

Factors behind Human Trafficking in Host and Rohingya Communities in Cox's Bazar : An Overview

Jishu Barua¹

Abstract

This study aims to discuss the present phenomena of human trafficking in Bangladesh particularly in Cox's Bazar. In the opening part of the study, the conceptual framework and the Bangladesh perspective of human trafficking have been looked into. In the later part, efforts are made to discuss the push factors of human trafficking in the host community and Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. In the last part, the present scenario and the perspective of human trafficking in Cox's Bazar is explained with recent data and detailed information plus an in-depth analysis of human trafficking and victims of trafficking in Cox's Bazar is presented in light of YPSA's Counter Trafficking Program in Cox's Bazar.

Introduction

Human trafficking is the most uncivilized dealing of mankind in the civilized world. It is a punitive crime in the eyes of law as well as a grave violation of human rights across the globe. It is modern day slavery that is committed through the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion. Exploitations include sex exploitation, labour exploitation and human organ removal from a person's body for the purposes of a commercial transaction in human body parts. It is not and cannot be committed by one person alone. It requires involvement of a group of people to be committed, and that's why it is termed to be an organized crime. Human trafficking is a scourge to humanity and a great threat to human security. The whole world is now united to fight this crime which has been taking place almost everywhere.

¹ Counter Trafficking Focal Person & Program Manager, YPSA, Bangladesh.

The Palermo protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons adopted in 2000 by the United Nations defines human trafficking or trafficking in persons:

"Trafficking in Persons"... mean[s] the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, ***by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.*** Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (Article 3, paragraph (a)).¹

Observing the trend of human trafficking and considering the necessity, the government of republic of Bangladesh made a law titled "The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012". The objectives of the Act are to make provisions to prevent and suppress human trafficking, to ensure the protection of victims of the offence of human trafficking and their rights, and to ensure safe migration.

According to section 3(1) of the Act (2012), "Human trafficking" means the ***selling or buying, recruiting or receiving, deporting or transferring, sending or confining or harboring*** either inside or outside of the territory of Bangladesh of any person for ***the purpose of sexual exploitation or oppression, labor exploitation or any other form of exploitation or oppression*** by means of:

(a) threat or use of force; or (b) deception, or abuse of his or her socio-economic or environmental or other types of vulnerability; or (c) giving or receiving money or benefit to procure the consent of a person having control over him or her.²

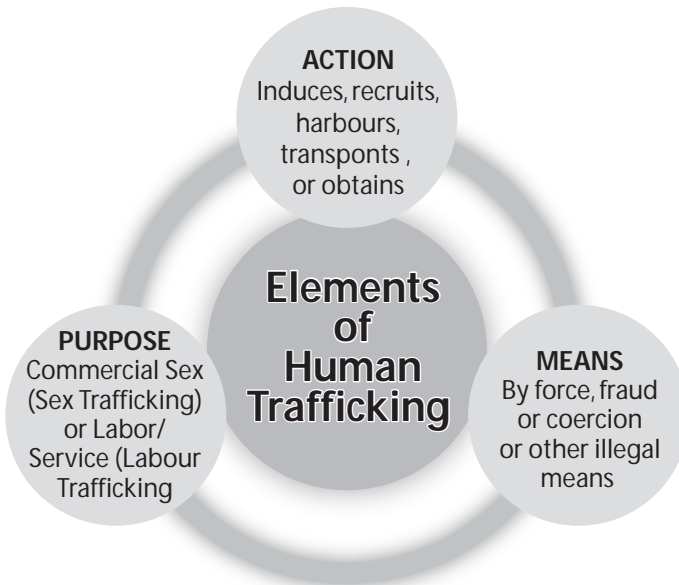
¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/ProtocolonTrafficking.pdf>

² <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/543f75664.pdf>

Elements of Human Trafficking

The concept of trafficking is quite vigorous; the parameter of the term "trafficking" is continually developing in response to the development or change of political, economic and social conditions. The manner and the way of trafficking changes from time to time, place to place and environment to environment but the basic elements of trafficking remain constant. The elements include **Action, Means** and **Purpose**.

Illustration of Elements of Human Trafficking



Causes and Implications of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking takes place in every country in the world, in many different forms; however, the causes behind human trafficking are essentially the same for labor trafficking, sex trafficking, child trafficking, and all other types of modern day slavery. It can happen anywhere, as long as the environment contains vulnerable conditions. Human trafficking varies from country to country, but it usually preys on vulnerable situations. People in vulnerable and precarious situations are looking for a way out and in their desperation can fall

prey to human traffickers. Trafficking is a complex phenomenon that is often driven or influenced by social, economic, cultural and other factors. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Many of these factors are specific to individual trafficking patterns and to the states in which they occur.³

