

Baseline Survey Report on  
**WOMEN'S FISHER FOLKS RIGHTS PROJECT**



বাদাবন সংঘ  
**Badabon Sangho**  
(A Women's Rights Organisation)





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**WOMEN'S FISHER FOLKS RIGHTS PROJECT**

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**Centre for  
Qualitative Research**  
explore everything in depth

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I would like to thank all the beneficiaries who have lent their time and contribution to our data collection process. I also acknowledge the support extended to us by the stakeholders in our Key Informant Interviews.

**S.M Raduan Hossin**

Team Leader

Research Team



# CHAPTER- 1

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

Bangladesh stands fifth position in fish production at global level, with yearly 34.13 lakh metric tons production, contributed 4.37% to country GDP, about 11.17% of total population (18 million) are involved in fishing including 10% are women (Source: Survey of Dept. of Fisheries 2013-14, [www.dof.gov.bd](http://www.dof.gov.bd)). Fishing in public water-bodies is the only major sources of income of 2 million fisherfolks, amongst only 0.8 million are registered (govt. provided 'fisherman' card and provided social safety net schemes). A total 63% of total khas land were public water bodies in 2003-04, that reduced to 28% in 2012-2013 due to illegal grabbing.

A total 77,700 acres public water-bodies surrounding the Sundarban covering 3,268 acres of khas agriculture land, 4,087 acres of public water-bodies and 108 tributaries and canals in Rampal and Mongla upazilas. A total 5,009 fishermen are listed by upazila fisheries dept. and only four (4) fisherfolk associations (only with male membership) are registered by Upazila Fisheries Dept (source: Local Government Engineering Dept. Statistics, 2013. [www.rampal.bagerhat.gov.bd](http://www.rampal.bagerhat.gov.bd)).

Traditionally fisherfolk community (i.e. 37,000 women and men) in Rampal and Mongla depends on public water-bodies i.e. open low land, canal and tributaries and khas agriculture land.

The project will mobilise, organise and educate women fisher-folks on their rights. The fisher-folk communities would have improved access to education, health, agriculture, social safety net and public water-bodies. The project will facilitate women's fisher-folk to organise in women fisher-folk association so that they get allocation of public water-bodies.

## 1.2 Objective of the baseline Study

Badabon Sangho is considering this baseline survey as the benchmark of starting the project that will assist to measure the project output after the end of the project. The baseline survey will be mainly focused to i) collect and analyse pre-intervention data describing situation of goal and objectives of the project ii) snapshot of indicators at a time keeping this broad objectives in mind the following objectives for this baseline are to:

- Explore overall socio-economic condition of the Household of the beneficiaries
- Describe the status of poverty or well-being of the targeted people in the project considering multi-dimensional context
- Explore women's rights and overall rights situation in the project area
- Assess the degree of awareness on right-based issues of the beneficiaries and their families and relevant stakeholders
- Make a snapshot of the accountability, role and sensitiveness of the govt. agencies and other stakeholders
- Make a scenario of target beneficiaries in the project area and assess the degree of the risk which they involved
- Explore suggestions of influential stakeholders, relevant service providers and government agencies and their perception on this project
- Highlight the need of project participants and their expectation from the project
- Identify key opportunities, constraints and development initiatives needs for promoting rights of the beneficiaries
- Make some recommendations to improve the lives and livelihoods of the beneficiaries.



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# CHAPTER 2

## Research Design

### 2.1 Study area

Mongla Upazila under Bagerhat district with an area of 1461.22 sq km, is bounded by Rampal upazila on the north, the Bay of Bengal on the south, Morrelganj and Sarankhola upazilas on the east, Dacope upazila on the west. Main rivers are Pasur and Mongla.

The name Mongla originated from Mongla River presently known as Mongla Nulla. Mongla River originated from Pussur and Rampal is situated beside Pussur. The geographic location of Mongla town is 22.4684304N 89.5994925E.

This study covered only one union of Mongla upazila named chila. The total land area of chila union is 7451 acar, total agricultural land 1222 acar, number of villages 14, total population 19,009, total household 5279. The education rate only 65%. [Bangladesh National web portal]

### 2.2 Methodology of the study

Baseline will be combined with Household survey and Situation analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies have to follow for this process. The consultant will develop the whole methodology and tools which will be shared with MJF and Badabon Sangho for finalization.

#### 2.2.1 Sample size calculation

##### Quantitative Sample Calculation

To ensure a representative sample size for quantitative data collection, the probabilistic sampling approach was used in this study. It was reported in the TOR that the project covers a total of 2006 beneficiaries in the project area. These 2'006 population constituted the sampling frame for this study. However, at first, we used the following formula which is used for calculating the sample of unknown population.

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq}{e^2}$$

Where,

$z = 1.75$  at 92% confidence interval

$p =$  Expected value of the indicator  $= 0.50$

$q = (1-p) = 0.50$

$e =$  Margin of error  $= 0.08$

$$\text{So, } n = \frac{1.75^2 \times 0.50 \times 0.50}{0.08^2} = 119.62$$

As the population size was known later, we used the following formula for determining the sample of this study finally, considering finite population correction (FPC).

$$n = \frac{n_0 N}{n_0 + (N-1)} \times \text{Deff}$$

Where,

$n_0 =$  sample of unknown population  $= 119$

$N =$  Population size of the study of interest



Deff = Design effect = 1.1

$$n = \frac{119 \times 2006}{119 + (2006-1)} \times 1.1$$

$$= 121$$

The estimated sample was rounded to 121; and we've interviewed finally 121.

### **Quantitative Sampling Selection Procedure**

Following was the sample selection procedure of the study:

- All Unions were covered in this baseline survey.
- Proportion of sample was distributed among the selected category.
- Target respondent was selected randomly from the provided list.
- Interviews with respondents were administered at HH level.
- After having consent from the target respondents, interviews were administered. Therefore, respondent's willingness to participate was ensured during the study.

#### **2.2.2 Quantitively tools**

This baseline conducted in different villages of Chila union of Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district. Badabon Sangho had been selected 2,006 beneficiaries for their Women's Fisher Folks right project. Out of total beneficiaries list we randomly selected 121 respondents for the survey. The survey had been conducted by three trained data collector who have enough understanding about the locality, local cultural, local political economy system. The data collector used paper-based questionnaire and input data on SPSS. After that we cleaning the data with determined 0.5% error data and then we analysis the data systematically.

#### **2.2.3 Qualitative tools**

For in-depth understanding we used qualitative tools for explore the scenario of the community. Two professional Anthropologist conducted two FGD with women group and girls-boys group. They also conducted three IDI with Government official, local influential person and tow level development worker. During their field visit the Anthropologist also observed the communal water body, infrastructure, communication condition, health services, livelihood of the women, household condition, sanitation system, education for the adolescence and overall their life style, who they survive with the climate change.

For the qualitative sampling we select respondent by using convenient purposive sampling. In this part we also conduct unstructured observation in the community level and also conducted few informal conversations with community people to explore the socio-economic condition of the community.



# Chapter 3

## Research Result/ Findings and Analysis

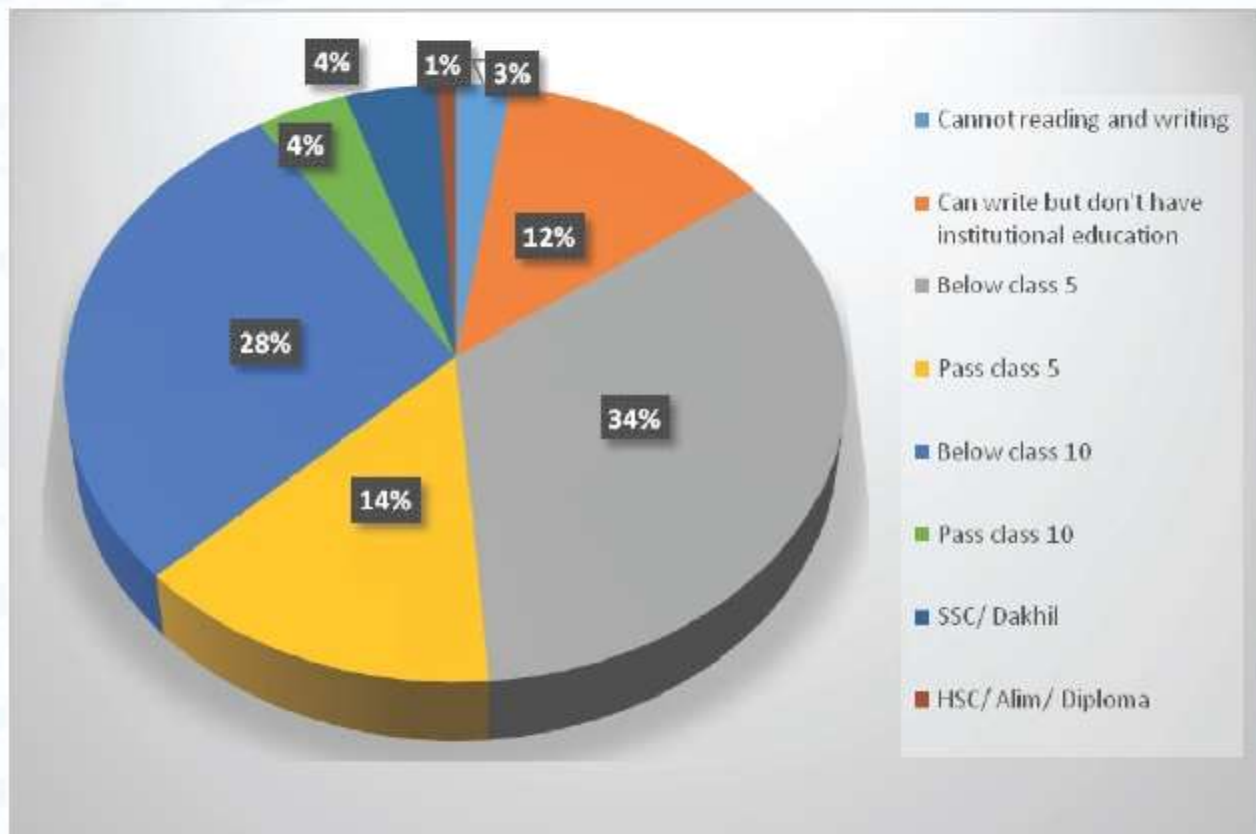
### 3.1 Quantitative Analysis

#### 3.1.1 Introduction of the Respondent: -

In this study, we conducted 121 Close-indeed interview within in the project beneficiaries list. All of the participant are women and their age group minimum 17 years to maximum 50 years. All of the interviewed conducted with women fisherfolk communities (widow, girls, PWD, single mother, ethnic and religious minorities) as per project objective.

