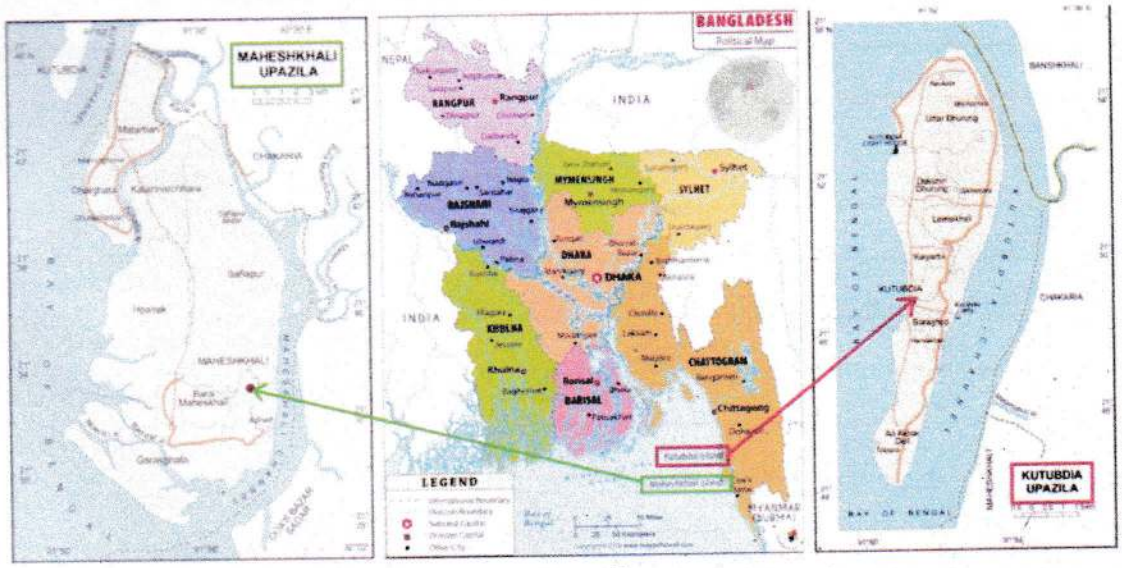
Report on Unemployment Status and Health Issues of Salt Bed Workers: A Study at Kutubdia and Maheshkhali Island, Cox's Bazar.



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Abstract

In Bangladesh, salt is a must needed product for our own daily demands as well as for country's other industries. Kutubdia and Maheshkhali are promising area for producing salt. Despite having cultivable opportunity in these areas, the people who are involved with occupation for a long time since are unfortunately faces seasonal unemployment and the bitter consequences. Besides diseases related to salt cultivation are also additional hazards to them. Aiming to assess the seasonal unemployment of the salt workers and their health hazards had been studied in these areas. The study was conducted with 100 questionnaires survey from where primary data were collected. Besides, 2 Key Informant Interviews (KII), 8 Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were also conducted to get precise data. Most of the people of these areas have been living for on an average 35yrs to 45yrs and their average family size is 8. Additionally, most of them have primary education. However, there are also illiterate as well as higher secondary educated people. This study has been found that, respondents from both of the study areas earn an average BDT 1,00,000. However, during the off season period respondents' used to be involved with daily laboring, fishing, mason and so on. Where, daily laboring and fishing are the most preferable off season occupation. For a certain period of time migration to Chittagong or nearby areas is a must needed for people of these areas. Despite of employment discontinuity people are involved with this occupation for a long time being. It is because these two islands are promising for salt cultivation. The study has been found the occupational health hazards e.g. back pain and sun burn are very common health problems. As a result, average BDT (6000-8000) health treatment costs add another suffering to the people of these areas during salt cultivation period. On the contrary, local pharmacy and local doctor become easy and cheap options to get treatment for these areas' people. Lack of logistics supports from the govt. and indifferences of providing medical support and considering standard value of salt selling to the market has enhanced a merciless life to the people of these areas.

Key words: Salt Cultivations, Salt workers, Unemployment, Health Hazards, Off Season Occupations, Migration.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The coastal region of Bangladesh covers about 20% of total land area and over 30% of the cultivable lands of the country. The coastal region comprising southwestern, central and southeastern parts of Bangladesh is home to around 40 million people, which are nearly one fourth of the total population (around 160 million) of the country. Coastal areas are highly vulnerable due to climate change. The different types of Climatic Impacts are-floods/flash floods, sea level rise, tidal surge, cyclones and storm surges, salinity water intrusion, extreme temperature and drought. Due to these factors there is an average elevation of 3 meter from the sea level. The coastal people have experienced severe cyclones in the past (1970, 1991, 1994, 2007, 2009, 2013 etc.), while most of them maintain their livelihoods through fishing in the Bay of Bengal (Hossain, 2001). In addition, cultivation of crops and salt cultivation, fish drying etc. are also remarkably practiced in the coastal region. Coastal natural resources in the Cox's Bazaar coast of Bangladesh have been used for multiple purposes including salt production and have strongly influenced socio-economic development. Participatory rapid appraisal was utilized to elucidate the major sources of livelihood for coastal communities associated with the different land uses; these included sea salt production and trading, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, fish drying.

Salt production in the coastal region is a common phenomenon which has a significant contribution in the national economy. It is carried out normally during August-March. Salt is perhaps the only mineral that is used by virtually every human being. In Bangladesh salt is produced from sea water by solar and lixiviation process in the coastal areas of the districts of Chittagong, Cox's bazaar, Noakhali, Barishal and Khulna and the adjoining offshore islands. Lixiviation processes are being practiced in Noakhali, Barishal and Khulna districts. But the units in Cox's bazaar account for the manufacture of about 95% of the total production of the country. This profile is prepared on the basis of the solar process.

