

## **Vulnerability of women's livelihoods and their coping mechanisms in the face of climate change – experience from the coastal regions of Bangladesh**

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### **Abstract**

Although it is generally stated that women are more vulnerable to climate change than men, few studies have been conducted to closely examine this statement. The present study, investigates the structure of women's livelihoods, livelihood vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms in a disaster vulnerable coastal area of Bangladesh. Utilising the concepts of sustainable livelihood framework (SLF) and disaster crunch model (DCM), this empirical study allows for a greater understanding of these issues on the ground. The results show that the distribution of five livelihood capitals (human, natural, financial, social and physical) of women are heavily influenced by several climatic events, such as cyclones that periodically affect the region. The study shows that women in the study areas have developed their own coping mechanisms. While women try to best cope with the altered hydro-geophysical conditions, it is at a cost of personal health and wellbeing, and involves great sacrifice. Women's coping efforts remain severely challenged and limited by gender relationships, which seem unwilling to bend or alter, even in times of great distress. This research recommends for initiatives to improve the present condition of women by removing the barriers for them and helping them better adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change.