

# The Impact of Climate Change and Economic Insecurity on Child Labor: A Study in Cox's Bazar Area

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## Abstract

*Cox's Bazar is a coastal district of Bangladesh having an international boundary with Myanmar in the south-eastern side and a maritime boundary in the south-western side at the Bay of Bengal with a huge population of 29,06,281 people and a total area of 2492square km. For its position on the globe, Cox's Bazar is experiencing numerous disasters like cyclones, torrential rains, landslides, flash floods, storm surges, extreme temperatures, and salinity intrusion, which are the consequence of climate change. Such a situation also gives a chance to increase the risk and vulnerability for the coastal people of Bangladesh, resulting in a higher rate of child labor. According to UNICEF, Bangladesh ranks 15<sup>th</sup> globally in terms of the impact of climate change on children. The child labor issue directly relates to a country's economic conditions. As a city of a developing country, the economy of Cox's Bazar has been negatively affected by natural disasters and the Rohingya intervention on the local people, which generates child labor issues. Many families fully rely on the income of their children for survival, and employers prefer child labor for its cheapness. Consequently, they have to drop out of school, and their normal life is hampered. Prominently, their major source of employment derives from the following sectors: a) Fishing, b) Dried Fish, c) Hotel and Tourism, d) Peddler Transportation, e) Prostitution, and f) Other Trends. To complete this quantitative research, a survey was conducted on 200 children of Cox's Bazar from various areas and professions. The purpose of this paper is to describe the effects of climate change on the livelihood of children and how we may resolve these issues through coordination amongst different stakeholders.*

**Keywords:** Child labor, financial insecurity, climate change, Rohingya refugees, Cox's Bazar.

## 1. Introduction

Cox's Bazar, being blessed with all the natural beauties, attracts around 3.7 million tourists every year.<sup>1</sup> As every precious thing comes with pros and cons, Cox's Bazar has been experiencing many natural disasters every year. Even though some of those occur for natural causes, in the end, it all connects the dots with human influences. And such natural disasters are the result of climate change. Due to frequent disasters, the coastal people are suffering from economic insecurity. Some families have even taken their girls out of school to marry off the female child or forced them to work outside the home or do housework to support the family as a result of financial instability. Which eventually forces them to work for their families. In every major income sector of Cox's Bazar,

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children can be seen working. Children bear the flag of our future hope; they should be protected rather than forced to work at such a young age. The district of Cox's Bazar had a sex ratio of 103.32 males per 100 females and a literacy rate (age 7 and older) of 71.58%, which was lower than the 74.7% national average.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, due to frequent natural disasters in Cox's Bazar, the basic rhythm of the life of the children is getting disrupted. And the Rohingya intervention over the past years has harmed the children of this area.

### 1.2. Geographical Overview of Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar, the District of the sea, is situated on the southeastern part of Bangladesh. The British East India Company officer Captain Hiram Cox, who oversaw the Palongkee outpost, is credited with giving the contemporary Cox's Bazar its name. In honor of his contribution to refugee rehabilitation efforts, a market bears his name.<sup>3</sup> Cox's Bazar is located roughly 60 miles (100 km) south of Chittagong along the Bay of Bengal.<sup>4</sup> It covers an area of roughly 2491.86 square kilometers, of which 940.58 square kilometers is forest area.<sup>5</sup> Its borders are the Bay of Bengal on the west and south, the Chittagong district on the north, the Bandarban district, and Myanmar on the east. Cox's Bazar boasts the world's longest sea beach, stretching 111 km.<sup>6</sup> It is ranked 26th out of 64 districts in Bangladesh and is the seventh largest of the 11 districts in the Chittagong division. The hilly portion of the district makes up over half of its entire area, with the coastal islands making up the other half.<sup>7</sup>

### 1.3. Definition of Child

Various statutes and conventions have given different definitions of child. Under section 4 of the *Children Act*, 2013, all persons up to the age of eighteen years shall be regarded as children. As per section 2(63) of the *Labour Act*, 2006 child means a person who has not completed fourteen years of age. Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the *Rights of the Child*, 1989, stated that a child means every human being below the age of 18 years. According to section 2(k) of the *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain*, 2000, child means any person below the age of sixteen years. Under the *Majority Act*, 1875, every other person domiciled in Bangladesh shall be deemed to have attained his majority when he shall have completed his age of eighteen years and not before. So basically, a child means a person who has not completed the age of eighteen years.