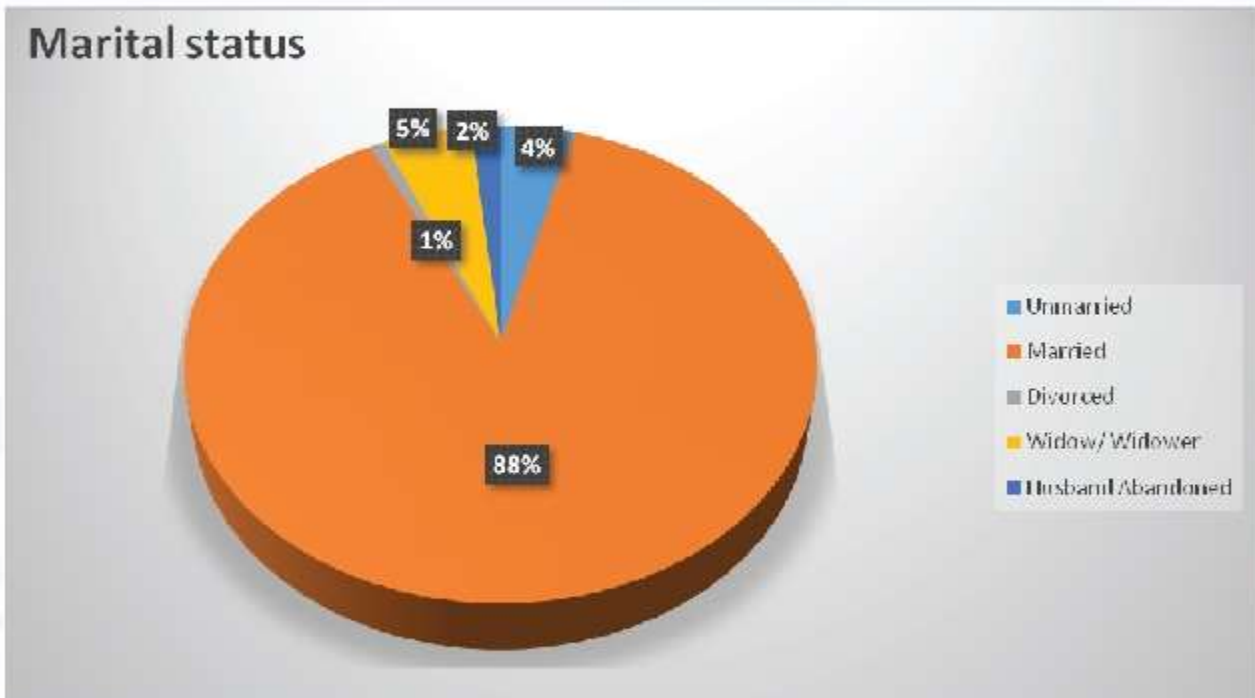
#### 3.1.2 Scio-economic condition of the Respondent: -

##### 3.1.2.1 Educational Background:



In the survey we found 3% respondents cannot read and write, more than 12% respondents can write but don't have institutional education, less than 34% respondents are below class 5 and more than 14% respondents have passed class 5. Moreover, more than 28% respondents are below class 10, more than 4% respondents have passed class 10, more than 4% respondents have passed SSC/Dakhil and less than 1% respondent has completed HSC/Alim/Diploma level.

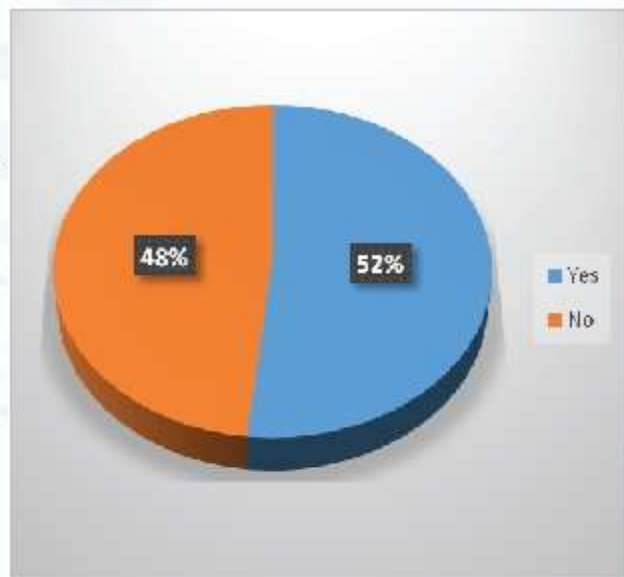
### 3.1.2.2 Marital Status:



We found 4% respondents are unmarried, more than 88% respondents are married, and less than 1% respondents are divorced. However, less than 5% respondents are widow/widower and less than 2% respondents are husband abandoned.

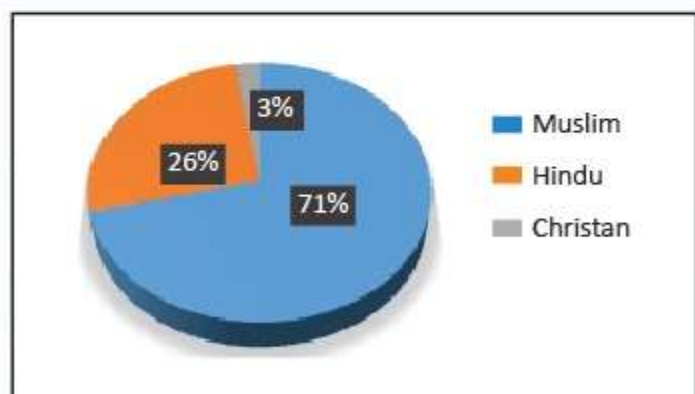
### 3.1.2.3 Marriage Registration rate: -

We found in our survey, around 52% respondents have registered their marriage and 48% respondents haven't registered their marriage.



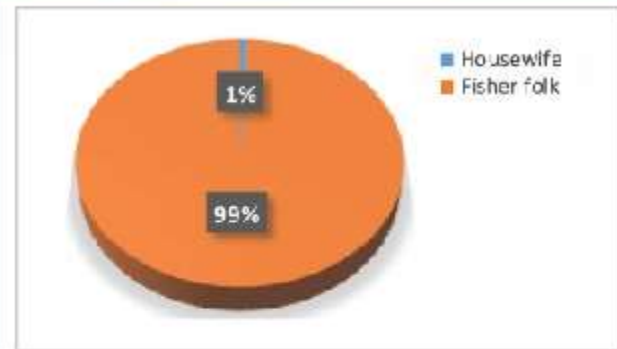
### 3.1.2.4 Religion Practice among the Respondent: -

More than 71% respondents are Muslim, more than 26% respondents are Hindu and less than 3% people are Christian.



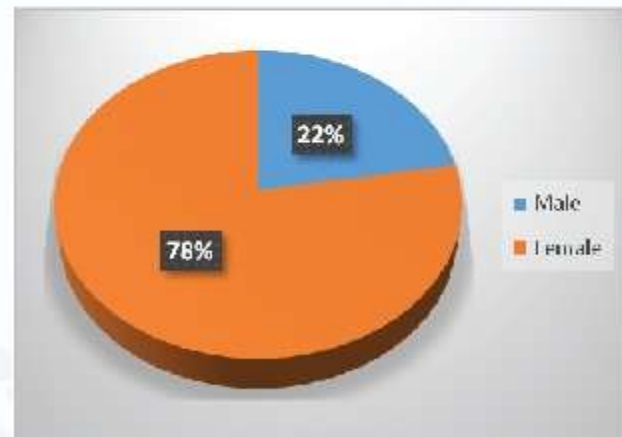
### 3.1.2.5 Occupation rate:

More than 99% respondents are fisher folk and less than 1% respondents are housewife.



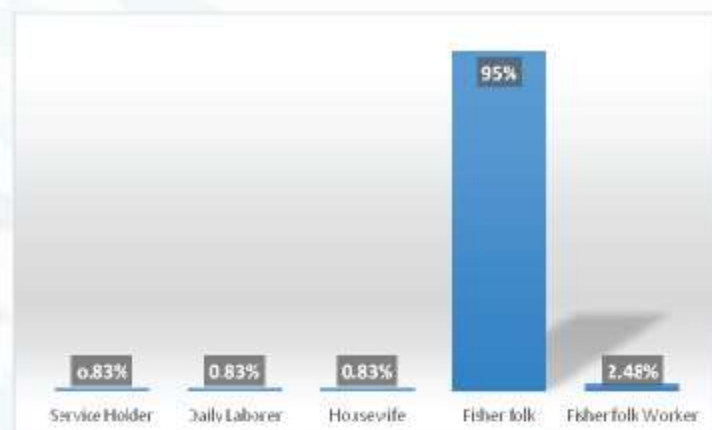
### 3.1.2.6 Distribution of Household Head Gender

We found less than 78% households have female head and more than 22% households have male head.



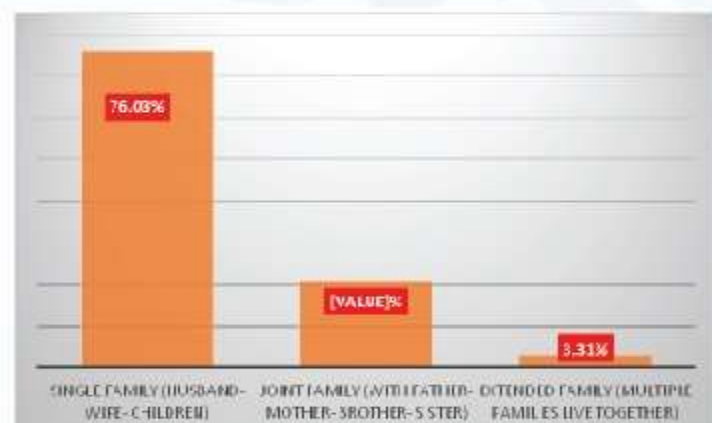
### 3.1.2.7 Occupation of the Household Head

We found in our survey, 0.83% household head is service holder, 0.83% household is daily laborer and 0.83% household is housewife. However, more than 95% household heads are fisher folk and 2.48% household heads are fisher folk worker.