Human trafficking is not a naturally occurring phenomenon. It is a choice of perpetrators. Any serious effort to combat human trafficking must include striking at its root cause: the traffickers. However, the major and common causes of human trafficking around the world are jotted down;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⁿ Poverty ⁿ Lack of education ⁿ Demand for cheap labor/ demand for sex ⁿ Lack of employment opportunities ⁿ Lack of legitimate economic opportunities ⁿ Social factors and cultural practices e.g. child marriage ⁿ Social exclusion and gender discrimination causes ⁿ Increased militarization - armed conflict, civil war, 'resource curse' in extractives, refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⁿ Legal - access to justice, rule of law, statelessness ⁿ Conflict and natural disaster ⁿ Influx and presence of refugees ⁿ Trafficker's willful decision to profit ⁿ Climate change and environmental degradation ⁿ Lack of safe migration options ⁿ Violent behavior in the home ⁿ High ambition for more opportunities ⁿ Lack of human rights for vulnerable groups ⁿ Political, legal and conflict causes including corruption
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Bangladesh Perspective of Human Trafficking: Bangladesh is one of the source countries as well as transit points for human trafficking. The report of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) released from the Department of State of the United States of America is very import to evaluate the overall human trafficking situation of the country. On 25th June 2020, the United States Secretary of State released the 2020 global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report (20th), upgrading Bangladesh's ranking from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2.⁴

³ file:///C:/Users/Hello%20iT/Downloads/humantrafficking.pdf

⁴ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

This significant step reflects Bangladesh's progress in combating human trafficking over the past year, including standing up seven anti-trafficking tribunals as stipulated in Bangladesh's anti-trafficking law and taking action against recruiting agencies exploiting Bangladeshis seeking to work abroad. In addition, the government continued to allow humanitarian access to the Rohingya camps. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. The efforts made by the government included convicting more traffickers, modestly increasing the number of victims identified, acceding to the 2000 UN TIP Protocol in 2019 at the close of the reporting period as stipulated in Bangladesh's anti-trafficking law. [Source: TIP Report 2020, P-93] According to the TIP Report 2020, in Bangladesh law enforcement decreased investigations into trafficking cases, continued to deny credible reports of official complicity in trafficking, and, despite hundreds of credible reports of forced labor and sex trafficking of Rohingya, did not open investigations to verify these reports. Despite widespread reports of child sex trafficking, including in licensed brothels, the government did not make efforts to identify victims or investigate the persistent reports. However, the report also stated that Bangladesh does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

Although human trafficking is a global problem, there are some certain countries where it takes place so much because of the very situation of those countries. Bangladesh is one of them. Bangladesh is one of the source countries as well as transit points for human trafficking. Interestingly, Cox's Bazar - one of districts of Bangladesh is a source district as well as a transit point of human trafficking for a long time for scores of factors - both push and pull factors.

Cox's Bazar Perspective of Human Trafficking

In Cox's Bazar, human trafficking is an ever-present threat to the vulnerable community people. The district is already known as a dreadful base for trafficking and organized crime groups. After Rohingya Influx in August 2017 and outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, vulnerability of people is increasing that resulted in increase of risk of human trafficking as well as of human trafficking cases since

perpetrators are targeting vulnerable people in Cox's Bazar. Trafficking of girls from the Rohingya camps often goes unchecked, which has complex effects in addition to violation of their basic human rights. The high crime rate is putting the locals in a vulnerable situation exposed to violence, drug abuse, trafficking and prostitution. Day by day vulnerability of people in this district of Bangladesh is increasing as new problems are adding up to the existing ones. On the other hand, the traffickers are adopting new strategies and techniques to entrap people into trafficking. Some of the major problems that are working as '*Push Factors*' for human trafficking in Cox's Bazar are pointed out below;

Geo-location Factor

Cox's Bazar is a district of Bangladesh. It lies on a coastal plain in the southeastern corner of Bangladesh. Cox's Bazar is located 150 km (93 mi) south of the divisional headquarter city of Chittagong.⁵ Cox's Bazar empties into the Bay of Bengal and is bordered with Myanmar. Its geographical location is both blessing and curse for its inhabitants. Traffickers use the Bay of Bengal to ship the vulnerable people to different destination countries particularly Malaysia, Thailand and exploit through trafficking.

Climate Change and Natural Disaster

Nearly every year people of Cox's Bazar are affected by natural catastrophes including flood and tornado devastating their belongings and causes economic and natural losses. The climate and topography of Cox's Bazar creates an environment where local communities are exposed to multiple natural hazards, and experience recurring extreme weather events. Vulnerable Bangladeshi communities in the district have long borne the brunt of cyclones, landslides and flash floods. The Rohingya crisis that occurred in August 2017 has increased the size of the population at risk and is driving the creation of new risks due to deforestation, hill-cutting, and infrastructure pressure. In actuality, the geo-location of Cox's Bazar has turned into a Push Factor for

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cox's_Bazar

Socioeconomic Factors

There are scores of socioeconomic factors for human trafficking in Cox's Bazar. The major ones are described below;

