



Vulnerabilities and Climate Adaptation of Disaster-Induced Women Migrants in the Urban Slums of Coastal Khulna City in Bangladesh

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

- The increasing frequency and intensity of climate disasters are driving significant migration from vulnerable coastal areas to urban centers, notably in regions like the southwest coast of Bangladesh.
- Women migrants face double exposure to disasters, first from their rural environments and later in urban settings, emphasizing the need to understand these dynamics.
- There is a significant gap in the literature concerning the specific vulnerabilities faced by women migrants in urban slums, such as Rupsha in Khulna City, following devastating climatic events.
- This study addresses the unique challenges encountered by women in urban slums, broadening understanding of the gendered dimensions of adaptation and resilience while aiming to inform policy and enhance livelihood security for these vulnerable populations.

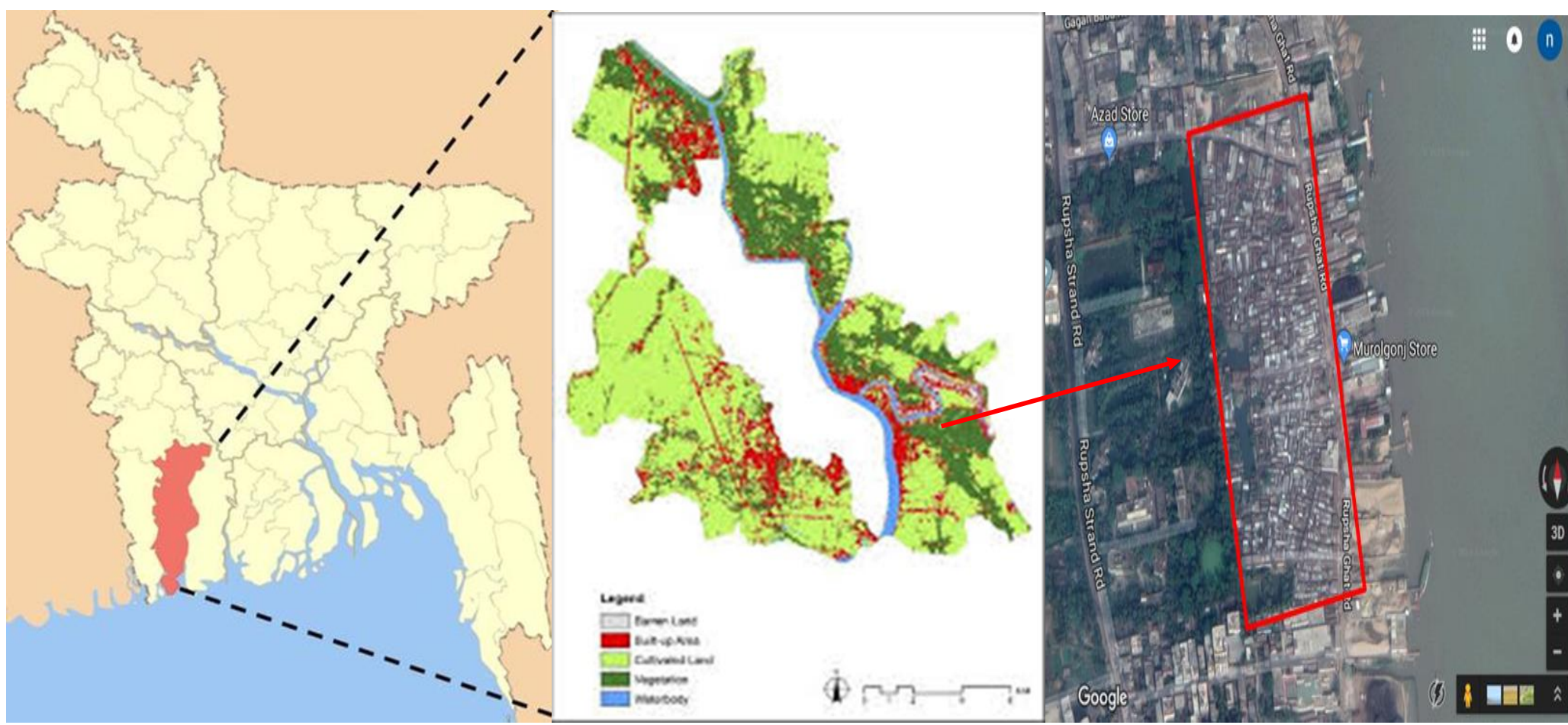
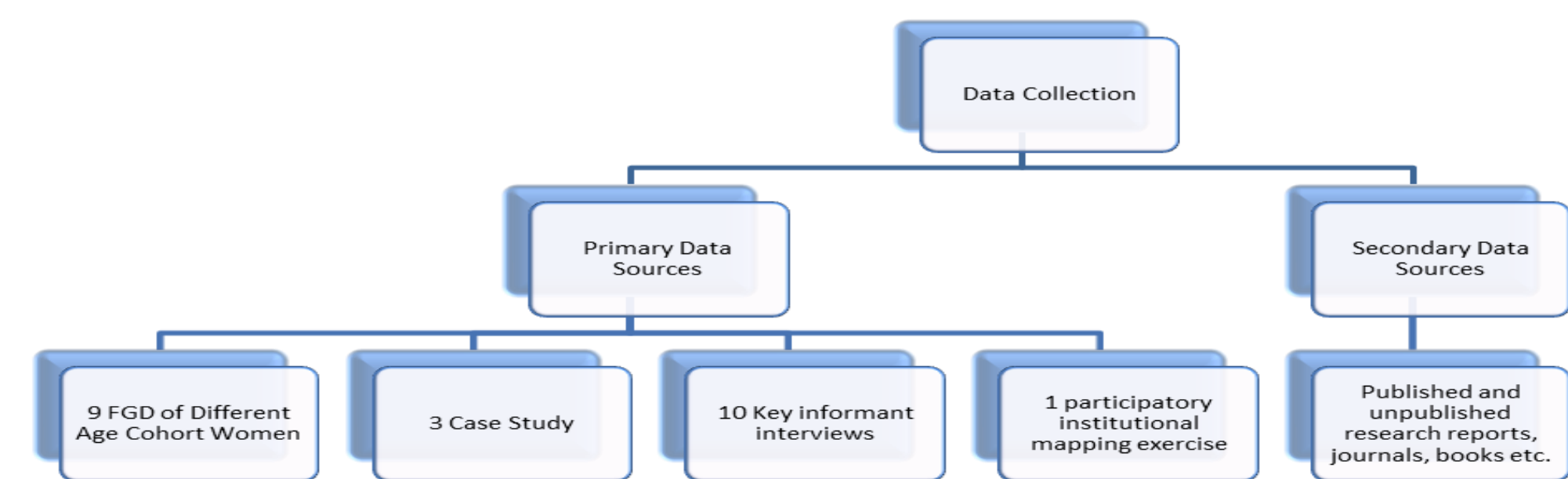


