

Workshop Report

Gender, Non-Migration, and Climate Change

Date: 10th May 2023



Project:

Why Females Stay Despite Environmental Risk: Intergenerational Perspectives (FeStay)

ERB Protocol Number: Geo-S-23010

Principal Investigator

Bishawjit Mallick, Associate Professor, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, email: b.mallick@uu.nl

Sponsor

NWO-XS Program of Dutch Research Council



Universiteit
Utrecht

Sharing science,
shaping tomorrow



International Centre for **Climate Change**
and Development

Table of Contents

<u>PROGRAM OUTLINE</u>	3
<u>INTRODUCTORY SESSION</u>	4
<u>SESSION 1: KEYNOTE ON “FEMALE NON-MIGRATION DESPITE CLIMATE RISK”</u>	5
OPEN DISCUSSION	6
<u>SESSION 2: COLLECTIVE LEARNING</u>	7
REFLECTIONS FROM DIFFERENT GROUPS DISCUSSIONS	7
<u>CONCLUDING REMARKS</u>	11
<u>ANNEX</u>	13
LIST OF ATTENDEES	13

Program Outline

Date: 10 May 2023, 09:00 – 14:00

Place: Independent University, Bangladesh, Plot 16 Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Rapporteur: Ms. Shababa Huq, PhD Student, Durham University

Session 1	Introduction and Thematic Discussion	Chair: Prof. Ajay Bailey
09:30- 09:35	Welcome and Introductions by ICCCAD & Utrecht University	Dr. Nazneen Islam Khan & Dr. Bishawjit Mallick
09:25- 10:00	Introduction of participants	
10:00- 10:15	Conceptual Impulse “Female Non-migration despite climate risk”	Dr. Bishawjit Mallick
10:15-10:30	Open discussion	
10:30- 10:40	Session remarks	Prof. Ajay Bailey
10:40- 11:00	Tea-break and networking	
Session 2	Collective Learning	Chair: Prof. Saleemul Huq
11:00- 12:15	Group discussions	
12:15- 12:45	Reflections and learning outcome of group discussion	Dr. Bishawjit Mallick
12:45-13:00	Concluding remarks	Prof. Saleemul Huq
13:00-14:00	Lunch break and networking & closing	

Introductory Session

The meeting started with a welcome note by Dr. Nazneen Khan from the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), following which there was a round of introductions for all the event participants. Dr. Nazneen, who was chairing the event, gave participants a chance to discuss their work and engagement in this sector. Participants took turns and shared their experiences of working on gender and climate change issues in different parts of the country. Md. Ohiduzzaman, Senior Lecturer, Department of Global Studies & Governance, IUB took the floor and talked about the push factors for migration. In his experience, he shared that the male counterparts in a family often want to shift to urban areas, whereas the female partners do not want to change from their rural setting. He found women to be attached to their space, the place in general, and their family roots. This makes it difficult for women to choose to migrate. He said that many NGOs are working in the coastal areas to enhance livelihood mechanisms for women. However, according to him, it is not sufficient;