Limited Livelihood Scopes in the Host and Rohingya Communities

According to the World Bank report, the Unemployment Rate in Bangladesh is 4.00% percent in 2021.⁶ But, the actual unemployment rate in Cox's Bazar is more than 15%. There are no sustainable livelihood opportunities; there are no heavy mills and factors here in Cox's Bazar. There are some certain sectors like tourism, salt cultivation, fishing etc. which can merely provide a few job opportunities to the job seekers; most of them remain unemployed all the year. On the other hand, the existing livelihood sectors are very much dependent on the weather; natural calamities are very usual here in Cox's Bazar and these sectors are affected now and then. As a result, livelihood interruption and income decreases are very common and poverty severely strikes these vulnerable people here. Traffickers target these unemployed and vulnerable people and allure them in different ways e.g. job opportunities with higher salaries at home and abroad. They easily trust the traffickers as they do not have any idea to verify the offer the traffickers make to them. Many youths have given money to the traffickers with a hope to get better job opportunities at home and abroad. Ultimately they were deceived and exploited by the traffickers. After the Rohingya influx, the traffickers also targeted the vulnerable Rohingyas and made them victims of trafficking through exploitation. The father of a victim of trafficking in the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar said, "We are struggling to meet our everyday needs and there is no scope to get any job inside the camp. So, we [agreed to go] outside of the camp to work." They ended up receiving no payment after working long hours and being physically abused by an employer. "The stories we commonly hear are of vulnerable people being approached by traffickers with false promises of work and a better life. Some people simply do not realise the risks. Others may be aware it is dangerous, but feel their situation is so desperate that they are willing to take extreme measures, perhaps sacrificing one family member for the

⁶ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/unemployment-by-country>

sake of the rest of the family," said Dina Parmer, IOM's head of protection services in Cox's Bazar.⁷ Notably, after Rohingya influx and COVID-19, people have become more vulnerable to trafficking as the economic situation has deteriorated precariously here.

Low Education

The literacy rate in Bangladesh is 73.9%.⁸ Presently the literacy rate is 39.3 per cent in Cox's Bazar. Upazilas of Cox's Bazar districts are Chakaria, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Pekua, Ramu, Teknaf and Ukhiya. Of the Upazilas of Cox's Bazar districts, Ukhiya and Teknaf are the lowest where the Rohingya refugees are residing. The implications of education are two-fold-for locals; some schools are being used as military barracks to hold the soldiers. On the other hand, students are skipping colleges to work in the camps. Even some teachers have taken up jobs in humanitarian agencies as the agencies are offering higher salary to them. As a result, the education system has almost collapsed in Cox's Bazar particularly in and around the Rohingya camps. Education in Cox's Bazar is at-risk. Dropped out rate will highly increase. On other hand, there are more madrasas in Cox's Bazar district than in any other districts of Bangladesh. As they do not follow the mainstream educational curriculum, students after they pass out cannot get jobs. As a result, they become vulnerable and traffickers easily allure them for the purpose of trafficking.

Child Marriage, Dowry System & Security Issues

Child marriage is on the rise in the Rohingya refugee camps which is contributing to the risk of human trafficking. It is because of the change in marriage practices from military rule in Myanmar to practices in the camps in Bangladesh. There were almost no child marriages [in Myanmar]. The laws were very strict. It was very important to follow the military rules in Myanmar. But after coming to Bangladesh, child marriage has become a regular thing among the Rohingyas living in the camps. A lot of girls are getting married before the age of 18 since there are no specific rules for Rohingyas here.

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/girls-sold-forced-labour-largest-group-trafficking-victims-identified-iom>

⁸ Education in Bangladesh - Wikipedia

In order to arrange money of dowry for their girls, parents especially who have many marriageable girls are worried and they tend to earn money. The main challenge for them in this connection is that in the camp context there is not any occupation or regular job through which they can collect the required dowry amount. That is why they want to go out of camps and traffickers take the opportunity and get them exploited through forced labor or sexual exploitation. On the other hand, the prevalence of child marriage negatively contributes to the population growth in the host and Rohingya communities. As the girls are married off at their tender age, they start giving birth to children earlier than usual girls who are married after 18 years of age. It is an ultimate cause for over population growth in both the communities. Logically, resources and livelihood opportunities are very scarce for excessive population, and they remain vulnerable; traffickers capitalize the vulnerable of these people and exploit them easily. On the other hand, many parents are worried about the security of their girls and female members as they live in a very small and fragile, anyone can break into it and commit unexpected incidents. Therefore, worried parents want to marry off their girls to the acquaintances. Traffickers come up with the marriage proposal for those poor girls for the purpose of exploitation. In this way, many girls have evidently fallen prey to the traffickers and exploited eventually.