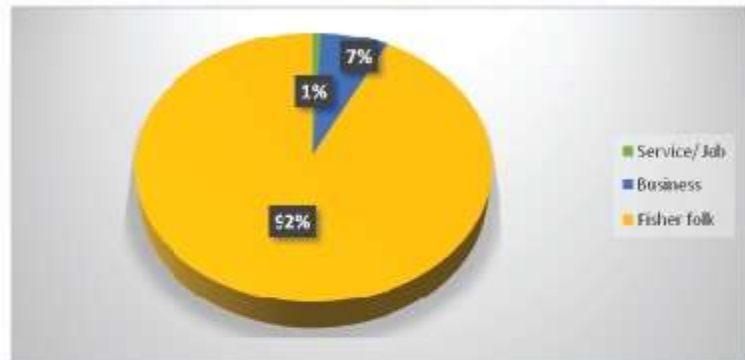
### 3.1.2.8 Household types

We found 76.03% families are single (Household head, wife, children), 20.66% families are joint (with father, mother, brother, sister) and 3.31% families are extended family. (Multiple family live together)



### 3.1.2.9 Main income source:

We found 1% service/job, less than 7% business and more than 92% fisher folk as the main income source of the family.



### 3.1.2.10 The main Earning person of the family:

More than 9% female, more than 10% male and more than 79% both are the main earning person of the family. However, 1% child (below 18 years) is the main earning person of the family.

## 3.2 ownership of the land and participation on public committee:

We found our survey, only 2% female have land ownership and rest of 98% land own by the male. On the other hand, only 10% of the respondent are participant on NGO committee. No one did not participant in Manusher Jonno foundation committee. The respondent doesn't enroll on the any other public committee.

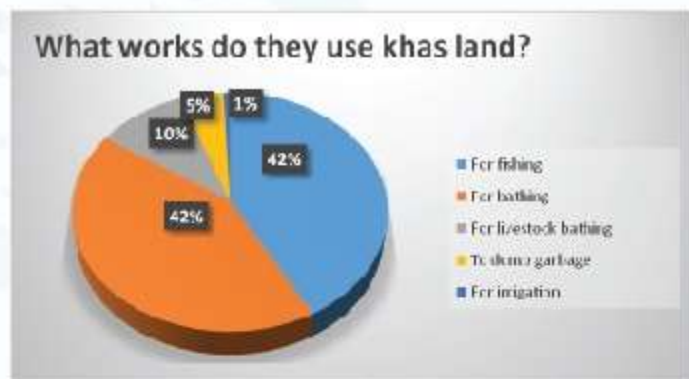
## 3.3 Assess to local resource (Khasland, waterbody)

### 3.3.1 The main source of drinking water and types of latrines

We found 47% ponds and 53% river as the main source of drinking water. We also found more than 89% respondents use raw latrine and 11% respondents use paved latrine.

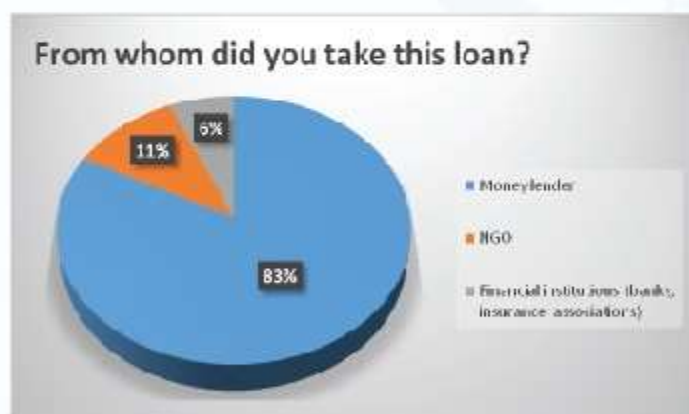
### 3.3.2 The uses of khas land:

Around 42% respondents use khas lands for fishing, 43% respondents use khas lands for bathing, 10% respondents use for livestock bathing. Moreover, less than 5% respondents use khas lands to dump garbage and 1% people use for irrigation.

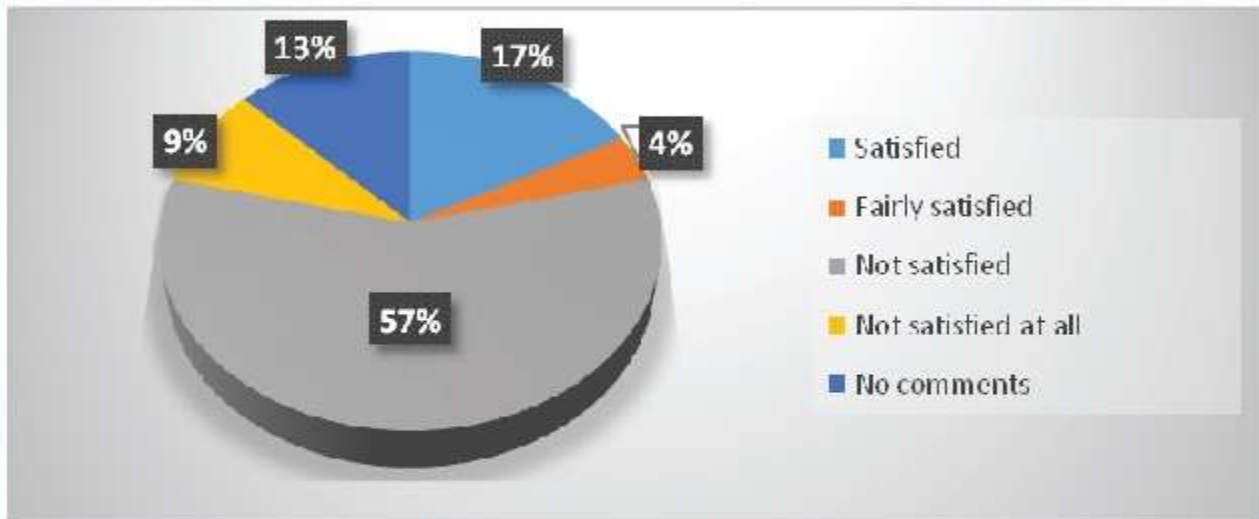


### 3.3.3 loan facilities

Around 83% respondents take loan from money lender, 11% respondents take loan from NGO and 6% respondents take loan form financial institutions such as banks, insurance, associations.



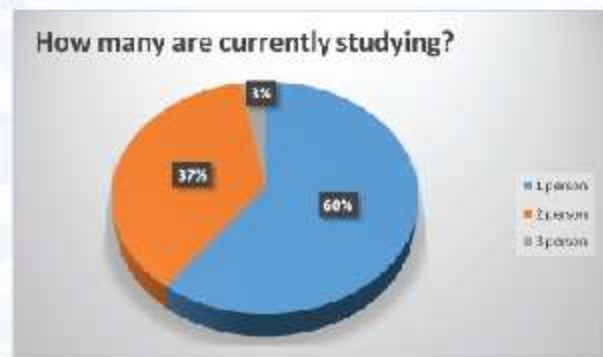
### 3.3.4 Satisfaction level of health care by the health care provider:



We found more than 17% respondents are satisfied, 4% respondents are fairly satisfied and more than 57% respondents are not satisfied with the services provided by these health care providers. Moreover, less than 9% respondents are not satisfied at all and 13% respondents have no comments with the services provided by these health care providers.

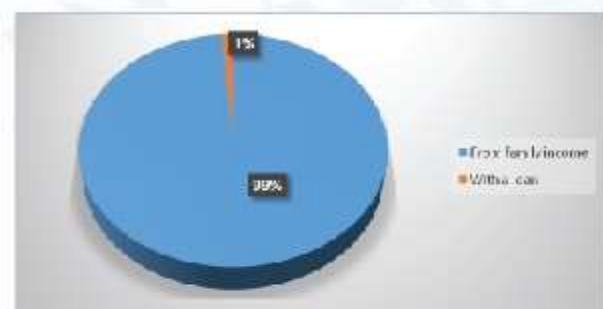
### 3.3.5 Currently studying

In the survey we found 1 person is currently studying in 60% families, 2 persons are studying in 37% families and 3 persons are currently studying in 3% families.



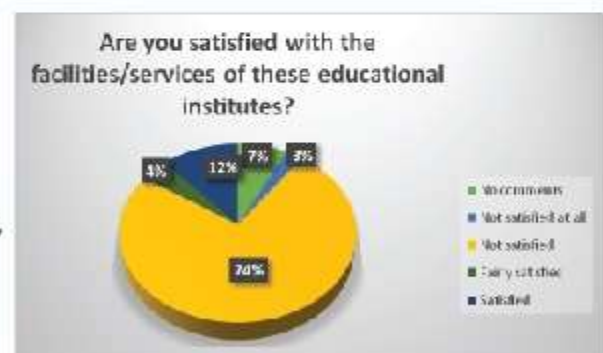
### 3.3.6 Pay for education:

Around 99% families pay from family income and 1% family pay with a loan for the education.