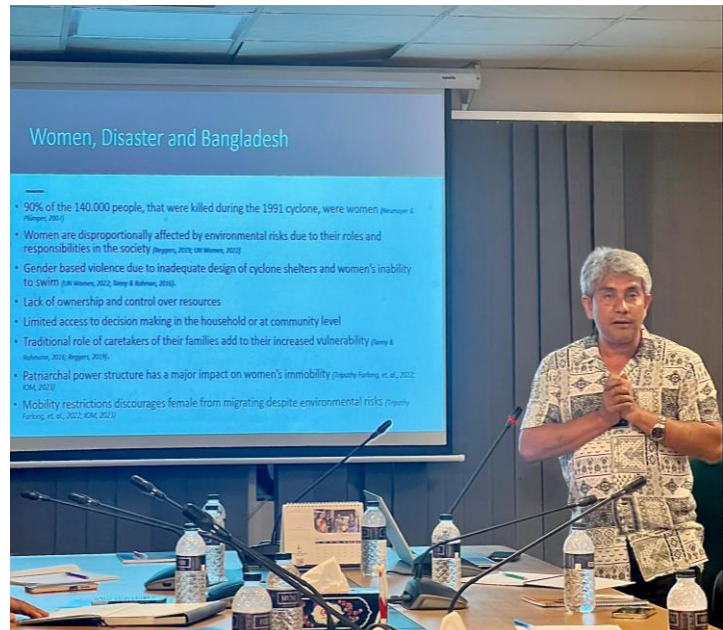


there is a need for more woman-focused government interventions in these areas. Comments made by Md followed this. Ashik Sarder, Sr Disaster Management Officer, IFRC. He shared that if women are provided context-specific livelihood opportunities, they may not have to migrate from their hometowns. Ensuring livelihood opportunities for women is essential for their overall development. He also stated that migration is also happening in the north of the country, but the scenario in the coastal belt is usually more visible.

Following the round of introductions, Dr. Bishawjit Mallick, went on to introduce the topic further. He emphasized on the importance of gender in climate change and migration issues. Dr. Mallick then went through the agenda for the workshop for the participants.

Session 1: Keynote on “Female Non-migration despite climate risk”

Following the introductory session, Dr. Bishawjit Mallick, Associate Professor at Utrecht University, gave a keynote presentation on “Female Non-migration despite climate risk”. In his presentation, he shared that to maintain livelihoods under climate risks; there are usually two options: migration or non-migration. The mindset is usually to stay and make a livelihood or to leave to make livelihood opportunities elsewhere. However, as we see migration patterns in history, we will know that it is usually the male members of a family who tend to migrate. A man and a woman with the same qualifications and skills will not have the same opportunity to relocate. He shed light on women’s ability to make decisions for themselves. He quoted a study by UCL, which stated that 90% of women in Bangladesh never migrated after marriage. Even though the garments industry is occupied mainly by women, the decision to work there is hardly their own. The parents or the partners still decide to send women to work.



He shed light on women’s ability to make decisions for themselves. He quoted a study by UCL, which stated that 90% of women in Bangladesh never migrated after marriage. Even though the garments industry is occupied mainly by women, the decision to work there is hardly their own. The parents or the partners still decide to send women to work.

The presentation also stated that mobility and migration are different issues. Migration is not the endpoint; every move of a person makes increases their chance to migrate again. The process is circular. There is also a temporal element; people migrate seasonally for different amounts of time. Sometimes, men migrate for their social upward movement.

If one has opportunities in one place, perhaps they do not need to migrate as much; if life is comfortable, they can stay. Otherwise, it is essential to have the necessary facilities to move from one place to another. He then discussed how natural disasters lead to migration worldwide and in Bangladesh. According to research, approximately 160 million people are affected by natural disasters yearly, with only 4% of international migrants. Despite being affected by disasters, around 85% of people are still not migrating (they are not displaced), which is higher for women. He also shared that he has seen that people usually want to stay in place with the existing resources surrounding them. This is because they know about these resources and feel more comfortable staying and making a life to which they are more accustomed. The marginal groups who do not own land are more likely to migrate than the middle-class and upper-middle-class backgrounds because they have something holding them back.

Non- Migration Despite Climate Risk

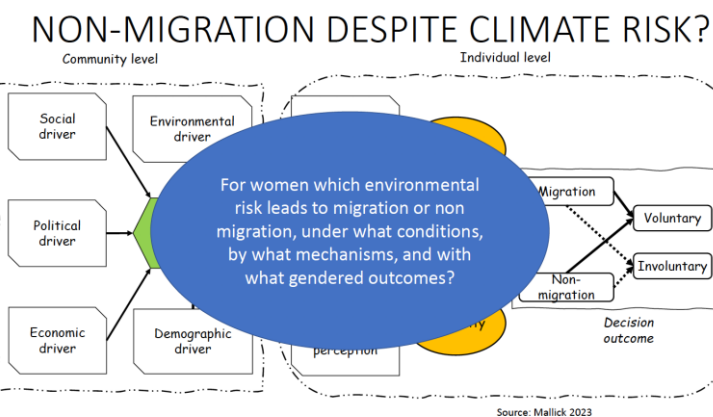
A key point he made in his presentation is that it is difficult to understand why people move without understanding why people do not move, making the topic of non-migration a critical issue in these times.

In the global south context, we assume that non-migrants are people left behind. However, non-migration is not negative or positive it is also a strategy for livelihood and living. Migration and Non-migration are both livelihood strategies. For example, if one wants to migrate but cannot move, they become part of the “trapped population”. If one has the choice and capability to migrate, they are considered voluntary migrants.