Non-punishment of Traffickers

Cases against human traffickers and middlemen are piling up due to shortage of judges in Cox's Bazar. From 2012 to July 2017, a total of 861 were filed under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 in Cox's Bazar, but none of them has been disposed of by the court so far. However, 37 cases were resolved socially. In section 24 of the anti-human trafficking act-2012, the time-limit to conclude the trail of a trafficking case is 180 working days from the date on which a charge for an offence under this Act has been framed. However, if the case is not complete, there is a provision for extension of 10 days upon a written report to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the Act is not practically enforced at the ground level for why cases of trafficking are on rise alarmingly. However, most of those facing

trial are not the main culprits. They are people recruited by middlemen or are boatmen. The main culprits are never arrested. Besides, it is difficult to prove the cases due to flawed investigation. It seems that law enforcement agencies lack sincerity. It is necessary to form a tribunal to dispose of the cases quickly.⁹ Although it is clearly mentioned in Section 21(1) in the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, there should be established a separated tribunal for Human Trafficking cases in every district of the country for the purpose of speedy trial of offences under the Act consisting of a judge of the rank of a Session Judge or Additional Session Judge. Yet, no sign of materialization of the instruction for establishment of such tribunal is visible. As a result, justice is delaying and people are getting frustrated. On the other hand, the convicted traffickers are indulged and continuing their trafficking business and general people are becoming victims of trafficking.

Family Pressure

Family pressure due to unhealthy socioeconomic competition as well as status symbol at the community level works as a push factor for human trafficking in Cox's Bazar. There are a very few people of Cox's Bazar who went to different countries like Malaysia before and are earning a handsome amount. Community people are evoked to migrate abroad for better chances as they are observing that the migrants are sending money and building nice buildings and their family members are solvent. The 'Push' comes from within the other family members to go abroad and earn alike the ones who are successful and sending money to their families.

Collapse of Tourism Industry

Bangladesh's tourism industry has been facing several challenges due to the Rohingya crisis and COVID-19. Cox's Bazar is one of the most beautiful and famous tourist spots in Bangladesh. Millions of foreigners and Bangladeshi people visit this city every year. Around 500 hotels, guest houses, 2000 food outlets and many tourism-based business houses and thousands of workers in the sector in the district are dependent on tourism. People are also involved in fishing and collecting seafood and sea products for their livelihood.

9. <https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/109989>

Oysters, snails, pearls and their ornaments are very popular with tourists. Some people are involved in transport business serving the tourists. Cox's Bazar is one of the few major spots for aquaculture in Bangladesh. Many people are involved in hospitality and customer service-orientated business. But, these people have become vulnerable, they do not have any alternative livelihoods available right now. On the other hand, they do not have any technical skills except the knowledge of their previous work which is a real barrier to earning. Traffickers are constantly alluring them with jobs of high salary. In the meantime, many frustrated youths have been exploited through trafficking.

Impacts of the Rohingya Crisis in Human Trafficking

Bangladesh experienced the biggest Rohingya exodus in 2017. Since August 25, 2017, more than 70,000 people from Myanmar are estimated to have crossed the border into Bangladesh to escape violence.¹⁰ They are living in Cox's Bazar in the camps and host community. However, the massive numbers of refugees who fled to Bangladesh in 2017 joined hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who had fled Myanmar in previous years. Due to presence of this over one million Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh especially host community people in and around the Rohingya camps and Rohingyas themselves are facing many challenges and problems, along with social, environmental, legal and financial impacts which are working as Push Factors for trafficking as well.

Illegal Citizenship/Nationality and Lose of International Labour Market

Many of the Rohingya refugees have managed to collect National Identity Document (NID) card of Bangladesh. In this case, a section of local elected community leaders/perpetrators have assisted them in exchange of money. Using the NID card, the Rohingya refugees are obtaining national benefits. Even some of them are going abroad as labor migrants there. In many cases, they fall in the traps of traffickers and suffer a lot.

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/situation-report-influx-2-sept-2017.pdf>

Over-Population, High Demographic Density and Insecurity

The camps in Cox's Bazar have an average population density of 40,000 inhabitants per square kilometer. There are a total of 33 camps under Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts of Cox's Bazar. In those camps, 877,710 individuals of Rohingya community are presently living.¹¹ They are densely living and per family size in the camps is four to seven members. The camp area for the densely populated community is really inadequate for their accommodation. On the other hand, population growth is high in the Rohingya community. In the subterfuge of culture and religion, they are reluctant to keep the family size small resulting in huge population growth. Many of them are so much concern about their family and feeling themselves vulnerable. Especially in the pandemic situations like COVID-19, if such infectious disease spreads among the people in the camps, it will be totally a disaster. The COVID-19 pandemic represents a grave threat to the Rohingya community.¹² On the other hand, shelters in which FDMNs live are hugely congested in the hilly areas of camps; there is hardly any water source to supply water to extinguish fire, if any mega fire disaster takes place. It is a serious matter of concern for many of the camp dwellers. To get rid of such anxieties as well as for safety of family members, they want to leave camps and perpetrators take up the opportunities to exploit them in the form of trafficking.

Xenophobia in the Host-Community

Total population of Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas is 355,794 - Ukhiya is 155187¹³ and Teknaf is 200607.¹⁴ Host-community people are less than half in number from Rohingya community in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. The habitants of Ukhiya observed an almost four-fold increase in total population due to the recent Rohingya influx. With this increase, the host community of Ukhiya has become a minority amongst the Rohingya refugees who form an estimated 76% of the total population in Ukhiya (see ACAPS/NPM Analysis Hub, 2018).

11. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85395>

12. The COVID-19 pandemic represents a grave threat to the Rohingya community

13. http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Ukhia_Upazila

14. http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=Teknaf_Upazila

The host community and Rohingya refugee are living in close proximity. They interact with each other every day. Usually the Rohingya people are demonstrating muscle power and dominating attitude among the Rohingyas is gradually increasing which is resulting in xenophobia among the host community people. It is easily comprehended that they have become minority in their own land and are cornered presently. Many of the host-community people are considering the environment unsafe for their family members particularly women and girls. Therefore, they are looking for better life. The traffickers are grasping this opportunity alluring them with promises of better living at home and abroad; eventually many of them have been exploited and many other are at-risk of human trafficking.

YPSA's Interventions on Counter Trafficking Issues

After Rohingya Influx in August 2017, the situation of human trafficking became worse as the perpetrators became more active. They started applying new techniques to trafficking people for the purpose of exploitation. In that very context, YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) took up initiatives to prevent human trafficking in Cox's Bazar. Based on the previous experiences on Counter Trafficking issues, YPSA started working on prevention and protection to counter trafficking under the project titled '*Prevention and Response Activities Implementation on Counter Trafficking Issues*' in host and Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar since June, 2018. YPSA works in five unions of Ukhiya upazila, the unions include Rajapalong, Jaliyapalong, Palongkhali, Ratnapalong & Haldiyapalong.

YPSA has identified a total of 426 trafficked victims from March 2019 to February 2021 and have been enrolled into the YPSA-Interventions. The identified victims include both Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya people - Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN's) to Bangladesh.

Out of the total identified trafficked victims, 322 persons belong to the host community while 104 persons are Rohingyas. In Host Community, all of the 322 cases were found through self-referral. For example, YPSA got many cases through different sensitizing activities including comic sessions, Courtyard sessions & Radio Play

Sessions conducted in the host community and Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. YPSA conducts street drama in various locations, with the aim of raising awareness about human trafficking. On the other hand, YPSA also received many cases through the sub-district and union parishad Counter Trafficking Committees including local UP members and Chairman in the host community. In the camps, relatives, neighbors, Majhis and protection actors referred the victims of trafficking to YPSA. Most of the cases came through self-referral - the victims themselves came to the YPSA staff and shared what had happened with them. Camp-in-Charge, site management, protection actors also referred some victims to YPSA. On receipt of information, YPSA-CT Team met and interviewed the victim and their families inside the camps.

VOT Case Analysis

Exploitation is the indicator to determine the victims of trafficking. Through analysis of the cases of the identified victims of the trafficking,

- | 208 people have been victimized because of Economic Problem and Unemployment.
- | 96 people have been victimized because of Economic Problem.
- | 51 people have been victimized because of Unemployment and Seeking better job.
- | 37 people have been victimized because of Deception or False promises.
- | 4 people have been victimized because of Threat or Force.
- | 14 people have been victimized because of Family or Personal Problems.
- | Others-16.

Present Address/Locations of VOTs

YPSA identified 426 victims of trafficking (VOT) from March 2019 to February 2021. They are the members of the host and Rohingya communities of Cox's Bazar district. Out of them, 106 victims belong to the Rohingya community and 320 victims are Bangladeshi nationals. Below is the chart presenting status of VOTs as per their original locations.

Location of VoTs	Number of VoTs
Rajapalong, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar	144
Jaliyapalong, UKhiya, Cox's Bazar	113
Palongkhali, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar	28
Haldiyapalong, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar	18
Ratnapalong, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar	17
Camp-18	24
Camp-09	23
Camp-8W	17
Camp-10	10
Camp-15	07
Camp-16	06
Camp-19	05
Camp-17	03
Camp-20Ex	05
Camp-20	03
Camp-14	03
Total	426

Although all the unions of Ukhiya have victims of trafficking but Rajapalong and Jaliyapalong unions have the highest number of victims. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and strong interest in foreign countries have been seen as the reasons for this. Also the people of this region easily fall into the clutches of brokers due to the tendency to get rich in a short time. On the other hand, due to the geographical location, the incidence of trafficking is higher in Jaliyapalong Union. Similarly, the number of victims in Palongkhali Union is significant. Among the eleven Rohingya camps under Ukhiya sub-district where victims are identified, there are the most victims in camp 18 and the second in camp 9.

Category of Victims

The identified victims had been through different problems before they were victimized and exploited. Cause analysis aims to see the background of trafficking. Through analysis of the cases, six causes responsible for trafficking have been identified that worked as

factors for trafficking of the identified victims. The causes are presented below;