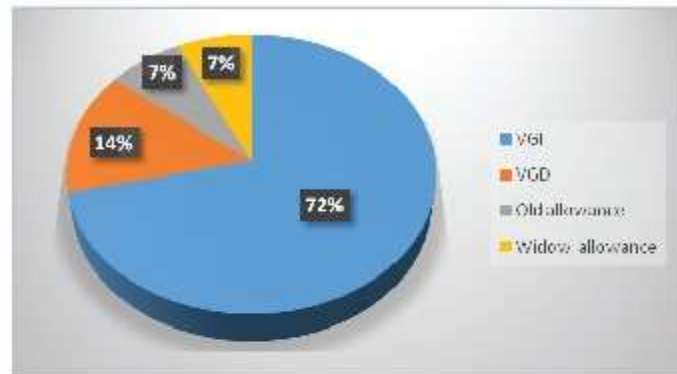
### 3.3.7 Satisfaction level of services of the educational

More than 7% respondents have no comments and less than 3% respondents are not satisfied at all with the facilities/services of these educational institutes. Moreover, more than 74% respondents are not satisfied, more than 4% respondents are fairly satisfied and 12% respondents are satisfied with the facilities/services of these educational institutes.



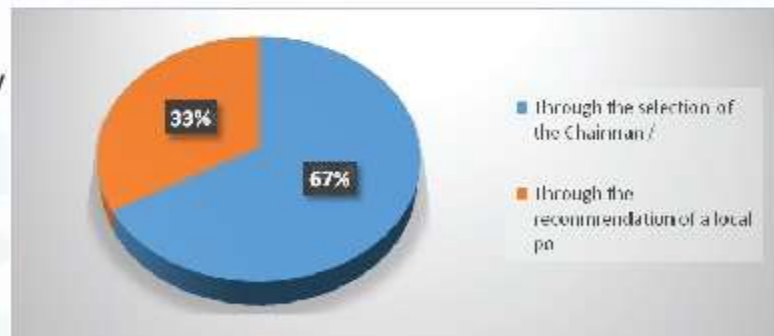
#### 4. Access to safety-net

Around 72% respondents have received VGF, 14% respondents have received VGD and 7% respondents have received old allowance. Moreover, 7% respondents have received widow allowance as the part of Social security services in the last 1 year.



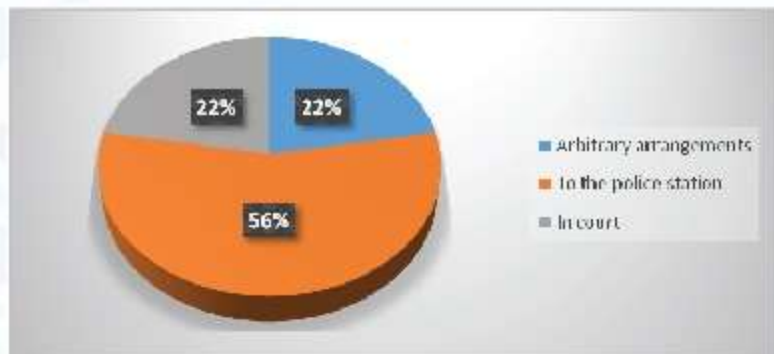
#### 4.2 Selection process of social safety net service: -

We found less than 67% respondents have selected to receive this social safety net service through the selection of the chairman and more than 33% respondents have selected to receive this social safety set service through the recommendation of a local po.



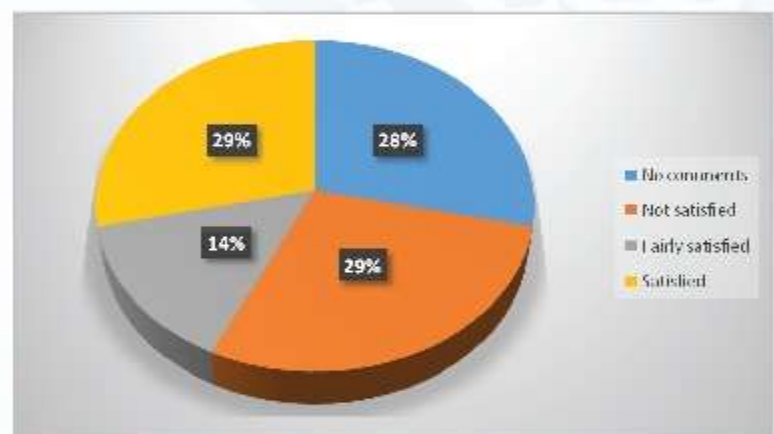
#### 4.4 Legal services:

More than 22% respondents take legal help from arbitrary arrangements, less than 56% respondents take legal help from the police station and more than 22% respondents take legal help from the court.



#### 4.5 Satisfaction form legal services

Around 28% respondents have no comments with this legal help. However, 29% respondents are not satisfied, 14% respondents are fairly satisfied and 29% are satisfied with this legal help.





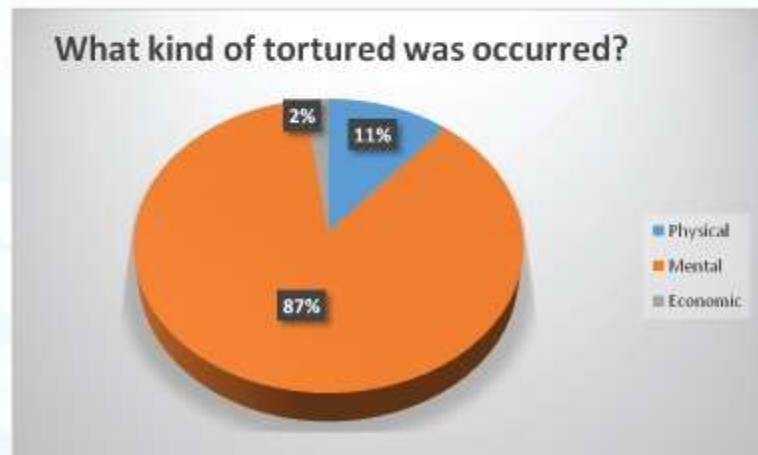
#### 4.6 kind of training need:

We found less than 1% respondents think they needed training regarding the automobile, less than 46% respondents think about handicrafts training and 51% people think regarding poultry training. Moreover, more than 3% respondents think they needed training in horticulture.



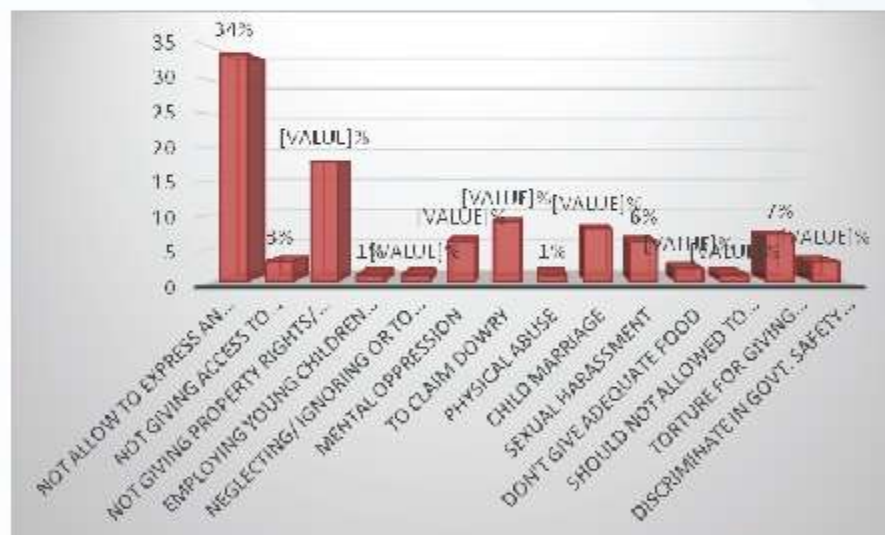
#### 4.7 Kind of tortured occurred:

More than 11% female respondents were physically, less than 87% female respondents were mentally and 2% female respondents were tortured economically by someone in their family.



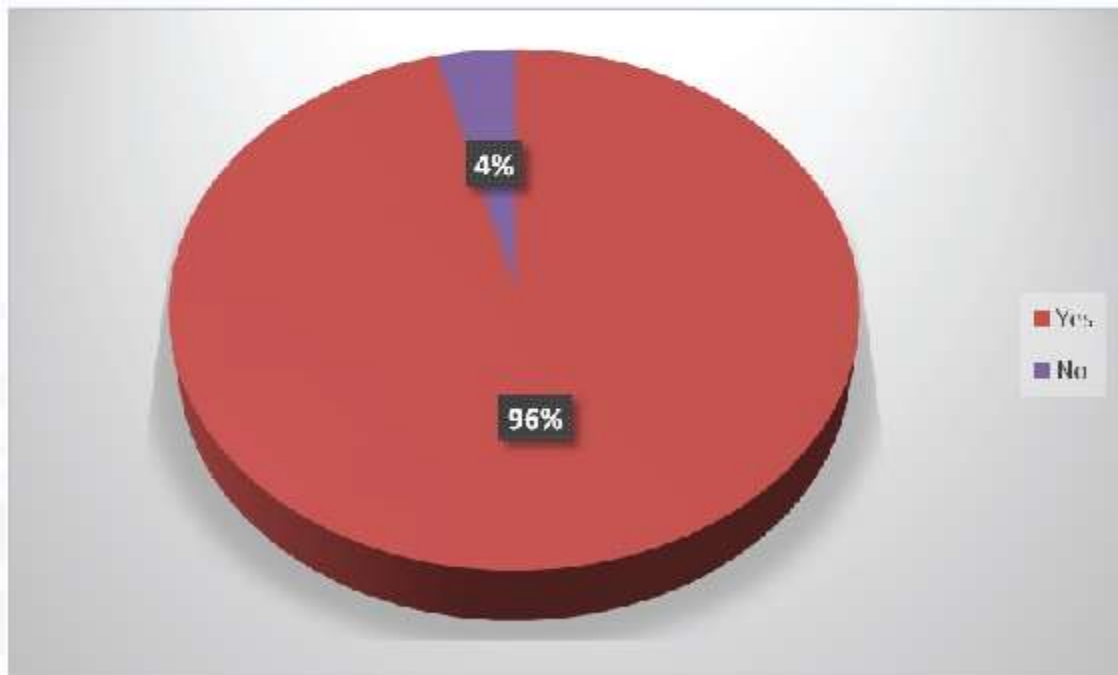
#### 4.8 Forms of Violence

We found more than 34% respondents consider not allowed to express an opinion, less than 3% respondents consider not giving access to education/discrimination and 18% respondents consider not giving property rights/demolition violate their rights. However, less than 1% respondent thinks employing young children in risky jobs, less than 1% respondent thinks neglecting/ignoring or to discriminate and more than 6% respondents think mental oppression to be abusive violate their rights. Moreover, more than 9% respondents consider claim dowry, less than 1% respondent considers physical abuse and more than 8% respondents consider child marriage violate their rights. Less than 6% respondents think sexual harassment/rape, more than 2% respondents think not giving adequate food and less than 1% respondent thinks should not be allowed to decide or give violate their rights. 7% respondents think torture for giving child-birth of girl and more than 3% respondents think discriminate in government safety net programs violate their rights.