Figure 1: Rupsha slum in relation to Khulna City Corporation

METHODOLOGY

A selected area of NotubBazar Rupsha slum, located along the river Rupsha in ward 22 of Khulna City Corporation, was studied. The qualitative study evaluated the status, livelihood, and adaptation challenges of women migrants based on 9 FGDs, 3 case Studies, and 10 Key informant interviews of different age cohorts.



Transcriptions of records are analyzed and inline with findings the recommendations are provided.



FGD Session



KII Session

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

INFLUX OF WOMEN MIGRANTS IN THE STUDY AREA

- The southwestern coastal regions of Khulna city are highly vulnerable to climate change-induced cyclones and surges, waterlogging and floods, erosion, and salinity intrusion.
- Slums of Khulna city receive a huge influx of environmentally displaced migrants from more vulnerable coastal rural regions of Satkhira, Bagerhat, Barisal, Faridpur, Barguna, Pirojpur, Gopalganj, and other districts to the nearby Khulna city.
- Proximity to urban services, employment opportunities in informal sectors, and easy access to informal settlements are the key attractions for such influx of migrants.



Cyclone Flooding Erosion

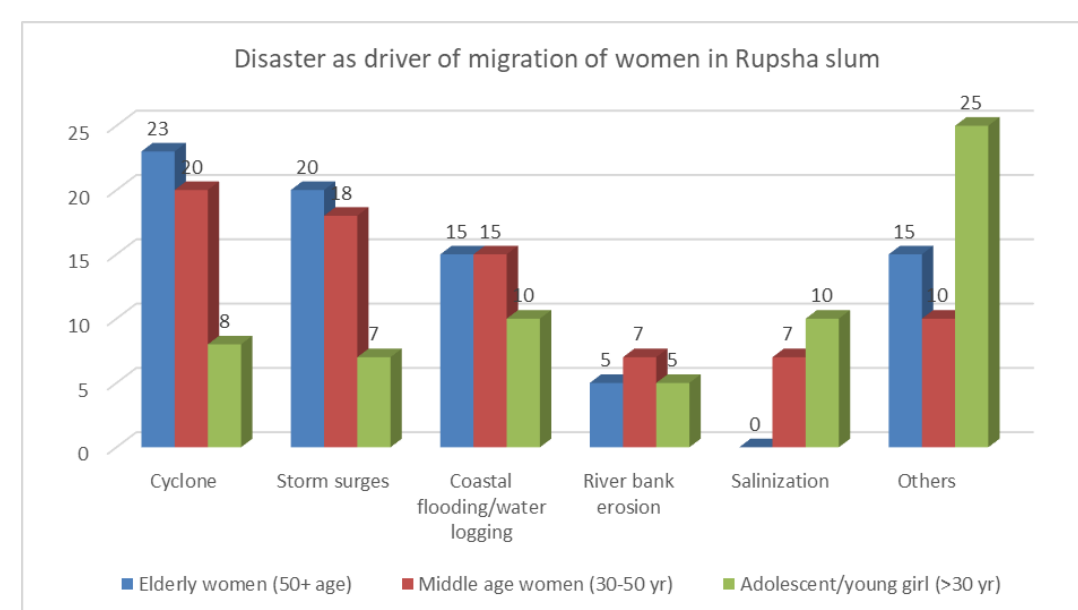


Figure 2: Disaster as a driver of women migration in Rupsha slum

Place of origin from where women migrants arrived at Khulna's slums	Elderly women (50+ age) (n=28)	Middle age women (30-50 yr) (n=33)	Adolescent/young girl (>30 yr) (n=27)
Khulna district	5	6	3
Satkhira district	3	4	2
Bagerhat districts	3	4	3
Barisal district	5	4	3
Faridpur district	3	2	-
Barguna district	2	3	2
Pirojpur district 2	2	3	-
Gopalganj districts	2	3	-
Others	3	4	14

Table 1: FGD participants' place of origin before in-migration to Khulna's slums



Figure 3: Place of origin of women migrants before migrating to Rupsha slum in Khulna city

VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN MIGRANTS

Key Vulnerabilities:

Migrant populations in urban slums face significant vulnerabilities stemming from physical conditions, institutional exclusion, and socioeconomic challenges, particularly following disasters such as Cyclones Sidr in 2007 and Aila in 2009.

Drivers of Vulnerability:

Key factors contributing to the vulnerability of these women include tenure insecurity, poverty, inadequate service provision, and a lack of effective networking capabilities, which exacerbate their challenges in adapting to urban life.



Case-Rozina Begum (33), Case-Taslima Begum (51), Case-Sabina Yesmin (24)