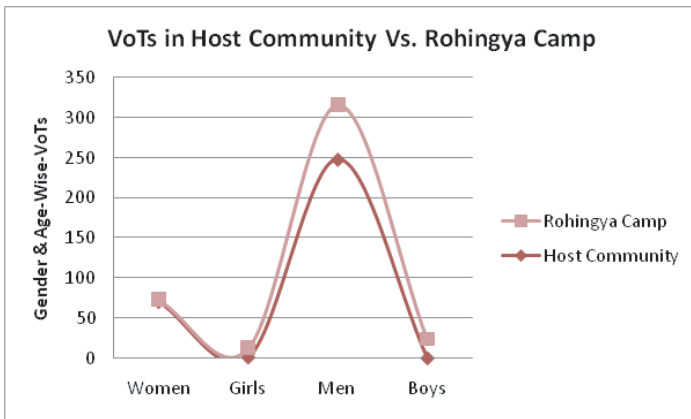
Causes of Trafficking	Women	Girls	Men	Boys	Total
Economic Problem	55	5	170	21	251
Economic problem and Unemployment	04	0	98	0	102
Unemployment and seeking better job	02	0	35	0	37
Deception or False Promises	14	7	08	1	30
Threat or Force	0	0	03	0	03
Others	0	0	03	0	03
Total	75	12	317	22	426

Most men were trafficked because of economic problems and unemployment. They have been suffering from poverty for a long time due to unemployment and job crisis in the country. As a result, they were eager to go abroad to get rid of this poverty. On the other hand, almost all of the victims were illiterate, so they had no idea about unsafe immigration. As Cox's Bazar is a coastal region, education has not spread widely here. Due to the large family population here, economic problems play a major role in increasing trafficking. Some had expectations of a better job than the current one. Many victims of trafficking were affected by brokers, because the brokers assured them of a lot of money paying jobs. In addition to economic problems, unemployment is playing a major role in increasing trafficking.

Community and Gender wise VoT Analysis

The identified victims of trafficking belong to two communities - host community (Bangladeshi nationals) and Rohingya community (Myanmar Nationals), and they are men, women, boys and girls. Below is the analysis why people of different ages and gender of the both communities have become victims of trafficking among the identified 426 persons.

Gender & Age-Wise-VoTs	Host Community	Rohingya Community
Women	71	2
Girls	2	11
Men	248	68
Boys	1	23

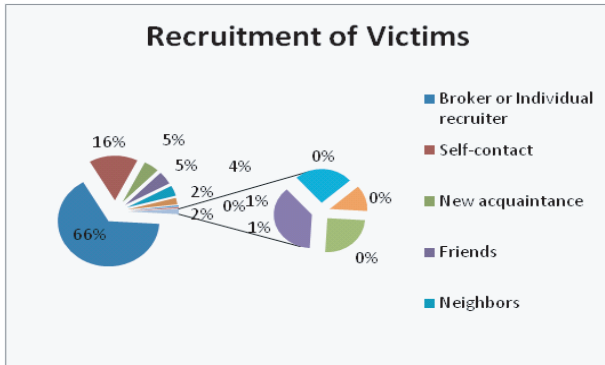


Men and women make up the majority of the identified victims of trafficking. Men in the host community have been the most victimized, because men are responsible for maintain their families. So when they go looking for work, they fall into the grips of brokers and have easily been trafficked. Moreover, almost all of the victims are illiterate, which makes them easily believe in the words of a broker. They think their economic situation will change if they go abroad. On the other hand, the broker cycle offers women the job of domestic workers abroad. There they are shown the temptation to pay good salaries and ample opportunities. So they easily fall into the broker's trap. Men as well as women were trafficked in alarming ways. Most of these women went abroad to work as domestic workers due to poverty. Many of the trafficked women were widowed, divorced or separated. As a result, they were trafficked to work abroad through brokers in order to fulfill their family responsibilities.

Who the Primary Recruiters Are

Trafficking is a processed criminal offence that starts from recruitment. A network of criminals is involved in human trafficking. Basically recruiters reach the potential victims of trafficking based on an existing relationship or a fresh relationship. Recruitment in human trafficking is done through individual or institutional efforts. The brokers firstly build trust with the vulnerable persons. In order to develop trust in the potential victims, even traffickers communicate with, convince or influence others like family member, neighbours, community leaders, friends, relatives to make the potential victim

believe that the offers they are make is reliable and genuine. When the potential victims find that other people are also saying that the traffickers/brokers are trustworthy, they agree on the proposal made by the traffickers, and are exploited subsequently.



Out of 426 victims of trafficking, 280 persons received the most offers through brokers and were exploited. Brokers came to them with various temptations. Sometimes the employer himself showed the victim various temptations. 67 persons themselves contacted the broker in hopes of getting a better job as well as a better life and were exploited. New acquaintance affected 21 persons. 20 persons were entrapped into trafficking by their own friends. 16 persons were victimized by their neighbors. 10 persons were received by their family members. Rests of the 12 persons were trafficking and exploited by relatives, recruiting agencies relatives, NGO workers and others.

Location of Exploitation

Among the Identified victims of trafficking, there are victims exploited internally and externally. Out of the 426 VOTs, 301 VOTs were trafficked and exploited in foreign countries and 125 VoTs within the territory of Bangladesh.