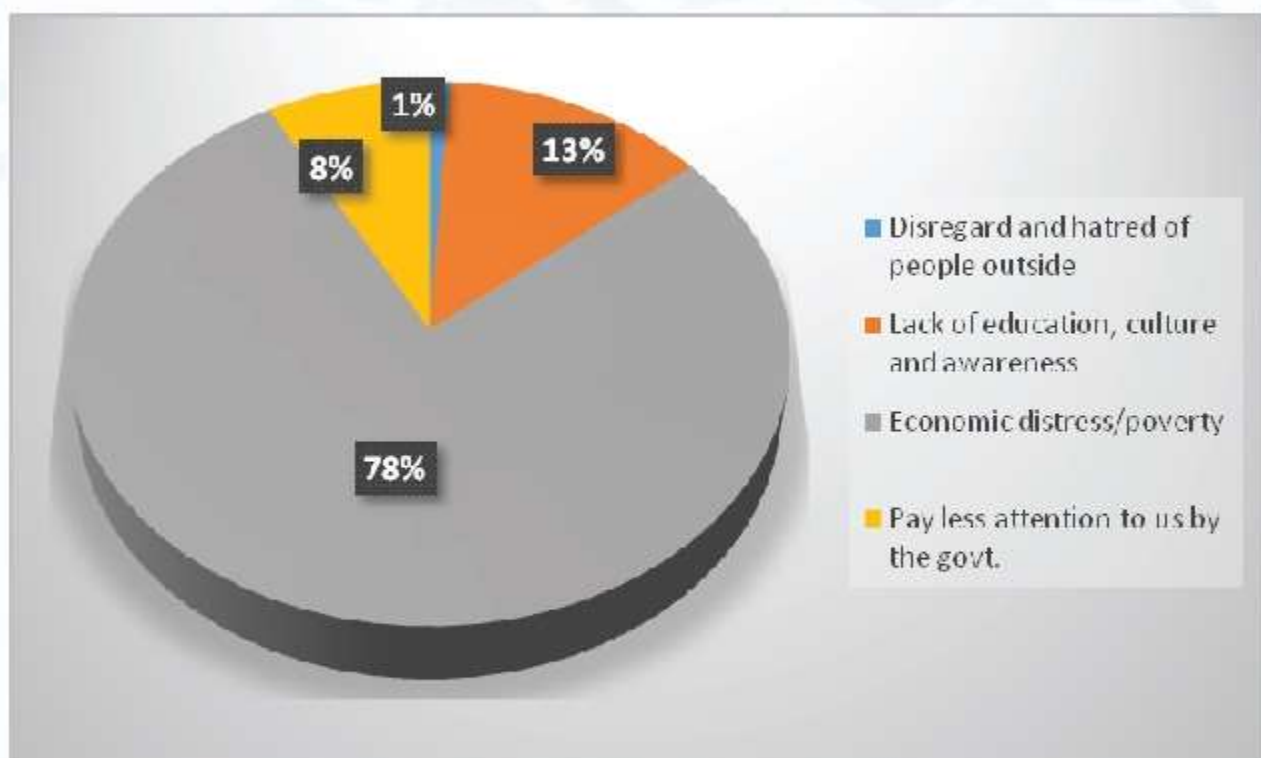
#### 4.9 Rights Violation Victims

We found in our survey less than 96% respondents were discriminated or deprived or rights violation victim in their personal life. On the other hand, more than 4% respondents were not the victim of any violation.



#### 4.10 Obstacles of Gaining Civil Rights

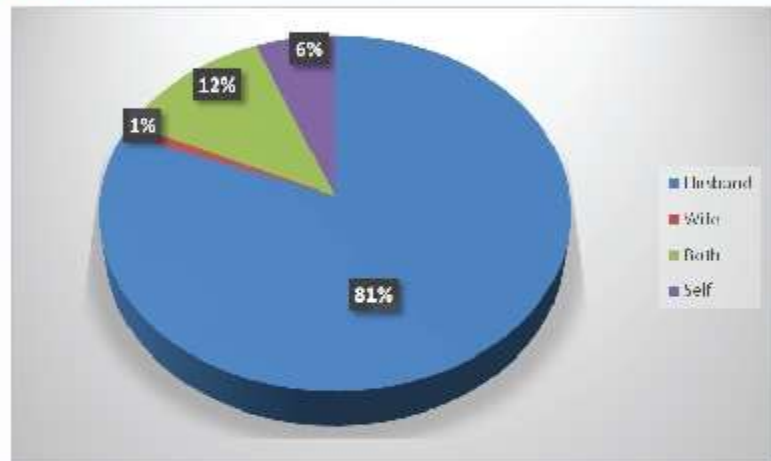
We found in our survey less than 1% respondents consider disregard and hatred of people outside, less than 13% respondents think lack of education, culture and awareness and more than 78% respondents consider economic distress/poverty are the main obstacle to establishing civil rights as a citizen. Furthermore, more than 8% respondents think pay less attention to them by the government is the main obstacle to establishing civil rights.



## Violence against Women and Decision Making Process

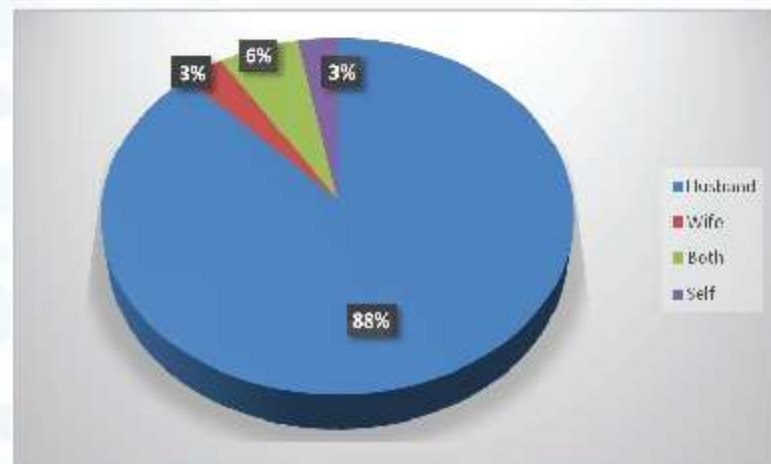
### 5.1 Decision Making- Daily Market

We found less than 81% respondent's husband and less than 1% respondent's wife and more than 12% respondent both are taking the decision for daily market. Moreover, 6% respondents are herself/himself take decision for daily market.



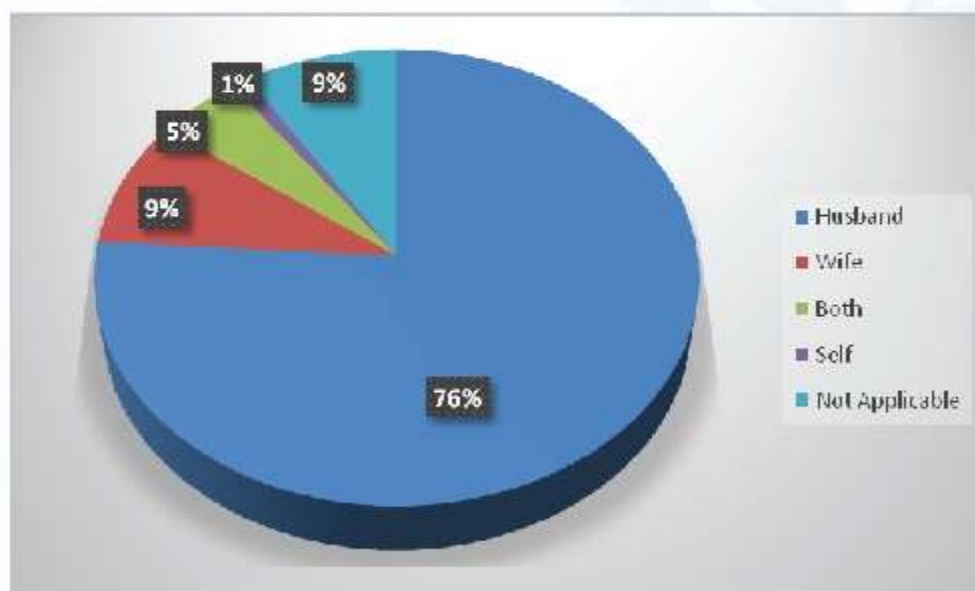
### 5.2 Cloth Purchasing

More than 88% respondent's husband, less than 3% respondent's wife and less than 6% respondent both are taking the decision for purchasing cloth. On the other hand, less than 3% respondents himself/herself take decision for purchasing cloth.



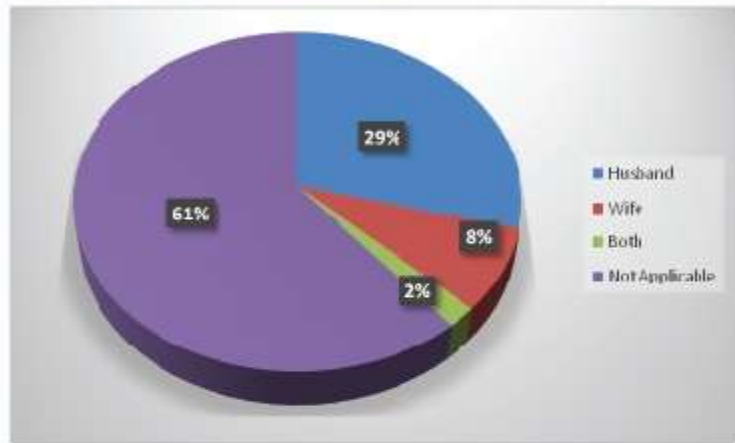
### 5.3 Child Education

We found more than 76% respondent's husband, more than 9% respondent's wife and less than 5% respondents both are taking decision for children's education. However, less than 1% respondent herself/himself takes decision for children's education and more than 9% not applicable.