### 1.4. Climate Change

Long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns are referred to as climate change. These fluctuations may be caused by significant volcanic eruptions or variations in the sun's activity.<sup>8</sup> However, human activity has been the primary cause of climate change since the 1800s, mostly as a result of the combustion of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. However, human activity has been the primary cause of climate change since the 1800s, mostly as a result of the combustion of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.<sup>9</sup> Methane and carbon dioxide are the two primary greenhouse gases responsible for climate change. These results, for instance, are from burning coal to heat a building or petrol to operate a vehicle. Carbon dioxide can also be released through land clearing and forest destruction. The two main industries that emit methane are agriculture and oil and gas operations. Among the primary industries producing greenhouse gases are energy, industry, transportation, buildings, agriculture, and land use.<sup>10</sup>

A list of natural disasters that occurred in Cox's Bazar and the surrounding area over the past couple of years is given below: -

- Floods and Landslides (September 2024 - Present),
- Tropical Cyclone Remal (May 2024),
- Heat wave (April 2024),
- Floods and landslides (August 2023),
- Dengue Outbreak (July 2023) (Cox's Bazar is affected severely in 2024),
- Tropical Cyclone Mocha (May 2023),
- Cox's Bazar camp Settlement Fire (March 2023), etc.<sup>11</sup>

However, as a country, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.<sup>12</sup> As per the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) published in 2021, Bangladesh is still the seventh most climate change vulnerable country. As per the same Index, Bangladesh has suffered economic losses worth \$3.72 billion and witnessed 185 extreme weather events during 2000-2019 due to climate change.<sup>13</sup> The impacts of climate change in Bangladesh include sea level rise, flooding, uncontrolled urbanization, cyclones, and drought etc.

#### 1.4.1. Causes of Climate Change

Even though human influences are the main reason for climate change, it can also happen due to some natural activities. The causes of climate change can be discussed in two heads: -

##### **Natural Causes**

- Earth's Orbital Changes
- Plate Tectonics
- Volcanic Eruptions
- Ocean Currents

##### **Human Activities**

- Burning of Fossil Fuels
- Deforestation
- Industrial Process
- Transportation
- Modern Agriculture

#### **Natural Causes**

##### **Earth's Orbital Changes.**

Climate changes can result from even a small shift in the Earth's tilt. More tilt results in warmer summers and colder winters, whereas less tilt is associated with cooler summers and milder winters. Over tens of thousands of years, these little, gradual changes can result in significant shifts in the intensity of the seasons.

##### **Plate Tectonics**

The movement of tectonic plates causes global land and ocean areas to shift over millions of years, creating topography. This may have an impact on regional and global climatic, atmospheric, and ocean circulation patterns.<sup>14</sup>

##### **Volcanic Eruptions**

During an eruption, a volcano generates a significant amount of ash, water vapor, dust, and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Volcanoes release small particles known as aerosols. Aerosols cool the planet by reflecting solar radiation into space during their brief presence in the atmosphere.<sup>15</sup>

**Ocean Currents**

Temporal variations in ocean currents may potentially have an impact on climate change. Huge volumes of heat are transported across the Earth by ocean currents. The circulation of warm water near the equator back towards the pole and cold water deep beneath the oceans towards the regions near the equator are major factors in influencing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.<sup>16</sup>

**Human Activities**

Scientists studying climate change have demonstrated that, for the past 200 years, almost all global warming has been caused by people.<sup>17</sup> Human activities like the ones mentioned below are causing greenhouse gases that are warming the world faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years. Some man-made causes are as follows: -

**Burning of fossil fuels**

Acid rain and smog are partly caused by nitrogen oxides, which are released into the atmosphere after the burning of fossil fuels. All the most prevalent nitrogen-related substances that humans release into the atmosphere are referred to as nitrogen oxides. Major sources of these emissions are large industrial projects, ships and airplanes, and daily vehicles.<sup>18</sup>

**Deforestation**

Clear-cutting forests and degrading wetlands around the world are two more ways we're adding more greenhouse gases to the sky. Carbon is stored by soil and vegetation, which keeps it underground or at ground level. We are removing or digging up vegetative biomass and releasing all its stored carbon into the atmosphere through logging and other forms of development.<sup>19</sup> Over 16% of Bangladesh's total land area, or 2.22 million hectares, was covered by natural forests in 2010. It lost 17.8 Kha of natural forest in 2023, which is equal to 10.9 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>20</sup>

**Industrial Process**

The factories and other establishments that manufacture our products are major contributors of greenhouse gases. A limited number of carbon-intensive items, such as basic chemicals, iron and steel, cement and concrete, aluminum, glass, and paper, are responsible for the majority of industrial emissions.