Salt farming is overwhelmingly concentrated in Cox's Bazaar district where 15% of total rural households of the district are salt farmers. They meet bulk of the demand for raw salt in the country.

Salt Cultivation Process

The sea salt production by evaporation is mainly dry season dependent. In longer dry season the salt farmers can get higher production. The climate of Bangladesh is far from ideal for a seawater evaporation industry, because average annual rainfall is high. Most of the rainfall, however, is concentrated in one six-month wet season leaving about 3 months when rain seldom falls, and about 3 more months when rainfall is light. The dry season in Bangladesh is around 6 months, from November until April. In such a climate the salt farmers get higher production, which decreases if the rains start earlier. After raining, the salinity of condensers and crystallizers start to decrease. So, farmers need to wait some more days before harvesting. But continuous rain, even very low rainfall, makes the entire area unfavorable for salt production. The salt pans may also flood with rainwater, as they are shallow. The quality of solar salt produced by the farmers is poor. It contains insoluble in the range 5-12% wt. while the content of NaCl is in the range 70-80% wt., and moisture 10-15% wt. This salt often termed as washing in salt refineries refines the crude salt and the refined washed salt is sold in the market for human consumption **(Hossain, 2006)** The good quality refined salt contains insoluble up to 1.0% wt. Insoluble include clay, sand, shells, fish dropping and scales etc.

The ideal weather condition for salt production is when there is low rainfall and high evaporation rates. In the case of Bangladesh, such weather condition prevails between the months of late November and early May of the following year. Salt farmers are mostly poor and operate on a small scale. Most of them temporarily lease the land for 1 year from landowners or through middlemen. Very few farmers have their own land. The farmers sell their raw salt directly to the traders or sometimes through the middlemen in the local market.

The salt farmers work under adverse condition. They are in close proximity to the open sea and often face all the hazards coming from the sea. Sometimes the whole output is washed away by heavy rain and shore surge because of lack of storage facility. Also, they don't get the right price. Sometimes the middlemen create artificial crisis of money shortage and stop buying. But the farmers need to sell the salts even at a lower price to maintain their daily common demands. Besides these, financing is the main problems of salt farmers in producing salt.

The salt workers have a definite mindset about the way salt is to be produced and are not willing to change it. Hence it would have been affected their health, they are still following primitive methods and layout of the Salt works is outdated. Health related problems to human in nature, but artificial health problem is avoidable from working environment through the technological development and proper machines handling. Looking at the large number of salt workers exposed to salt and facing occupational health problems like prevalence of ophthalmic symptoms, dermatological symptoms like headache, giddiness, breathlessness, muscular and joint pains **(Mamun, 2014).** The ophthalmic problems were most common, probably due to irritation by direct sunlight and its glare caused by salt crystals to brine as well as irritation, traumatic ulcers, dermatitis, muscular and joint pains, headache and giddiness were other more common symptoms to salt workers.

Salt has been produced traditionally along the Cox's Bazaar coast of Bangladesh. The experience of local people provides a valuable insight into issues associated with sea salt production. Sea salt production has the economic and environmental aspects of cost and benefits. The farmers in this coast do not obtain a higher yield and economic return due to a short dry season and use of mechanized equipment. Government land leasing policy usually pay very little attention to farmers' opinions resulting in extortion by landlords and an unsustainable situation for subsistence salt producers **(Hossain, 2006)**

Farmer's has to suffer various social and health status of the workers depending on salt production to support their livelihood. They live with minimal source of income as well as there is lack of social and health security.

1.2. Justification of the Study

Salt is an essential industrial commodity of Bangladesh. According to National Salt Policy, 2011, this sector annually contributes Tk.300 to Tk.350 cores to the national economy and employs about half a million people directly or indirectly in the different stages like production, refining, preservation, storing and marketing of salt. Availability of raw material (sea water), squeezing scope of paddy farming in the growing salinity prone areas and better earning opportunity are the main factors that promoted salt production especially in the Southeast coastal areas. Records show that nearly 45,000 salt farmers operated on 64,000 acres of land in the country, overwhelmingly concentrated in Cox's Bazar, especially in Kutubdia and Maheshkhali Island that contribute around 95 per cent of country's crude salt production. When this production is vital, salt workers should get proper wages and facilities. However, some reasons responsible for tending this group of people to a vulnerable economic as well as risky health condition. That's the focal point of this study to bring out the possible factors to identify.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify the economic problems of salt workers in Kutubdia and Maheshkhali
- To investigate the seasonal unemployment of the saltworkers and their adjustment during unemployment/lean period at Kutubdia and Maheshkhali.
- To explore health related issues of the saltworkers.
- To explore options to ensure health safety of the saltworkers.
- To put probable suggestions to overcome the problems of salt cultivation.

CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

2.1. Study Area

Study area is located in Kutubdia and Maheshkhali Island; those are located in the South Eastern part of Bangladesh known as Cox's Bazar. There are eight Upazillas under the Cox's Bazar district, and Kutubdia Upazila and Maheshkhali are two of them. Kutubdia Island is created by tidal, supra tidal and fluvial processes of river Ganges. The topography is particularly mudflat, sandy and gentle slope. Cyclone and storm surges are the most common and frequent disaster of Kutubdia Upazila which causes a lot of sufferings for the inhabitants. Kutubdia Island consists of six unions named- Ali Akbar Dail, North Dhurung, South Dhurung, Lemshikhali, Kaiarbil, Baraghope. It has 58,463 households and a total area of 215.8 square kilometers (83.3 sq mi). Kutubdia is rich in producing salt and dried fish. An Island off the coast of Cox's Bazar. It has an area of 268 square kilometers. Maheshkhali Island consists of eight unions named- Bara Maheskhali,ChhotaMaheskhali, Dhalghata, Hoanak, Kalarmarchhara, Kutubjom, Matarbari, Saflapur. Through the Centre of the island and along the eastern coastline rises a range of low hills, 300 feet high. Maheshkhali has an average literacy rate.