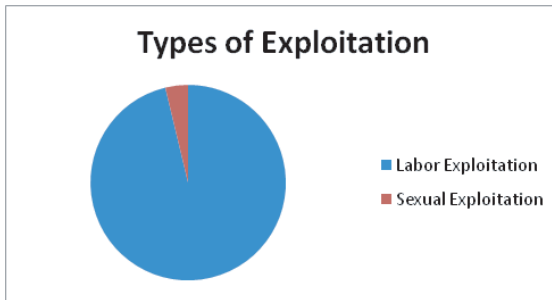
Location of Exploitation	No. of Victims	Location of Exploitation	No. of Victims
Malaysia	91	Cox's Bazar	61
Saudi Arabia	66	Chittagong	46
Dubai	51	Dhaka	5
Oman	51	Bandorban	6
Thailand	4	Feni	1

Location of Exploitation	No. of Victims	Location of Exploitation	No. of Victims
Qatar	23	Gazipur	5
Jordan	4	Rangamati	1
India	2		
Iraq	4		
Lebanon	1		
Nepal	1		
Brunei	1		
Kuwait	1		
Seychelles	1		
Total	301		

Victims have been most exploited in Malaysia because it is so easy for people in Cox's Bazar to go to Malaysia by the water route in the Bay of Bengal. The seas are very close here, so they are keen to travel to Malaysia by sea in a short time and at a low cost. The brokers took this opportunity and traffic them into Malaysia. Especially in this way men go to Malaysia more and suffer exploitation. Saudi Arabia is the second destination country in terms of exploitation. Women are trafficked more in Saudi Arabia than in any other countries. There they have been victims of labor and sexual exploitation both. In addition, both men and women were trafficked to Dubai, Oman and elsewhere in hopes of working. Demand for women domestic workers is very high in these countries. Women have been more victimized than men in Dubai and Oman, because there is a huge demand for Bangladeshi female domestic workers. Also, countries like Qatar and Jordan have a demand for Bangladeshi domestic workers because they can be made to work for a relatively lower salary. There is a lot of trafficking in the country except abroad. There is also a lot of trafficking and exploitation in places like Teknaf, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar and other parts of Bangladesh.

Types of Exploitation

Through the case analysis, identified victims were found to be exploited in two ways - labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. Out of 426 VOTs, 410 persons were victims of labor exploitation and 16 persons were exploited sexually.



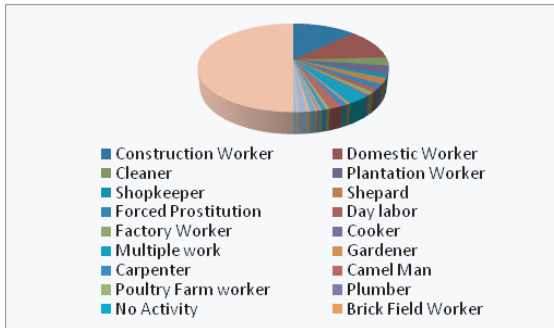
Labor exploitation is the most common among the victims. Most of the victims go abroad to work, and there the owner breaks the contract and makes them work extra hours. The employer doesn't pay them the salary they deserve, but forces them to work and deprives them of their basic rights. In this way, a victim is subjected to labor exploitation. On the other hand, many of the women who leave the country as domestic workers are subjected to sexual exploitation by the owners. For example, they were taken from the country as domestic workers, but after moving abroad, the owner sold them in brothel. Even the owner himself sexually abused them. Some women are subjected to both types of exploitation - sexual and labor. Going through brokers in different countries, both men and women were victims of labor exploitation. Through them for a long time their owners did different kinds of work.

Type of Work

Traffickers engaged the male victims mostly in the casual - non-technical activities and female ones in the commercial sexual and domestic activities. Below is the chart of engagement and exploitation of the identified victims of trafficking.

Activity Name	Number of VoTs
Construction Worker	107
Domestic Worker	77
Multiple Work	36
Brick Field Worker	24
Camel Man	19
Cleaner	16
Plantation Worker	15
Forced Prostitution	11

Activity Name	Number of VoTs
Shopkeeper	10
Shepard	10
Cultivation	10
Day labor	06
Factory Worker	08
Cooker	02
Gardener	03
Carpenter	06
Poultry Farm worker	07
Plumber	06
No Activity	07
Wood Cutter	06
Sweeper	02
Tailor	04
Driver	01
Electronics Worker	08
Fisherman	02
Garage Worker	04
Porter	01
Workshop Worker	01
Guard & Cooker	02
Water Supplier	01
Waiter	04
Ship Breaking	02
Cow Boy	01
Boat Repairing worker	01
Track Helper	01
Carpenter	02
Garments Worker	01
Supplier	01
Electronic Worker	01
Total	426



Most of the identified victims have been exploited in the construction and domestic work. Although, they were shown temptations for the lucrative jobs before going abroad but they were given various risky jobs after moving abroad. The most common of these is construction work. They were forced to do this. Women are more often taken as domestic workers. Many times the women are forcibly forced into prostitution by the employers. However, both men and women did different kinds of work abroad. Women were told to work as domestic worker with handsome salary as well as to work only eight hours a day. But the reality was different. The women were sexually abused by their owners, and many were even forced into prostitution. Again many male victims went to work as plantation workers, cleaners, shepherds and even factory workers becoming victims of labor exploitation.