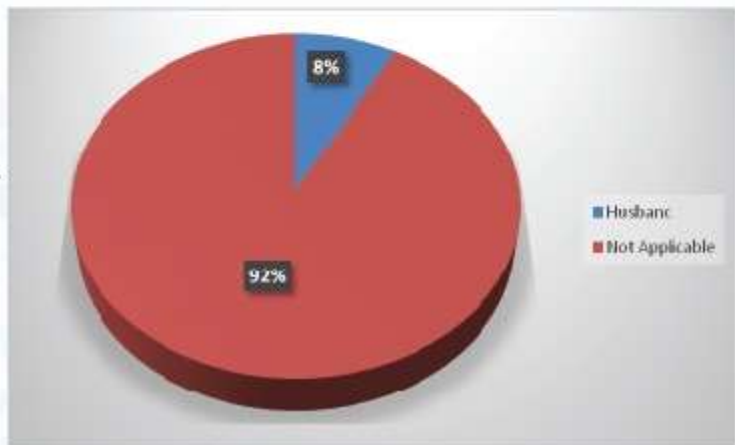
#### 5.4 Decision Making- Furniture Purchasing

Less than 29% respondent's husband, more than 8% respondent's wife and less than 2% respondent both are taking decision for purchasing furniture for household. However, more than 61% not applicable.



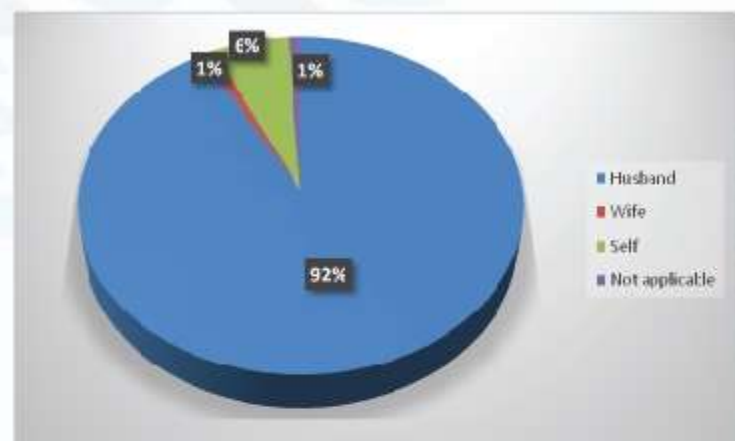
#### 5.5 Decision Making- Crops Cultivation

We found more than 8% respondent's husbands are taking decision for crop cultivation and less than 92% not applicable.



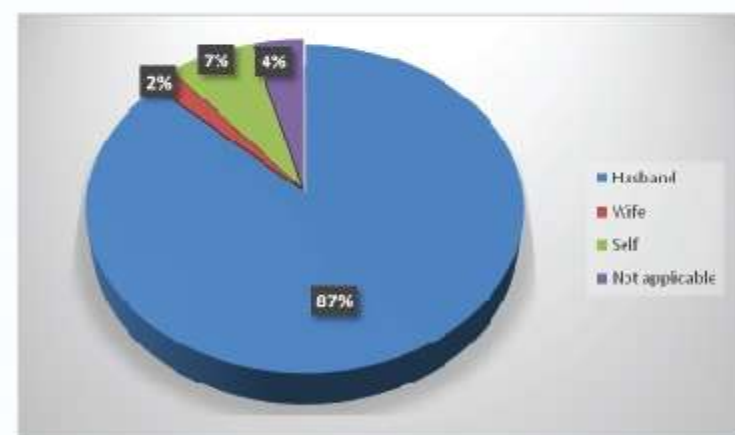
#### 5.6 Decision Making- Women's Working Activity Outside Home

Less than 92% respondent's husband, less than 1% respondent's wife and more than 6% respondents themselves are taking decision whether women will be working outside the home. Moreover, less than 1% not applicable.



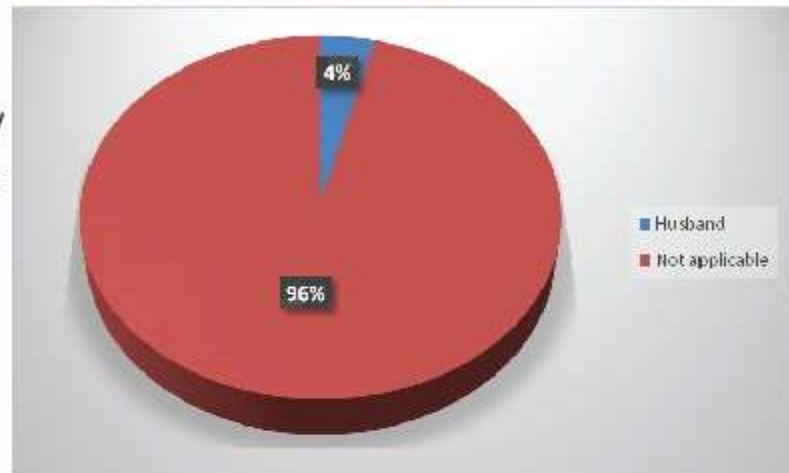
#### 5.7 Income earned by women

More than 87% respondent's husband, less than 2% respondent's wife and less than 7% respondent themselves are taking decision for spending money which earned by women. However, more than 4% not applicable.



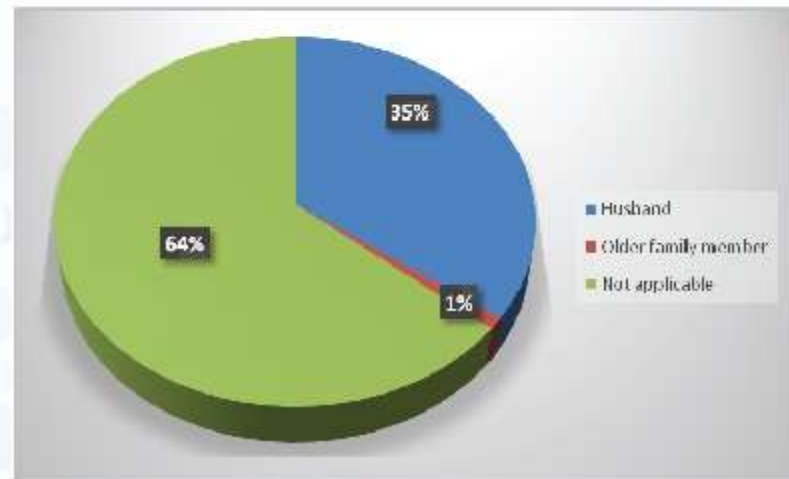
### 5.8 Crops Produced

More than 4% respondent's husbands are taking decision for producing crops/ other produced crops sell and less than 96% not applicable.



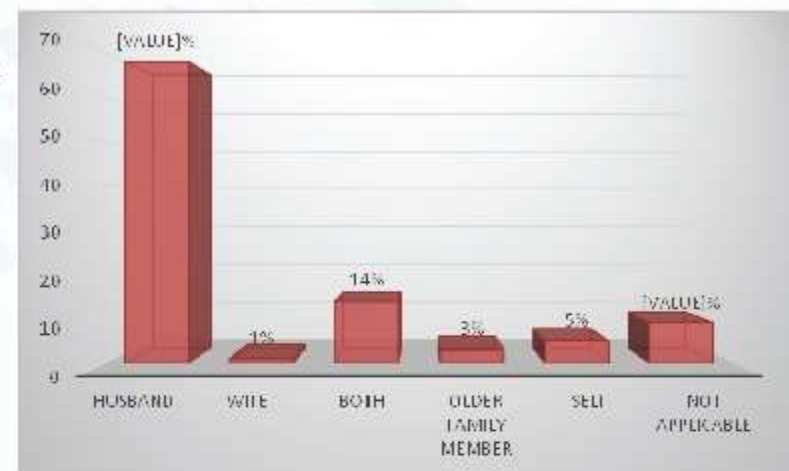
### 5.9 Land purchase and sell

More than 35% respondent's husbands and less than 1% respondent's older family member are taking decisions for purchasing and selling land. However, less than 64% not applicable.



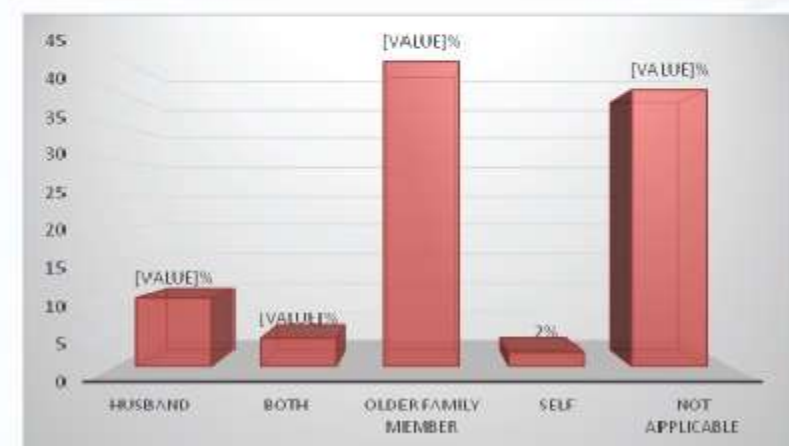
### 5.10 Medical Treatment

We found in our survey more than 68% respondent's husbands, less than 1% respondent's wife and more than 14% respondents both are taking decisions for medical treatment. Moreover, more than 14% respondent's older family member, less than 5% respondents themselves take decisions and 9% not applicable.