The climate of Bangladesh is mostly determined by its location in the tropical monsoon region: high temperature, heavy rainfall, generally excessive humidity, and distinct seasonal variations. The annual average temperature in Cox's Bazar remains at about a maximum of 34.8 °C (94.6 °F) and a minimum of 16.1 °C (61.0 °F). The average amount of rainfall remains at 3,524 mm (138.7 in). Kutubdia and Maheshkhali are extremely prone to natural disaster mostly cyclone. In the cyclone of 1991 least 138,000 people were killed with around 22,000 dead in Kutubdia. At least 3,447 deaths were reported in Kutubdia and Maheshkhali areas of Bangladesh, mainly owing to the storm surge. Many people lost their dearest ones in the cyclone of 1991. In other severe cyclone people of this area lost their property.

Nearly 6% of the labor forces are without employment; the highest incidence of unemployment is found among shrimp farmers (12.6%) and the lowest among

medium (1.004.00 acres) farmers (2.6%). These farmers cultivate their own land and also rent in land from other farmers. Non-utilization of available manpower, calculated on the basis of man-days available but not used, is 16%. Again, the extent of non-utilization is the highest among shrimp farmers (20%), followed by the landless (18%) and farmers of all size classes around 15% (14.9% to 15.5%).

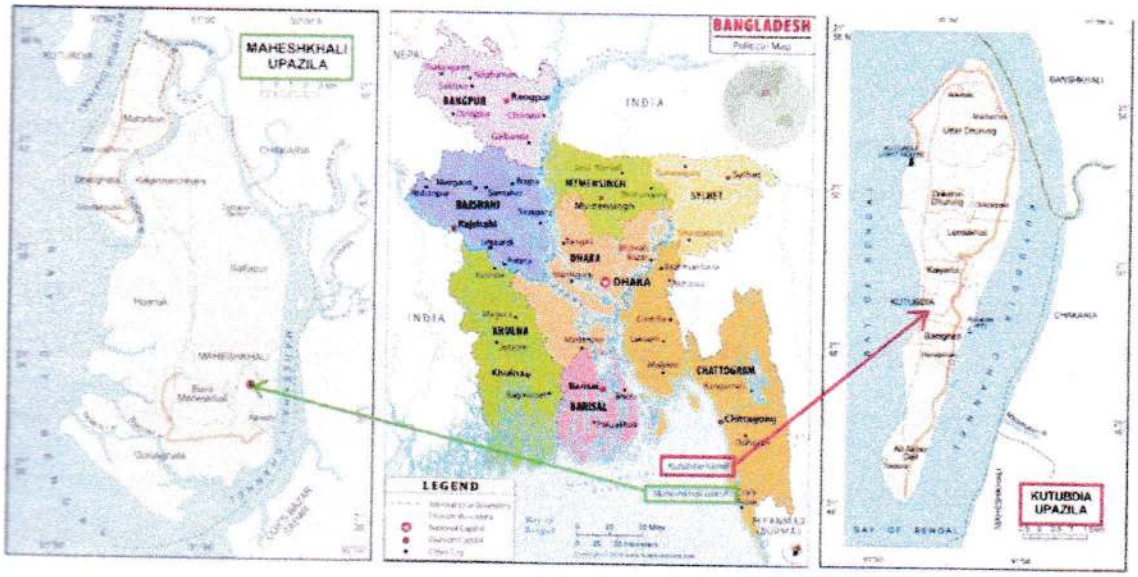

Figure 2.1: Map of Kutubdia and Maheshkhali Upazila

Labor employment in the informal labor market where the family household is the unit of labor supply does not allow the transformation of under-employment into explicit unemployment. As shrimp cultivation has forward linkage with competitive exchange market, it wills hire-labor to the extent necessary for a given output. Thus, under-employment or disguised unemployment will be gradually replaced by open unemployment. In Maheshkhali island 150 handloom industry and some small scale and cottage industry as dry fish processing and pottery industry.

Kutubdia is underdeveloped. Here literacy rate is 34% which is very low compared to the national average. They also have limited access to social facilities. The health and hygiene condition were also poor at one time. Most common occupation of this study area is- fishing and salt farming. But fishing is gradually being abandoned due to shrinkage of arable land. Salt farmers are not getting fair price of their

products as the price of salt has declined drastically at the growers' level after a bumper production this year. Maheshkhali is mainly famous for pan. The people of this island live on boat, fishing, dry fish processing.

In Bangladesh, the government has a policy of providing loans to salt bed workers. But the formalities of government banks are complicated, and the amount offered is insufficient for land preparation and equipment purchase. So, some farmers take loans from the salt-trading middlemen on condition of giving salt at a lower price after harvesting. The farmers lease the land from landowners, or sometimes from the government, on a yearly basis. Most of the salt farms are small-scale using manually operated local equipment. All the family members actively participate in farm operation. The sea salt production by evaporation is mainly dry season dependent. In longer dry season the salt farmers can get higher production.

2.2. Methods

The study was conducted in two different Upazilla of Cox's Bazaar- Kutubdia, Maheshkhali. To facilitate the study the required data were collected through primary sources as well as secondary sources. Primary data were collected through questionnaire survey, Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD). 100 questionnaires with was designed to capture the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents with 8 KIIs and 2 FGDs. Primary data were be collected through conversation and face to face Interviews with the local people/ salt farmers (households, individuals). KII (Key Informant Interviews) were done by discussing with the UP Member, Representative from Salt Farmers Association, Local administration- UNO, representative from BSIC and Local Medical Officer. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were done with Farmers, Salt Workers' Association and Day Labors. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) had been done by an open discussion with the rural salt bed workers community. But the major source of information for the study was the primary data. For collecting secondary data, primarily internet and also research articles, published materials of BSCIC, and newspapers have been studied. This study is descriptive and qualitative in nature.