Mr. Mallick then goes through the rest of the presentation and details women's issues and disasters in Bangladesh. He discusses how due to preliminary designs of cyclone shelters, women are often subjected to gender-based violence when they have to take refuge in cyclone shelters. In addition to women’s limited access to resources and decision-making power, their

traditional role as the family’s caregiver often prevents them from being able to migrate, even in the face of extreme environmental risks.

He then explains issues of voluntariness and involuntariness of both migration and non-migration. Living Conditions driven by social, political, economic, demographic, and environmental drivers trigger a behavioral response. Migration and non-migration are both considered behavioral responses. It



depends on one’s risk tolerance and risk perception. Furthermore, he shared that it is the aspiration and capability of individuals that determine their decision towards migration or non-migration, and whether it is voluntary or non-voluntary.

Open Discussion

After the detailed keynote presentation by Dr. Bishawjit Mallick, the participants had a chance to reflect and have an open discussion to share their thoughts regarding this matter. One participant shared that male partners migrated first after the two significant cyclones, Sidr and Aila. In contrast, the female component often stayed back to take care of their families and rebuild their damaged homes. Once the male partners got jobs, some could bring their wives and families with them. However, many women could never migrate, despite their need for it. Another participant shared that women and their housing is an essential issue for migration and non-migration. They shared that to bring about change, women should be included in making significant decisions regarding their homes, water, infrastructure, and sanitation. This was echoed by another participant who stated that women need to be socially empowered to be able to migrate or make decisions to migrate. One of the participants asked what would happen if women had aspirations and capabilities but could not move for security or other reasons. In response, Dr. Mallick shared that the research he is planning will be trying to look at such issues. One of the objectives of his work is to understand how social norms become factors that hold women back.

After the first session, the workshop broke into a tea break where participants could speak and network.

Session 2: Collective Learning

The workshop organizers prepared a collecting learning experience for the participants for the day's second session. The collective learning experience's design was such that all the participants were initially divided into groups of 5 and given a question to brainstorm and discuss. However, unlike other group learning activities, this session allows participants to switch to the next question after 15-minute intervals, allowing them to discuss other topics with a new mix of participants. This enabled better knowledge sharing and interactive learning in the entire participants. By the end of the session, all participants have an idea of all the research questions laid out.

5 key questions were designed for discussion:

1. How voluntary is female (non-)migration in different settings and types of households?
2. How does female (non-)migration differ intergenerationally across environmental hazards?
3. By what mechanism does female (non-)migration influence the well-being of households?
4. What adaptive capacities (individual and community levels) can reduce the impact of climate change-induced non-migration against women?
5. What are potential entry points to design interventions in a more integrated manner that supports gender-inclusive CC adaptation for sustainable development?

Reflections from different groups discussions

Group 1:

How voluntary is female non-migration in different settings and types of households?

The participants first identified the different settings, such as coastal, haor, erosion-prone areas, flood-prone areas, and hill tracts. They then identified the different types of households, such as, joint families, nuclear families, Adivasi/tribal families, and rich and educated families. Then they drew out different family's social identities, for example, levels of religiousness within the family, other age groups etc. They then discussed the behavior of families in terms of risk tolerance, opportunity to migrate, and capability vs. vulnerability. To answer the main question, the groups collectively came up with the following points for how voluntary female non-migration is:

- Female members may stay back as a family decision since it is easier for men to migrate first, while female members have to play a caregiver role
- Lack of access to job opportunities in different settings (due to lack of skills to avail the types of jobs that are available)
- They often do not have enough information about the destination they plan on migrating.
- Safety and Security Issues

- In indigenous communities' women do not migrate easily as they feel like outsiders in other settings, making it harder for them to have a social network.
- The social stigma of a female migrating alone to a new space often deters them from making this decision.



Group 2:

How does female (non-)migration differ intergenerationally across environmental hazards?

To this question, the groups discussed how non-migration has changed over generations and mainly discussed what the scenario looks like at the moment concerning all the overall changes in circumstances. The points they discussed are the following:

Government Interventions

- Government programs discourage the increase of urban slums, so people are less willing to migrate to urban areas. They also try to ensure more employability projects in their home towns so people have more reasons to stay back. In addition, the government is also trying to increase economic empowerment locally.