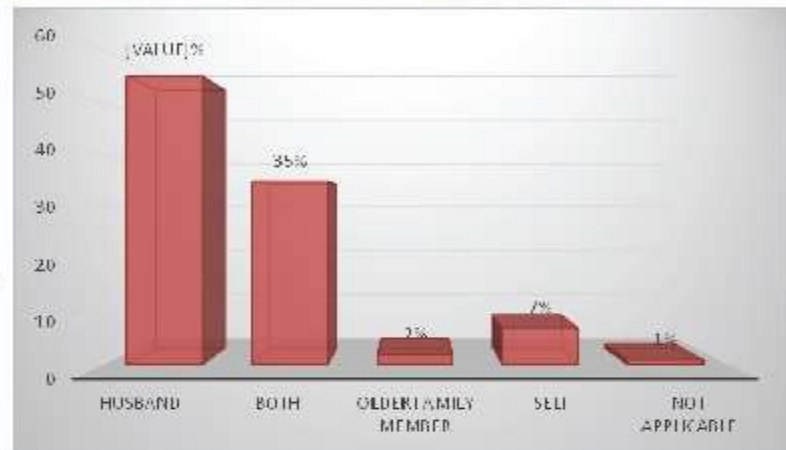
### 5.11 Regarding children

Less than 10% respondent's husbands, more than 4% respondents both and more than 44% respondent's older family member are taking decision regarding children. However, 2% respondents themselves take decision and less than 40% not applicable.



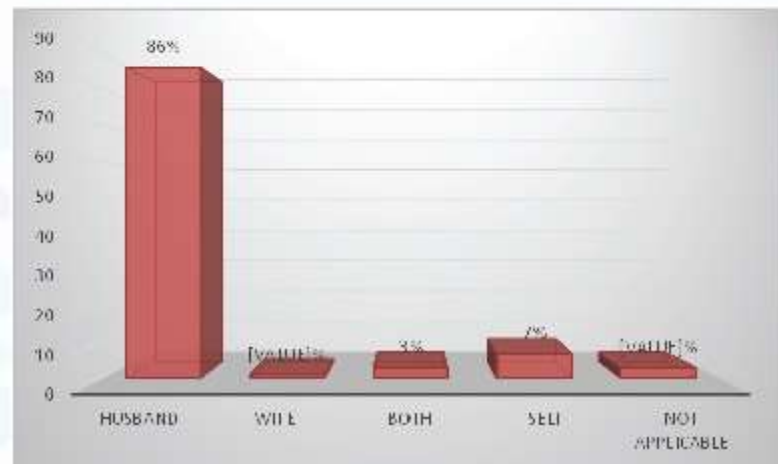
### 5.12 Loan in cases

More than 55% respondent's husband, more than 35% respondents both and less than 2% respondent's older family member are taking decisions for loan. Moreover, 7% respondents themselves take decision and 1% not applicable.



### 5.13 Engagement with NGO and Organizations

Less than 86% respondent's husband, less than 1% respondent's wife and more than 3% respondents both are engage with NGO and organizations. Moreover, less than 7% respondent themselves are engage with NGO and organizations and more than 3% not applicable.



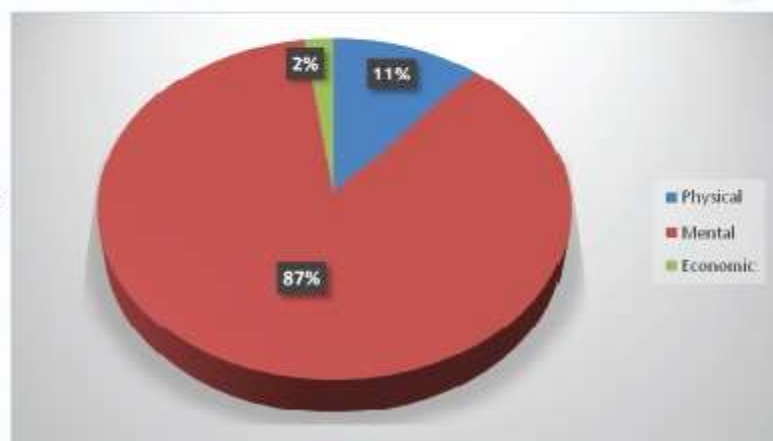
### 5.14 Rate of Abused

We found less than 68% respondents are abused and more than 32% respondents are not abused by someone in their family for the past 6 years.



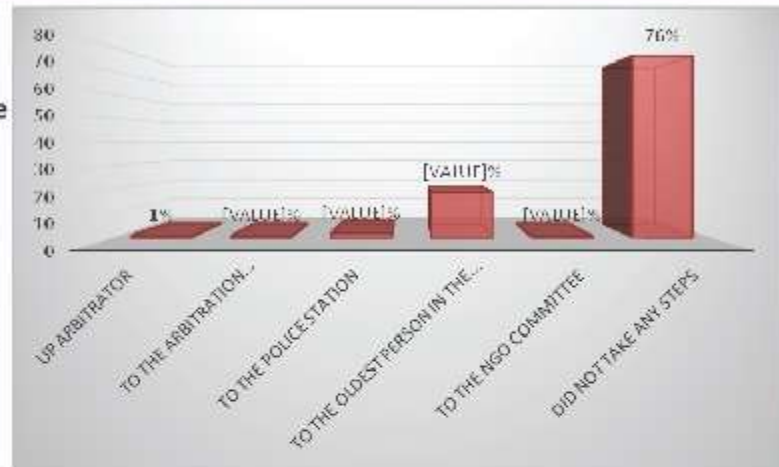
### 5.15 Kind of tortured

We found in our survey more than 11% respondents are physically, less than 87% respondents are mentally and more than 2% respondents are economically tortured by someone.



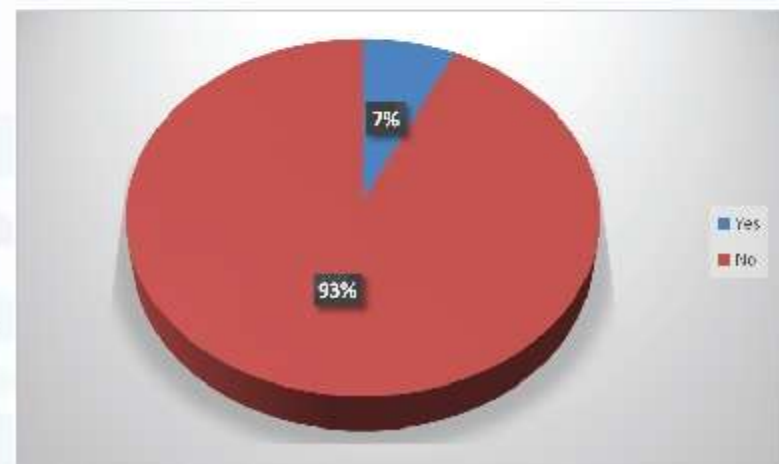
### 5.16 Place of Complain

We found in our survey more than 1% respondents went to UP arbitrator, more than 1% respondents went to arbitration committee and less than 2% respondents went to police station for trail. Moreover, about 19% respondents went to the oldest person, more than 1% respondents went to the NGO committee and more than 76% respondents didn't take any steps against the torture.



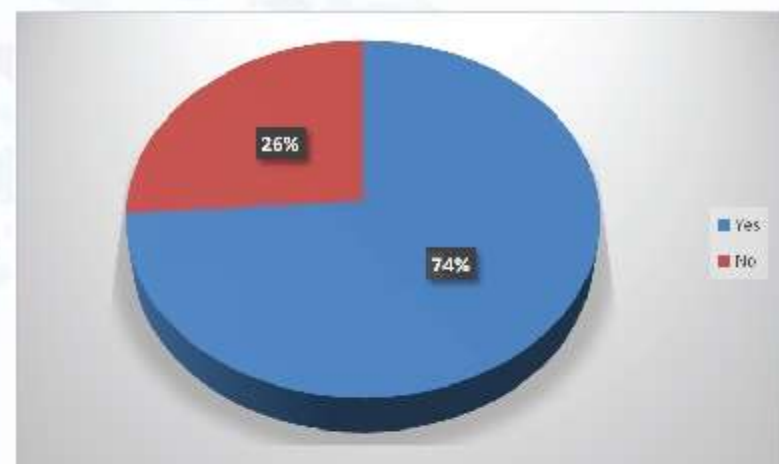
### 5.17 Rate of abused among the girl

We found in our survey any woman or girl been abused in less than 7% respondent's family in the last one year and any woman or girl not been abused in more than 93% respondent's family.



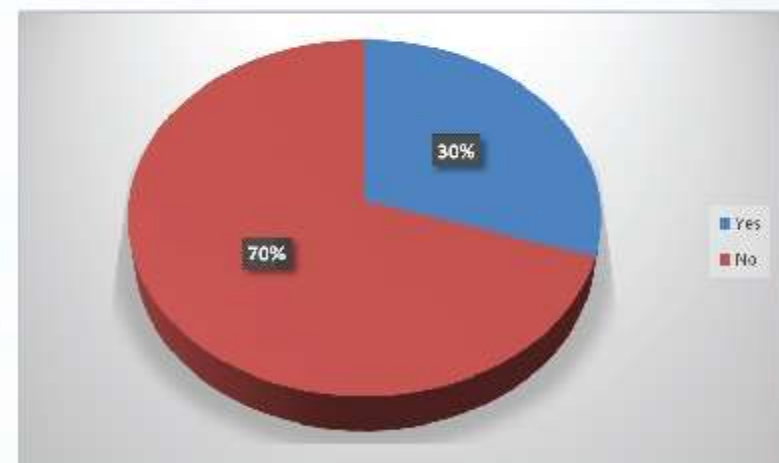
### 5.18 Women participation of a union council

Less than 74% respondents think and more than 26% respondents don't think a woman can become chairman of a union council.



### 5.19 Candidate of the union council

We found less than 30% respondents consider themselves worthy candidate as chairman or member of the union council and more than 70% respondents don't consider themselves worthy candidate as chairman or member of the union council.