Table 2.2: Data Collection Methods

Methods	Number of participants	Description
Questionnaire Survey	**100** (salt farmers)	• Socioeconomic characteristics of the salt farmers • Seasonal unemployment problems and occupational health hazards
Key Informant Interview (KII)	**8**	
	UP Member (1)	Occupational Status
	Representative from Salt Farmers Association (1)	• Salt selling price • Middleman impact
	Local administration-UNO (1)	• Occupational health hazards • Seasonal unemployment • Govt initiatives • Minimum wages • Solidity during unemployment period • Low interest rate money loaning
	Representative from BSIC (1)	
	Local Medical Officer (1)	• How often does the salt farmer visit them? • What are the common diseases?
	Local Pharmacist (1)	
	Local Homeopathy Doctor (1)	
	Local Traditional Medicine Doctor (1)	
Focused Group	2 Salt Farmers each FGD	• Ways of minimizing the problems

Discussion (FGD)	contained 20 people, Total 40 people	• Potential recommendation to reduce acute problems of seasonal unemployment of salt farmers

2.3. Statistical analysis of the data

The statistical analysis of the data is done by Microsoft Excel.

2.4. Flowchart of the research

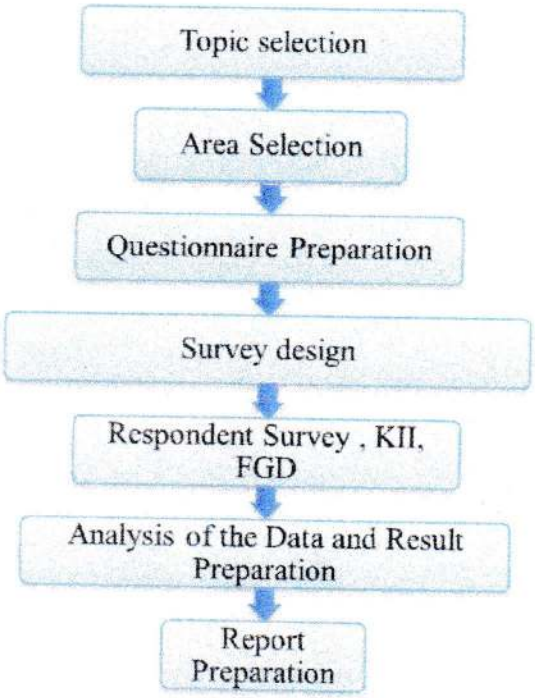

Figure 2.2: Flowchart of the research

CHAPTER III

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Residence Period

Most of the respondents both *Kutubdia* and *Maheshkhali* have been living here for 20 years. A few respondents from *Kutubdia* have been living here for more than 50 years where their grandparents first started to live in this island. On the other hand, few numbers of respondents of the hill island *Maheshkhali* have been living for less than 10 years. These two islands have been providing shelters people more than 50 years.

The graphs reveal that though people had started to live in these both of island for more than 50 years, most of the people of these area have been living for on an average 35yrs to 45yrs.

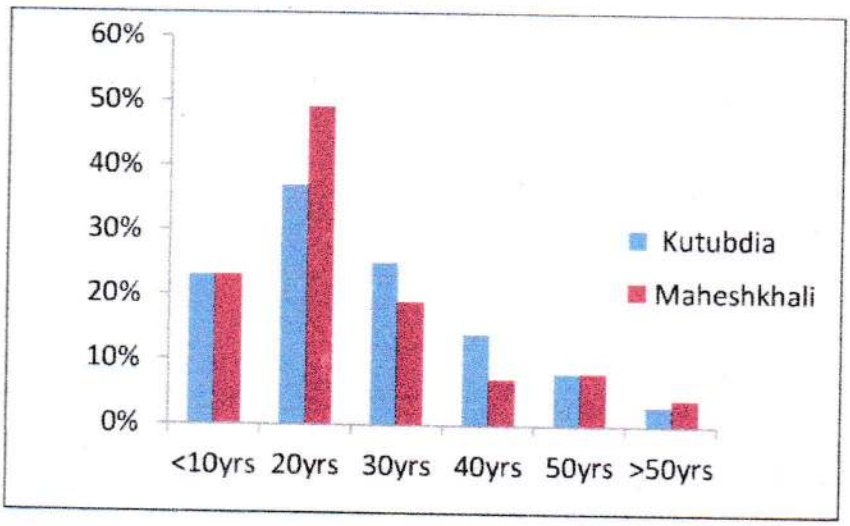

Figure 3.1: Period of residence of the respondents

3.2. Family Size of the Study Area

In *Kutubdia*, Maximum (27%) respondents' families members are 6 and second large (20%) are 8. Whereas in *Maheshakhali* 35% respondents' family's members are 8 and 27% of respondents' families members are 4. Around (10-15) % of the respondents' family size is 10 and only few less than 5% of the respondents' family size is more than 10. It has been observed that, average family size of these areas' respondents is 8.