NGO and Community Led Interventions

- There is more involvement from NGOs in taking disaster reduction measures. NGOs have also taken better steps for climate change adaptation and ensuring climate-resilient livelihoods in these areas.
- There have been more community-led actions in the area, including youth organizations and youth capacity-building initiatives to empower youth groups.
- Microcredit initiatives only give loans to women, so sometimes women have more financial attachments in their space.

Science and Technology Access

- Weather forecasting science has improved, and the dissemination of weather-related data has also improved.
- There has been overall technological development.

Intergenerational Aspects

- Knowledge has been transferred from one generation to another (How strategies have changed over generations.)
- The degree of social capital has changed intergenerationally, influencing how we decide whether to migrate or not.
- Many households do not migrate because they have property and do not want to leave their families.

Group 3

By what mechanism does female (non-migration) influence the well-being of households?

The groups discussed how the household benefits from the female member's non-migration. They also discussed how women groups in the local area benefit overall from women's non-migration and their decision to stay back. Some of the key points they thought of are reflected below:

Within Family

- Caregiving Role: Taking care of children and elders.
- Household Responsibilities: Cooking, gardening, collection of vegetables, collecting water, Quick response to the disaster. Taking care of livestock.
- Property and Land: If they stay back, they have better opportunities to ensure their property rights. If someone from the family visits back, then the family can claim their property more easily
- Women's saving/Resource-making tendency means women can make more savings for the whole family.

For Women

- Strengthen Social Safety Network for other women in the local area
- Opportunity to utilize existing resources of the area where they have stayed back. Women who stay back eventually have a better understanding of the local area's resources.
- Enhancing their resilience by gaining knowledge of their area and possible disaster scenarios.
- Increasing women's adaptive capacity by availing training and DRR interventions in the area
- Availing the facilities and opportunities that are provided by state and non-state actors working in the area for the overall well-being of the family
- Role of women in the decision-making process: Happiness in case of voluntary non-migration
- Preserving women's culture in the area and building on the institutional knowledge of the area
- Allowing chance for women-led entrepreneurship development
- Active participation of Women in Union Risk Reduction Committee

Group 4:

What Adaptive Capacity (individual and community level) can reduce the impact of climate change-induced non-migration against women?

The discussions of this group focused on what actions and initiatives could be taken that will help those who are voluntarily or non-voluntarily non-migrants to become more climate resilient against the impacts they are constantly faced with. The group made the following points.



- Capacity building for conducting homestead gardening that can be climate-friendly (salinity and heat tolerant vegetables), poultry, fisheries
- Climate-resilient infrastructure, such as raised plinths and resilient cyclone shelters
- Community support for emergencies
- Family support
- Safe drinking water and fresh water for domestic purposes.
- Land Tenure Security/ Land rights of women need to be ensured
- Education Facilities to give women skills and knowledge
- Mobility and Communication
- Availability of information about the destination to decide to move if need be.
- Access to ICT facilities may reduce the impacts of climate change on disasters
- Indigenous/traditional knowledge-based natural resources
- Mapping out the vulnerabilities of specific areas
- Identify the intersectionality aspects when designing initiatives for adaptive capacity.

Group 5:

What are potential entry points to design interventions in a more integrated manner that supports gender-inclusive CC adaptation for sustainable development?

The questions given to this group encouraged the participants to think from the perspective of policy-making and intervention planning stages. The ideas generated share ways to make institutional arrangements that support gender-inclusive climate change adaptation planning:

- Incorporation policymakers in the initial stages of policy making
- Emphasizing the local adaptation techniques by women
- Local government knowledge should be prioritized
- Inclusion of gender-responsive disaster and climate risk plan- and set options for climate adaptation.
- Create a database of the population. Including Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (DATA) for taking into consideration policy interventions and access to data
- Cross-sectoral collaboration on disaster mitigation and adaptation

Following the joint learning session, the participants had a chance to present the key points and discussions under each of the questions allotted to different groups. Considering that most of the participants had the opportunity to move between groups during the session, the thoughts reflected the experiences and views of the entire room.

Concluding Remarks

The final segment of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). He started his concluding remarks by appreciating the fruitful discussion from the group work.

He then shared the global discussions and negotiations regarding climate change and its course throughout the year.