ADAPTATION TO VULNERABILITIES



Paved access road and drainage system in Rupsha slum

Livelihood based adaptation – developing self-employment

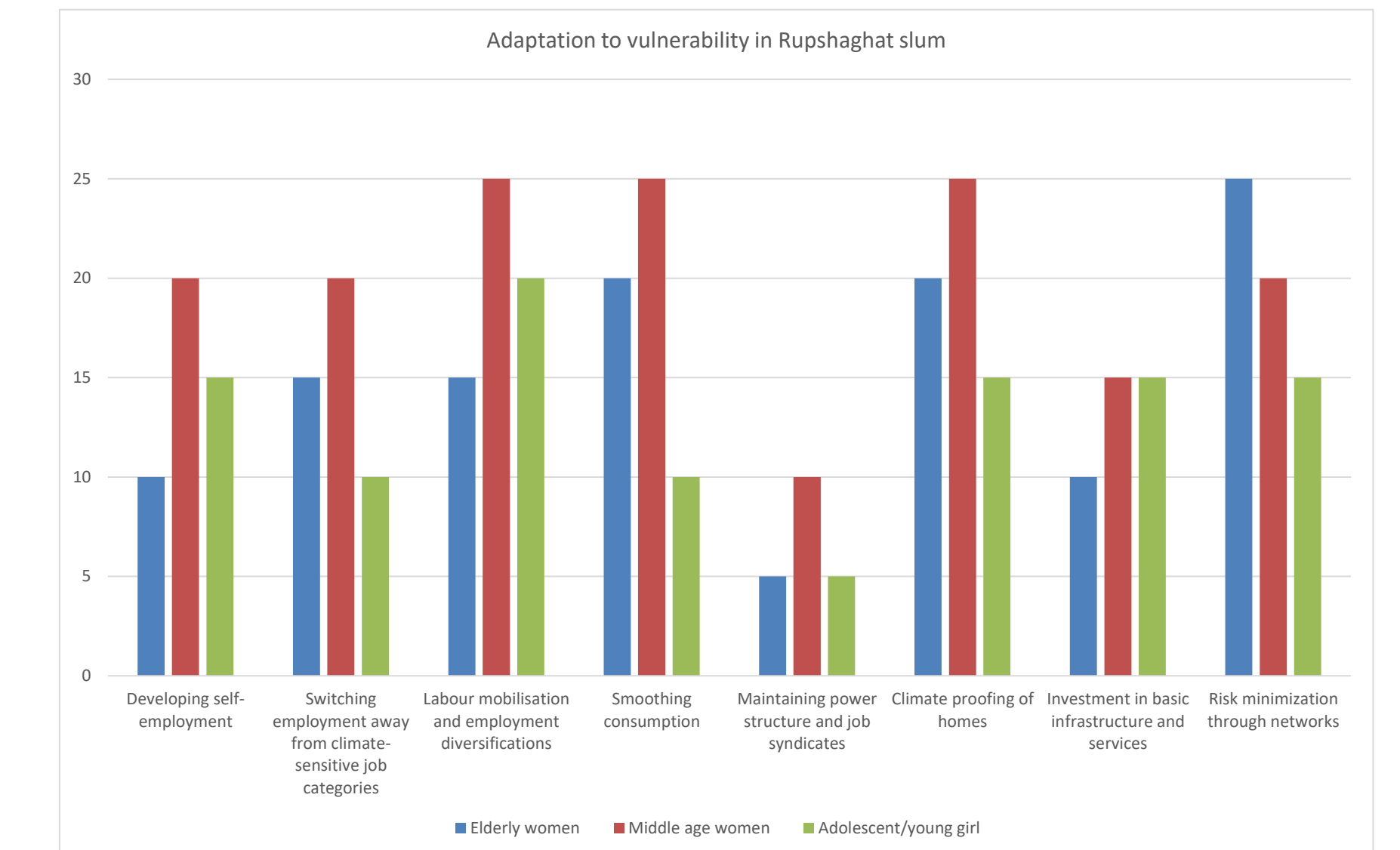


Figure 4: Adaptation to vulnerability in Rupsha slum

Domain	Type	Exposure	Outcome	
Physical	-temporary dwelling -narrow lanes and inadequate circulation space -blocked drains -inadequate and poor sanitation	-contact with stagnant and polluted water bodies -contact with raw sewage -risk of inundation and waterlogging -spread of vector-borne diseases -flooding and/or waterlogging	-overcrowding, lack of privacy, lack of security -almost no provision for emergency rescue and relief -lack of resistivity of dwellings against cyclones and flooding -no insulation and protection of dwellings against heat, cold, and rains inadequate open and green space	
Socio-economic	i. Economic Impacts - lack of options for diversified livelihood -frequent employment switch-over -seasonal jobs -underemployment -gender division of labor	-oversupply of casual/unskilled labor -seasonal unemployment -Women are less paid -falling household savings	- fall in household income -skill, knowledge, and social connections lost, due to migration -spread of anti-social activities -over-stressed basic services	
			ii. Health Impacts -overcrowding -heat stress and cold waves -rise of food prices	- sleeplessness and difficulty at work -respiratory diseases, gastrointestinal problems and fatigues -cold, flu, and diarrhea outbreaks - skin diseases
				iii. Psychological Impacts -confused and rootless life for migrants -lack of identity -lack of Ownership
Institutional	Tenure insecurity -often shared accommodation - threat of eviction	- political exclusion - political and market-driven displacement	-poor quality and temporary dwellings -poor expansion of productive capacity of land and dwellings	

CHALLENGES TO ADAPTATION

- Barriers to Effective Adaptation: Although migrant women employ some adaptation practices, barriers such as geographical constraints, insufficient socio-political support, ineffective public institutions, and limitations on personal agency severely hinder their ability to mitigate vulnerabilities and improve their livelihoods.
- The adaptive capacity is relatively high for middle-aged women migrants due to their experience and other credentials. The adolescent and young girls are relatively less careful about future vulnerabilities.

CONCLUSION

This research puts considerable light on the various natures of the vulnerability of women migrants and their adaptation strategies against those vulnerabilities, but how women migrants of different age cohorts make a trade off between short-term loss and long-term gain through various ways of adaptation is not adequately addressed in this research. This issue opens up new avenues of research which could be carried out in the future.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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