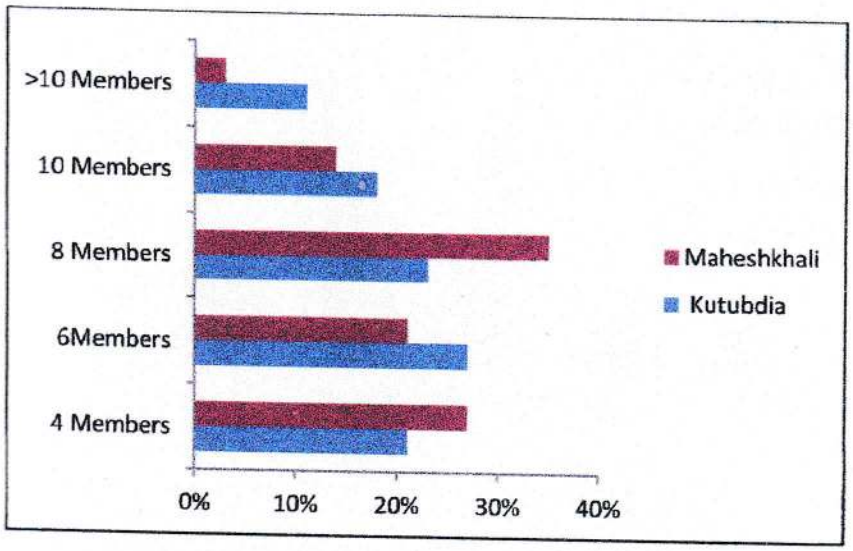

Figure 3.2: Respondents' family size of *Kutubdia* and *Maheshkhali*

3.3. Education

Maximum (45%) respondents of the *Kutubdia* have completed primary education. 18% of the respondents have secondary education. 15% of the respondents are illiterate and rests of the respondents have S. S. C and H. S. C education standards. In *Maheshkhali* maximum (32%) respondents have completed primary education. 35% of the respondents have secondary education. A few of the respondents have S. S. C and H. S. C. Only 12% of the respondents are illiterate.

Generally, most of the respondents have primary education of both of study areas. However, there are also illiterate as well as higher secondary educated people.

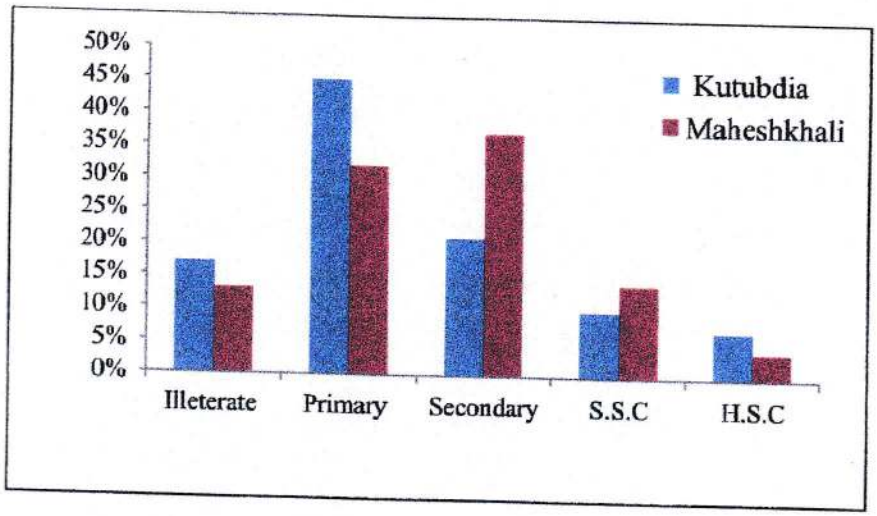

Figure 3.3: Educational Status of the salt workers

3.4. Seasonal Income from Salt Cultivation

In *Kutubdia maximum respondents'* (50%) seasonal income are BDT 1,20,000. On the other hand, maximum (43%) percentages of household income of the respondents of *Maheshkhali*are BDT 1,00,000. However, 39% of the respondents' seasonal income are BDT 1,20,000 in *Maheshkhali.* Economic condition of *Maheshkhali* is quite better than *Kutubdia.*

It's found that, average income from salt cultivation is around BDT 1,00,000 for both of the respondents of the study areas.

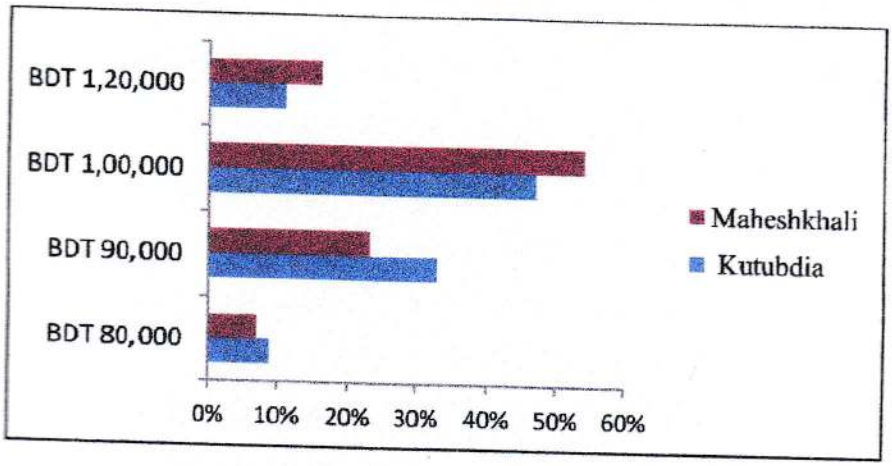

Figure 3.4: Seasonal total income of the households

3.5. Off Season Occupation

In *Kutubdia* 37% respondents of *Kutubdia* had earned money from the daily laboring. Fishing is the second choice (28%) of off season livelihood options of the salt worker of *Kutubdia*. Similarly, maximum (43%) respondents earn their off season livelihood by daily laboring in *Maheshkhali,* fishing is also the second (37%) off season earning source of the people. Mason and farming are limited both of the study areas.

It has been observed that, daily laboring and fishing are the most preferable off season occupation of both of the areas' respondents.