# CHAPTER 4



## Quantitative Analysis and findings

### Socio-economic Situation:

People of this region are related to fishing and fisheries. This region does not have much agricultural land for doing agricultural activities. For that reason, people in this region mostly opted fishing. Most of the people earn their livelihood by fishing. Mainly they are fisherfolk by occupation. As one stated, **"Almost 80 people among 100 can be considered as related with fish."** Besides, they do some homestead gardening to produce some vegetables. There is some agricultural land for rice cultivation but not enough. They produce fish using methods of fish enclosure and hatchery. Most of the people are related to this job. They mostly cultivate crab and shrimp. Maximum parents are involved in daily labor and some are doing as shop keepers. There are some poultry farming, parents cultivate vegetables around the house. 128 factories and 1 EPZ are located in Mongla Upazila. Some people work in these factories and EPZ. Many of them are doing jobs but it is below 10% in number. Some people are working in garments like Mongla EPZ.

### Occupations, Working Hours and Wages scenario:

Most of the people earn their livelihood by fishing. Mainly they are fisherfolk by occupation. As one stated, **"Almost 80 people among 100 can be considered as related with fish."** Many of them are doing jobs but it is below 10% in number. Some people are working in garments like Mongla EPZ.

Besides fishing, the people of this area also engaged with agriculture and vegetable planting. But at the last of 'Poush' (winter season) month, the production of vegetables getting decreases because of salty water.

Some people are rearing ducks, hens and maintaining poultries. They get this training a few days ago. At present, there a group is being organized with 35 fisherfolk women. Besides this, there is no organizing club or organization of their own.

In fishing, they need not recruit laborers because if they do it, then they have to share fish that they catch. So they go to catch fish with their family members.

If they work for 4 hours, they will be given 200 taka. That means they will get 50/60 taka per hour. This is the general wage scenario of the *Chila* area. (FGD, female)

### Discrimination in Wages:

There is discrimination in wages between men and women. As it is seen that where men get 60/ 50 taka, there women are given 40 taka. Women get fewer wages than men. Women's wages are determined by the bazaar community or the agency related to their jobs. Women are poorer than men, especially, widow and elderly women. It is also said that men are doing much work than women. One respondent said, **"But women are working more than men can. Men try to cheat in working, they smoke during work time. But women do not get enough value."** (FGD, female)

They do not have an alternative way to work. So when there is no fish to catch, they have to loan for maintaining their family. When they can effort, then they try to pay for it. Thus it is going on and at the last, They have no capital or accumulation. They have only a chance to work in fishing and in the jungle (Sundorban).

But they do not have access to fishing all the time. They cannot catch fish in banned time ordered by the government. If they do in this banned time or catch fish with a prohibited net, the coast guard takes over them. Sometimes they get punishment. One stated that, **"There is hardly any person who doesn't lose his net in a year. If so, they make another with 5- 6 thousand cost. For this, they have to take a loan."**

Many cutters in this area are engaged with making these nets. On the other hand, there are also some cutters who cut the net.

Women cannot do fishing as men. They do fishing at great risk. Many of them are doing this to leave their children at home. There is no other way to do so.

They go for fishing either at night or day. They have to go even they feel fear. As they stated, **“after returning home, all the sorrows go away when my child asked me for food. We have to do it even though it is very much difficult because we have to feed them, lead them to study.”** It is seen that many of them had died of heart stroke during pulling nets.

### Education System:

Now, the mentality of local people is changing and they let their children study. Many children are now studying at the primary, secondary and higher secondary levels. Few of them also study at the Honors level. For that, they need to go to Khulna, Bagerhat or Mongla Upazila. The transportation system for going to the educational institution is not good enough. Children and other students need to walk a long way to go to the institution. The discrimination between boys and girls in terms of education has reduced now. Both boys and girls study though there are many challenges in terms of the economy. Parents try to give financial support to their children for education. Especially mothers are nowadays very much concerned about their children's education.

### Obstacles on receiving education:

They do not have to face any disturbance like eve-teasing in the way to go to school. They go to school from their own encourage. The teachers are very much friendly and teach them fairly. Their parents are also willing to send their children to school for receiving education. Almost of the children go to school. There is no discrimination between girls and boys. Every participant wants to be doctors in future to treat people. But the girls are not allowed for playing in the open area like fields as well as going to the market. People take it negatively. They have to play only in the school ground.

We found some contradictory statement on the aim of receiving education. As one of the male respondent stated that **“What will be happened if they receive an education where people have to pay a minimum 5 lakhs taka for a job? So why we do study at the cost of such hardship? Even we are not allowed in the garments for being poor.”**

### Health System:

As Mongla is a peripheral area healthcare facilities are not available in the locality. They have to go to the Upazila health care center to receive the facilities. In this coastal area, people are surrounded by saline water. They get affected by water-borne diseases. Also, people in this area are affected by skin diseases. The female members of the community have problems with child delivery and elderly women have uterus related diseases. People are also threatened by the crocodile attack as they work in the water bodies.

Local NGOs are working to solve these problems and they arrange meetings with health care facilitators and the local community people. People of this area faced discrimination before. So the NGOs are working to solve it and create a healthy environment in the locality. World Vision, USAID, Karitas worked in this regard previously.

At present, the doctors of the Upazila health care center suggest that people should visit their center and take health care facilities as there is no discrimination around there. But people also visit 'Kabiraz', take local medicine and also visit Quake doctors. But now the condition is changing. Also, they need good transportation facilities to go to hospitals or health care centers.

### Diseases and Treatment:

There are many kinds of diseases in this area because of water like- Diarrhea, Dysentery, fever, headache, cold etc. They usually go to the Bazar to get treatment where there is a homeopathic doctor as well as allopathic doctor. But they are not available for all time. If they failed to get proper treatment/ in the condition of serious cases/ for emergency, they have to go Mongla for getting better treatment. They only know how to make saline because they do not get adequate saline when it is needed. For drinking water, they have to hold the rain water. They do use van for going to hospital (visit doctors) and other works as transport.

### Hygiene Knowledge and Practice:

There is a female group from the government come to visit them to deliver knowledge on personal hygiene and maintenance of period. They work on raising consciousness about these. The participants mentioned that all discussions and suggestions they get from the group, cannot be followed all time because of their poverty. As they cannot get proper and nutritious food then it will be very much difficult for them to manage all the things that they are suggested. Even they have scarcity of drinking water and latrine. One of the respondents stated that,

“Where there is no latrine, what do they mean sanitary? There is no water; they will understand what is pure?”

### Social Security/ Safety-net:

The government provides many allowances for elderly people, widows, and fishermen. Also, there are VGD, VGF, and other allowances. People who are aged 65 and more should get the allowance for elderly people. These allowance lists are made by the local Chairman or Member. They take advantage of it and make list at their own will. For that reason, there are incidents that eligible people do not get these allowances. Local people are not aware of these facilities. They do not even know that the government provides allowances for them.

### Productivity/ Farming:

As Mongla is a coastal area there is no such land for farming. The whole area covered with water bodies. People produce fish using methods of fish enclosure and hatchery. Most of the people related to this job. Mostly they cultivate crab and shrimp. Both males and females are related to this job. But there are few lands where rice is cultivated. As it is a saline water area, no other crops are cultivated in this region. NGOs are working to create opportunities for their productivity.

### Women empowerment/ Torture:

In this region, women are very much active in terms of productivity. They do not sit in the house. Women go fishing with their husbands. They also work as a laborer. Besides, women also go fishing alone by themselves. Women of the locality go fishing together. Some may have their boat and net. Also, some women have grocery stores in the locality. Badabon NGO is working on empowering local women by giving them training in various professions like factory work, beauty parlor, handicrafts, etc. These trainings help women enhance their opportunities to get a better job.

Incidents of persecution and oppression are not happening these days. Women are now very active and well aware of their situation. Some are economically developed and have their businesses in the local area. Although the situation of women has changed some incidents happened in the locality like- early age marriage, dowry. The rate of these things has decreased a lot.

Badabon NGO also observed Women's Day on the 15th of October with the local women. NGO also arranged some activities to celebrate that day.

### Income-generating Activities:

Mongla is a coastal area. People in this area have fewer opportunities in their life. They do not get enough facilities in their life. They have to work hard to manage daily meals. As there is no land for farming or harvesting crops, they generally go fishing and work as a laborer in the close water bodies. Sometimes they go hunting in the Sundarban. Women try to work with their husbands. Besides, as there is an EPZ many women work in the EPZ and other factories located in Mongla. There are many government training programs. NGO tries to engage the local people in these training programs and enhance their knowledge and capabilities throughout this opportunity. NGO also gives training on handicrafts, beauty parlor, and other matters. Through these people get chances to engage in income-generating activities. Male members work on the close water bodies or drive van, auto as other income-generating activities. Chances are less in this area and people become unemployed when there is a ban on fishing or hunting.

## Loan:

As they have to face many economic challenges, they take a loan from different sources. Badabon NGO does not help in this case. People take loans from different lenders like 'Mahajon' and other influential people. Some NGOs also give loans to the people who need. It has been seen that people take a loan from one source and repay it to another source.

## Human Rights:

There are some basic human rights for every person. People of the peripheral area do not get these rights easily. Also, they are not aware of these basic human rights. Because of their unawareness, they are suffering in various ways. But now local NGOs are working to change the condition. Badabon works on rights. Badabon started aware people from the beginning of this year. People are now aware of their basic rights and try to claim their rights through different activities. Male-female and child everyone now gets to know about their rights and basic needs through the activities of NGOs and government's initiatives.

## Government Services and Accessibility:

Government services are for everyone. Before, none got access or services from the government. There was many stigmatization and barriers in society. That is why people did not get access to these services. But now the conditions have changed. There is no stigmatization present in society now. People can easily access to any government office and earn their needs. Although there are stigmatizations present in people's minds, the condition is improving day by day. Badabon and other local NGOs working to give people access to these services. Recently Badabon arranged an orientation program with community women around 250-300 at the Union office. There they get to know about government facilities and services. Now they know that they have access to every government institution. The government also wants that the people should come to their office and get benefitted.

## Challenges:

There are some challenges in every sector. NGOs also faced some challenges because of their activities and uses of power by local leaders. Firstly, Badabon thought that women would not be allowed by their husband to be a member of a women's group. But as Badabon has good communication with the community people, so, NGO did not face such challenges. Sometimes, male members of the community create problems as they do not want that women are given Fisherman Card. They feel insecure about it. Besides, NGOs face challenges when local leaders use their power and people do not get the facilities.

## The Core causes of vulnerability of Right-





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