancement of tourist-friendly facilities can contribute to the local economy.

Considering the island's geographic location, ship/boat repair services are essential due to the reliance on water transportation. Furthermore, the pursuit of power production is crucial for economic development. Respondents also mentioned the potential for generating renewable electricity, particularly through offshore wind and wave energy due to the island's proximity to the sea. However, certain activities may not be feasible in this area. Oil and gas exploration is not possible as no such sources have been found. Additionally, Big ship repairs may face challenges due to fluctuating water flows in the area.



Throughout the analysis, several recurring issues have come to our attention. Remarkably, the local community has echoed similar concerns, highlighting major problems that resonate with those faced by coastal populations. The identified challenges encompass electricity availability, access to adequate healthcare facilities, transportation infrastructure, educational institutions, the impact of cyclones and tidal surges, riverbank erosion, and the need for improved shopping centers. These issues reflect the pressing needs and priorities of the community, underlining the importance of addressing them in any future developmental initiatives. On the other hand, the upper right graph provides insights into the benefits that the coast offers to the local population.



It is notable that the individuals holding positions of power in this area, such as forest officers, police, political leaders, politicians, UP chairs, and UP members, are perceived as non-cooperative by the locals. In fact, 43 respondents expressed the opinion that none of these individuals are cooperative. This observation highlights the need for improved collaboration and engagement between the local community and those in positions of authority.