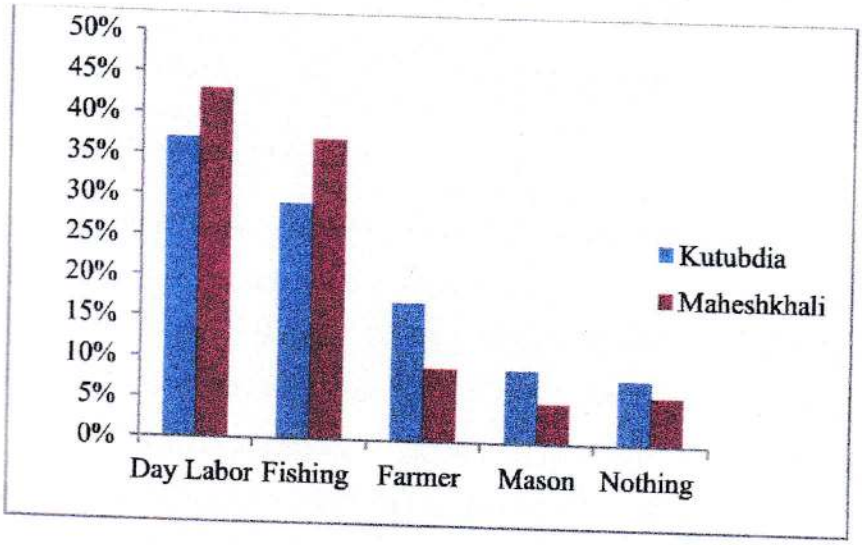

Figure 3.5: Off Season Occupational Status of the Respondents

3.6. Day Labor Categories

Salt workers used to lead their livelihood earning from daily laboring. There are observed various types of day labor activities. For instance, work in fishing boat, boat man, van driver, mason etc. Maximum respondents (24%) in *Kutubdia* are involved with agricultural field labor and 22% of the respondents work in fishing boat. On the other hand, maximum (28%) respondents work for salt water transportation and a smart (18%) volume of respondents involved with working in fishing boat. Very few numbers of people work as van puller, mason in both of the study areas.

Usually, respondents from both of the areas work in salt transportation laboring, in fishing boat.

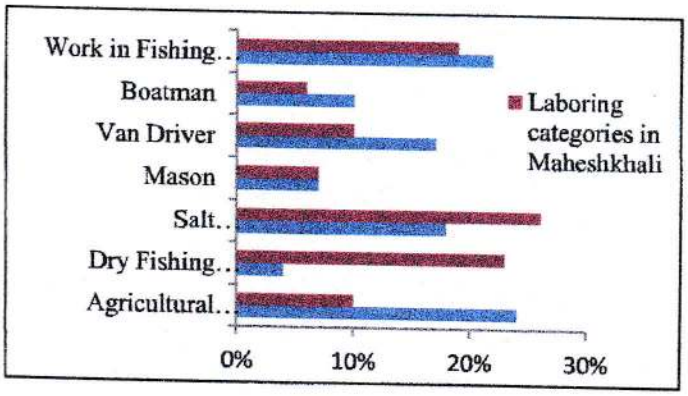

Figure 3.6: Variation of Day Laboring of the Salt Workers during off Season

3.7. Migration to outside of Island

Seasonal unemployment drives the salt workers to migrate outside of island. For their inland migration, maximum salt workers of both *Kutubdia* and *Maheshkhali* migrate during off season to Cox's Bazaar for day laboring. 39% of the salt workers of *Maheshkhali* migrate to Chittagong and 27% of salt workers of *Kutubdia* also migrate Chittagong for seasonal unemployment. A few percentages of salt workers of both *Kutubdia* and *Maheshkhali* used to shift the capital city for livelihood.

It can be said that after analysis the graph, respondents usually migrate to Chittagong for their livelihood.

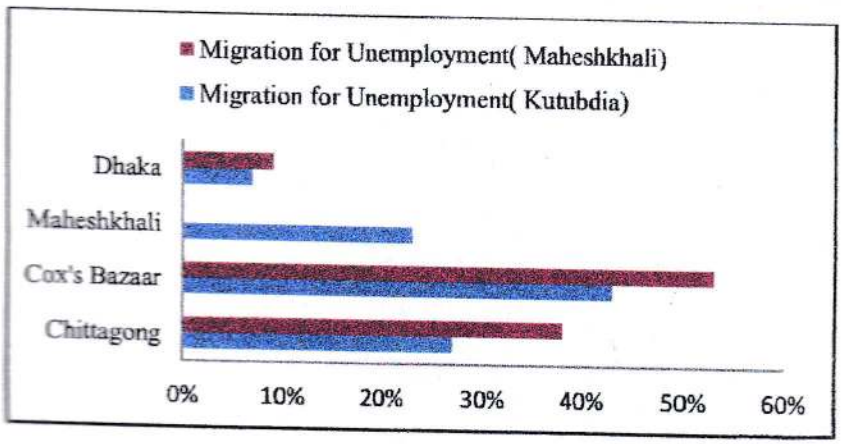

Figure 3.7: Land of Migration during Unemployment of the Salt Workers

3.8. Reasons behind the involvement in Salt Cultivation

In spite of having low wages and health risk salt workers are involved in working as salt cultivator and salt worker of other land. In *Kutubdia,* majority (42%) of the salt workers' perception to get involved with this occupation because of it's profit. Besides, lack of experience in other job also major reason to pick suitable occupation. 28% of the respondents don't have experience in other profession. Similarly, 37% respondents of *Maheshkhali* are used to involve with salt cultivation because it is profitable. 31% of respondents perception about involved in this profession is to not have experience in other occupation.