He mentioned Gobeshona, a global conference organized by ICCAD each

year at the very beginning of the year. The virtual conference hosted around 100 sessions from all over the world this year. People from different parts of the world could join, fostering a global community of actors working on locally-led adaptation (LLA). LLA is a fast-growing community for practice and research.

He also mentioned that Gobeshona had a Young Researchers Grant where policymakers could tell researchers what kind of research they wanted. They then invite young researchers to conduct more directed research based on the country's policy and development needs. This is a great process to facilitate better engagement between academia and the government.

He then mentioned CBA- Conference, which is led by IIED, and will be hosted in Bangkok this year around mid-year. It is more focused on NGO action. Locally led adaptation involves local government as well as NGO engagement. Gobeshona has a research focus, whereas CBA has a more practitioner focus, he shared.

Then he mentioned that the year ends with the Conference of Parties (COP), and input from the previous conferences is taken to COP. As diplomats and government officials worldwide attend COP, global action can be taken collectively through this platform.

Following this discussion, he talks about the issues of migration and non-migration. He said that the two circles of migration and climate change have been overlapping and the overlap is getting bigger and bigger. As people working in this sector we need to be more clear about how to link CC to migration. Many assumptions are wrong, and migration experts need to be understood through the lenses of climate change. He stated that in the climate change domain, there is no such thing as a climate migrant. Some people are displaced because of the impacts of human-induced climate change, and this is the only acceptable definition. Displaced means the whole family is replaced; the entire family has lost their livelihood and homes and is forced to move.



One has to understand the difference between regular migration and climate-induced migration. There is a narrow space here. Nowadays, however, this attribution can be made quickly. Attribution scientists make a probability assessment and measure the percentage of a specific disaster that is probably due to climate change. This knowledge allows us to cite attributions of climate change to a natural disaster.

Dr. Huq finished by inviting anyone interested in doing such research. He shared that a lot of research is unfolding on loss and damage. He wants Bangladesh to be the country to spearhead the pathway for global loss and damage research. For better research to happen, we need to join forces with practitioners. The researchers' theoretical knowledge and the practitioners on the ground experience combined will be able to generate holistic research.

Following Dr. Huq's statement, the session was closed with the final remarks made by Dr. Ajay Bailey, Professor at Utrecht University. Dr. Bailey thanked everyone for their participation in the group work. He shared that many nuances regarding the issues were unpacked through this process. The definitions of words were clarified and built on further. He also invites the participants for possible collaborations with the University of Utrecht in the future. Dr. Bishawjit Mallick takes the floor one last time and shares his plans for future research on migration, non-migration, and gender and climate change issues. He wishes to do an inter-generational life story analysis in different regions of the country and unveil migration histories and patterns over time.



Annex

List of Attendees

Sl	Name of participants	Organisation
1	Sukanta Sen	BARCIK
2	Shababa Haque	Durham University, UK
3	Md Saydur Rahman Lushan	BRAC
4	Md. Ashik Sarder	IFRC Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka
5	Soma Chowdhury	AF Development Care (AFDC)
6	Dibash Deb	Chittagong university
7	Tasfia Nushrat	ICDDR-B
8	Dr. Monirul Islam	Dhaka University
9	Zarin Yasmin Chaity	Rangpore University
10	Taufique Mohiuddin	UNDP consultant
11	Sk. Abu Jahid	Hamdad University
12	Selina Shelly	UNDP
13	Arif Chowdhury	JUST
14	Aparna Barman	Sustainability Services Limited
15	Md. Ohidujjaman	IUB
16	Ahmad Tousif Jami	IUB
17	Md Iftekhar Alam	MoF
18	Md. Moin	Solidaritat
19	Dr. Rokeya Akhter	FAO BD
20	Seema Mowri	Utrecht University
21	Dr. Selim Jahangir	Manipal University
22	Dr. Shanewaz	IUB
23	Prof. Musleh Ahmed	BUET
24	Prof. Ajay Bailey	Utrecht University
25	Prof. Saleemul Huq	ICCCAD
26	Dr. Nazneen Khan	ICCCAD
27	Sardar Shafiqul Alam	ICCCAD
28	Noor-E-Elahi	ICCCAD
29	Dr. Bishawjit Mallick	Utrecht University