How Women were motivated

Women are motivated in many ways. The socio-economic condition in Cox's Bazar is poor. Due to poverty, they have easily fallen into the traps of brokers. In addition to poverty, malnutrition, family strife, high ambition and various social barriers motivated women to go abroad. According to the case analysis of the victims, most of the women going abroad are widowed or divorced. Such women are deprived of various basic rights. They suffer from money and housing crisis. Moreover, such women were usually oppressed in the society. Everyone in the society looked and frowned at them differently. In such situation, these women felt insecurity and saw no hope for themselves and their families ahead. Observing the vulnerability of the women, the brokers approached and offered them

lucrative jobs home and abroad. Even brokers motivated women by showing them the temptation of marriage and marry them. After marriage, brokers took them to different places for visitation where they actually sold them to other traffickers or in brothels. Some women are attracted to glittering life and become trafficked. They thought that in addition to going abroad and living an independent life, they would become very rich in a short time. As a result, they were easily caught by the traffickers.

How Men were Motivated

Men were more likely to be trafficked by the temptation of a job. Out of their high ambition, some of them wanted to change their current positions. At this point the broker motivated them through various temptations. Moreover, they were motivated to see the expatriates of their neighbors who had gone abroad before through brokers and succeeded in life. In fact, the number of the successful migrants who went overseas through the broker is very low. They are being trafficked after receiving a job offer and they are shown the temptation to pay higher wages at the job place, while also offering free food and accommodation. Most importantly, they wanted to get rid of unemployment, and brokers took this opportunity. Most victims thought that going abroad would solve their economic problems and that they would be able to live luxurious lives. Their brokers promised to provide them with good visas for a small amount. In this case, the brokers used to shelter many frauds. They were told that working abroad is very easy, there is no labor but the salary is high. They simply believed it and were trafficked. Geographical location also played an important role in the trafficking of man. As most of the victims went to Malaysia illegally by sea, the brokers promised to deliver them for free or low cost. As a result, they easily fell into the clutches of the trafficking cycle.

Conculsion and Recommendation

From both the sociopolitical and socioeconomic perspectives, the factors - Push and Pull for trafficking in both the communities of Bangladeshi Nationals and Myanmar Nationals (Rohingyas) presently living in Cox's Bazar certainly differ to a great extent. Therefore, measures of both prevention and protection of human

trafficking in both the communities can never be the same logically. Keeping in the contexts of both the communities, the following recommendations are made to reduce risks of human trafficking as well as to ensure protection of the victims of trafficking in Cox's Bazar.

- 1 Government and non-government agencies should continuously disseminate awareness messages on counter trafficking issues through different means like community consultation meeting, media messaging in the host and Rohingya communities so that a sustainable community based prevention mechanism develops.
- 1 Identify the at-risk persons of human trafficking and bring them under different social safe net program of government as well as tag them with different development program of different non-government agencies.
- 1 Counter Trafficking Committees (CTCs) at all tiers of administration including central, district, sub-district and union parishad should be made more accountable in line with their Roles and Responsibilities mentioned in the National Plan of Action (NPA) 2018 to 2022 of Bangladesh Government.
- 1 Establish the Special Tribunal to dispose of the pending 861 cases on a priority basis and to trial the human trafficking case.
- 1 Advocacy at the government level should be enhanced to allow livelihood activities for sustainability inside the Rohingya camps that will ease anxiety and economic uncertainty among the FDMNs.
- 1 Passport office, DEMO office and other institutes connected to migration should be more careful about detecting fraudulence/ forged documents made by trafficker in order for transferring the vulnerable to the destination countries.
- 1 Consistent legal drives to find out those who have already collected Bangladeshi NID illegally, and those, who collaborate them in this connection, should immediately be made. Under the existing legal framework, all the concerned engaged in these illegal activities must be punished so that others do not dare to commit such offences in the future. This effort will reduce the risks and cases of human trafficking in Cox's Bazar.

- 1 Reintegration assistances of both government and non-government should be enhanced for reintegrating the victims of trafficking to save them from being re-victimized and this effort should continue too.
- 1 Create job opportunities for women by facilitating business opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both the communities.
- 1 Private vessels and fishing boats in the costal areas of Cox's Bazar should be monitored by the law enforcement agencies. In this regard, records or numbering of these vessels and fishing boats should be made official so that their movement can be tracked and owners of those can be made accountable for any incidents of human trafficking, if occur.
- 1 Child marriage should be stopped through legal efforts and creation of consciousness about bad effects of early marriage both in host and Rohingya communities.
- 1 Family planning mechanism should immediate be reactivated in both the communities to contain the population growth as well as to reduce the risk and cases of human trafficking in Cox's Bazar.

Abbreviation

CT	: Counter Trafficking
CTC	: Counter Trafficking Committee
COVID 19	: Coronavirus Disease 2019
DEMO	: District Employment and Manpower Office
FDMN	: Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
NID Card	: National Identity Document Card
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
NPA	: National Plan of Action
RRRC	: Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
TIP	: Trafficking in Persons
VOT	: Victim of Trafficking
YPSA	: Young Power in Social Action

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