As these two islands are promising for salt cultivation and traditionally people are involved with this occupation for a long time being, those tend to work in this occupation.

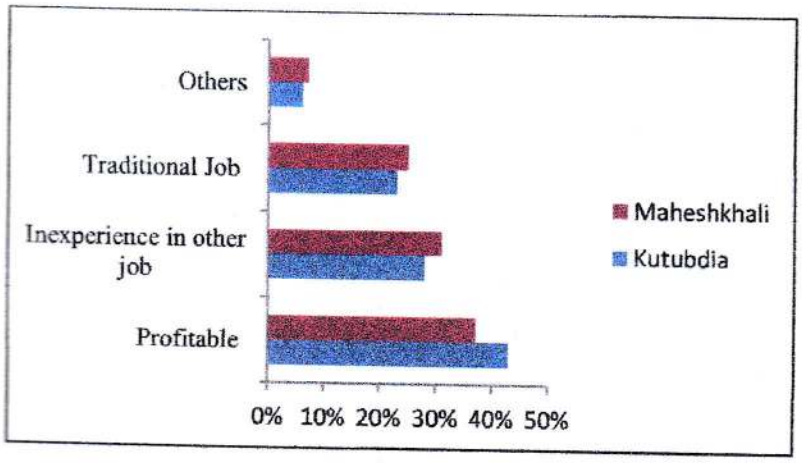

Figure 3.8: Possible reasons to Work in Salt Cultivation

3.9. Health Condition

For analyzing, the health condition of the respondents it has been figured out that some common diseases affected salt workers mostly are back pain and skin diseases. As they have to spend about 12 hours during the cultivation period, back pain, skin burn and corrosiveness of NaCl affect their hands and foot. In *Kutubdia*, maximum respondents (37%) suffer from back pain, 17% households suffered from diarrheal diseases, 23% respondents suffer from skin diseases and sun burn as well. Similarly, in *Maheshkhali*,

maximum respondents (34%) suffer from back pain, 27% households suffered from skin diseases, 28% respondents suffer from sun burn.

In concluding point, it can be said that back pain and sun burn are very common health problems of both of study areas' respondents.

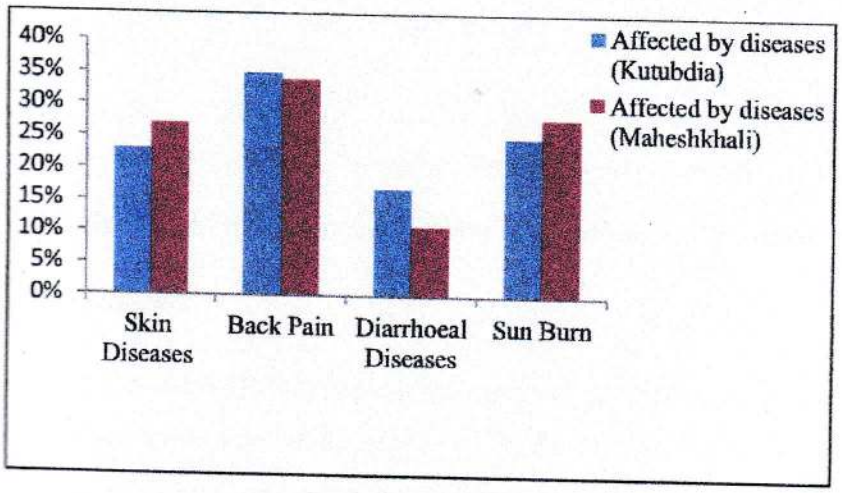

Figure 3.9: Respondents affected by Diseases

3.10. Treatment Cost

From the economic cost of treatment facilities the health condition of the respondents it has been figured out that about 33% of the respondents of *Maheshkhali Island* used to pay BDT (7000-8000) for getting treatment for causing diseases where, 27% respondents of *Kutubdia* used to pay of the same amount. However, more than 32% respondents of *Kutubdia* pay BDT (4000-6000) for treatment cost. There are some issues to their treatment cost. The workers who ignore their problems initial stages by taking treatment from local dispensary without any consultation with special doctor. About 10% of the respondents from both of the study areas pay more than BDT 10,000 for treatment.

It can be inferred that, respondents from both of the study areas usually pay on an average BDT (6000-8000) for seasonal diseases treatment purpose during salt cultivation period.

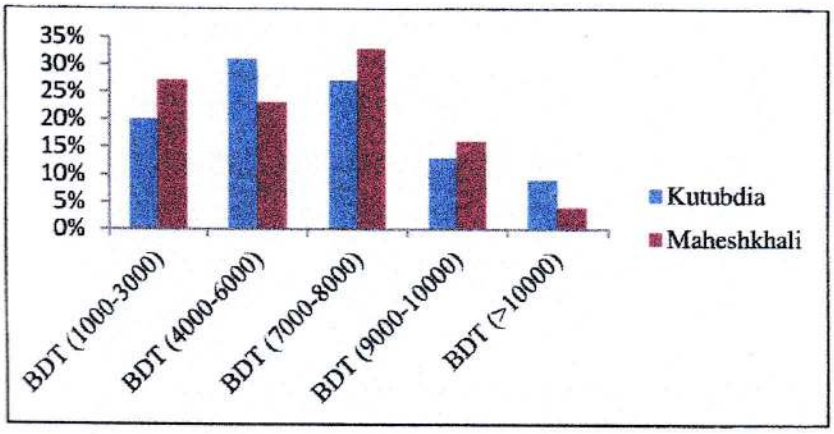

Figure 3.10: Status of treatment cost of the respondents of the study areas.

3.11. Treatment Facilities

Respondents from both of the study areas used to go pharmacy and local doctor mostly for getting treatment. Respondents of *Maheshkhali* visits local pharmacy than respondents of *Kutubdia*. Less than 15% of the respondents both of the study areas visit Upazilla heath care for treatment. For getting better treatment respondents have to visit outside of the islands. A few of the respondents used to go to Homeo doctor.

It's very unexpected fact that, respondents depend on pharmacy and local doctor much more than health complex or other treatment facilities.

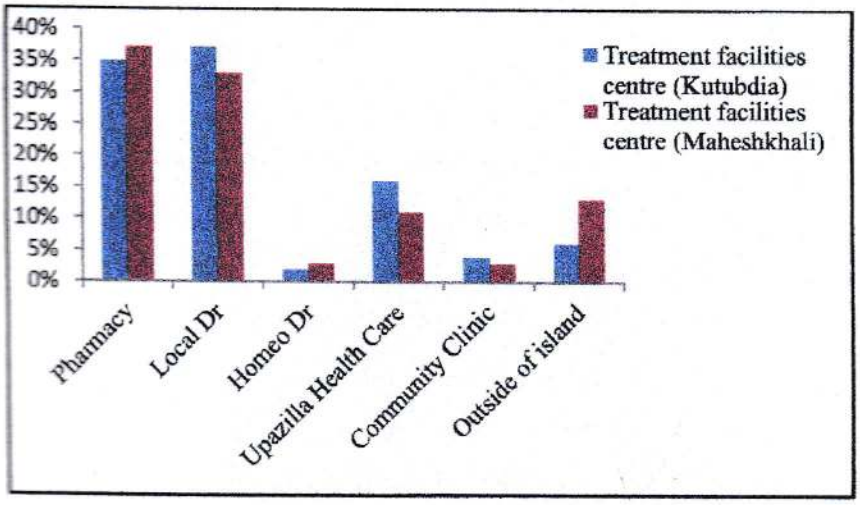

Figure 3.11: Types of Health Treatment Providing Institutes.

3.12. Status of Financial Assistance Provided

It's really unfortunate for the respondents of the study areas that they did not get proper support from the govt. properly. Only 13% support had been given to the salt workers for their betterment in *Kutubdia* whereas in *Maheshkhali* this amount is comparatively less than *Kutubdia*. Respondents recommend the assistance providing authority should be UNO.

Table 3.1: Financial assistance are provided by different organizations

Assistance taken from Govt. for seasonal unemployment in Kutubdia	**13%**
Assistance did not taken from Govt. for seasonal unemployment in Kutubdia	**87%**
Assistance taken from Govt. for seasonal unemployment in Maheshkhali	**10%**
Assistance did not taken from Govt. for seasonal unemployment in Maheshkhali	**90%**
Recommended Govt. authority to provide assistance	**UNO**
Training provided on health problems both in Maheshkhali and Kutubdia	**No**

3.13. Discussion

After a thorough analysis it has been found that, people had started to live in these both of island for more than 50 years, most of the people of these area have been living for on an average 35yrs to 45yrs. Respondents' average family size of these areas' is 8. The education level of the respondents' indicates that, most of them from both of the study areas have primary education. However, there are also illiterate as well as higher secondary educated people. This study has been found that, average income from salt cultivation is around BDT 1,00,000 for both of the respondents of the study areas. During the off season period respondents' used to be involved with daily laboring, fishing, mason and so on. Where, daily laboring

and fishing are the most preferable off season occupation of both of the areas. In addition, this study has also found that respondents from both of the areas work in salt transportation laboring, in fishing boat as their types of off season occupation. For a certain period of time respondents usually have to migrate to Chittagong mostly for their livelihood. Despite of employment discontinuity people are involved with this occupation for a long time being, those tend to work in this occupation. It is because these two islands are promising for salt cultivation. There are few drawbacks of working as salt cultivation like diseases. For instances, it has been found that back pain and sun burn are very common health problems of both of study areas' respondents. For their treatment cost, respondents from both of the study areas usually pay on an average BDT (6000-8000) during salt cultivation period. It's very much unexpected fact that, respondents depend on pharmacy and local doctor much more than health complex or other treatment facilities. Having drawbacks respondents' revealed their less logistics supports from the govt. and indifferences of providing medical support and considering standard value of salt selling to the market so that they can get proper wages.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Concluding remarks

Salt is very essential product in our country perspective. Without a pinch of salt our country people cannot take their meal properly. Interestingly, this mighty product is produced by the closed area of Bay of Bengal. It is a matter of sorrow that, the salt production farmers do not their minimum wages against a hard working activity in the field. This study has found that salt workers have to pay attention to the field a long time. They are quite habituated with this traditional cultivation practice. This practice is being carried out by generation after generation. Salt cultivation is the profitable business in this context as well as easily adapted. Most of the salt farmers have not enough land of their own. However, they have to take land from the land owner through the middleman. As middlemen maintain the communication salt workers are bound to sell the salt with low rate than the local market. On the other hand, workers do not get enough money for leading their life during unemployment. Sometimes they have to migrate other islands and city, a few of them go for fishing to the deep sea, rest of them leads their lives with savings money and have to lend money from local money lender. A smart budget has to be fixed by the workers for their health risks. Sun burn, skin diseases, back pain are the major diseases in that ground. Unfortunately, there is no health insurance or cards are available for the workers. Workers have to carry themselves of their health cost. Furthermore, government support is very little to this vulnerable group of people.

4.2. Recommendations

- Ensuring a standard wages of the salt workers with a certain working hours.
- Controlling the market rate of salt and stopping import salt from outside of the country.
- Providing government incentives during unemployment period or providing training on others job.
- Imposing subsidy on polythene bags and lending money with low interest rate.
- Issuing medical cards for the salt workers.
- Eradicating the broker group and ensuring link up directly to the salt cultivators and land owner.

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