**Transportation**

One of the main causes of greenhouse gas emissions in the world is the vehicles we use to move people and goods—cars, trucks, ships, and airplanes. Carbon dioxide emissions from combustion engines running on petroleum-based fuel are enormous.

**Modern Agriculture**

The delicate but essential interaction between soil and climate has changed dramatically with the introduction of modern, industrialized agriculture. Almost three-quarters of the nitrous oxide in our environment comes from agriculture due to the extensive use of artificial fertilizers and some crop-management techniques that put high yields ahead of healthy soil. Methane is released into the atmosphere by the digestive processes of cattle and other ruminants, and large-scale industrialized livestock production is still a major source of this gas.<sup>21</sup>

Apart from the above-mentioned cause, there are some other reasons for climate change which are related to human influence, such as: -

- Coal Mining,
- Home appliances,
- Poor management of industrial waste,
- Electricity generation,
- Mass manufacturing, etc.<sup>22</sup>

## 2. Literature Review

Ariful Islam Arman (2023) has pointed out some impacts of climate change on Bangladesh's children. Such as due to sea level rise, many people are forced to displace their homesteads. And it has a disproportionate effect on the families and their children. According to collaborative research conducted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education in Bangladesh, approximately 2.5 million children were unable to attend school in 2023 as a result of interruptions brought on by climate change.<sup>23</sup> Farah Kabir (2023) has mentioned that in Bangladesh, almost one in three children is impacted by the climate catastrophe in some way. Bangladesh is ranked 15th out of 163 countries in UNICEF's worldwide Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), with 41% of its population under the age of 18, meaning that almost 20 million children are already suffering or experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change. She surveyed 300 children, and 63% of their families have lost their livelihood. Due to this financial insecurity, most of the families have taken their children out of school and sent them to work to contribute to the family.<sup>24</sup> Dr. Poch Bunnak (2007) has mentioned that child labor may have a variety of effects on children. Extended periods of intense physical exercise have an impact on a child's mental and physical health, social development, and overall well-being. They also frequently disrupt their schooling. Children who work long hours and study at the same time have worse grades and attendance records, as well as more unfavorable attitudes towards education.<sup>25</sup>

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1. Method

To complete this quantitative research, a survey was conducted on 200 children of Cox's Bazar to understand the effects of climate change on their livelihood and what forces them to enter the job sector at such a young age. They were selected by a random sampling process from Pekua, Maheshkhali, Chakaria, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Ukhia, and Teknaf irrespective of their age and sex. It was made to conduct interviews from all types of jobs they were engaged in. Analyses have been done of the primary and secondary documents, namely journals, articles, and reports of various national and international organizations. A brief description of climate change, its causes, and effects has also been given to depict the sufferings of the coastal children of Bangladesh.

### 3.2. Data Collection

We've surveyed 200 children regardless of gender, religion, cast, race to find out the reasons behind starting work at a young age. And most of them mainly belong to Maheshkhali, Sadar, Ramu, Teknaf, and Chakaria. While collecting information as a researcher, we have preferred full ethical consideration of the participants. Their consent and family authorizations were the priority. We have assured them that their personal information is fully confidential and that no harm will happen to them.

### 3.3. Objectives of the Study

The primary object of this study is: -

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- To present the current situation of child labour in Cox's Bazar, whether local or migrants, and to visualize the crisis that is driving the increasing rate of child labour day by day for climate-related issues.

The secondary objects of this study are: -

- To highlight the causes of climate change in the coastal areas of Bangladesh,
- To point out the effects of climate change on the children of Cox's Bazar,
- To present how the economic instability of the families of Cox's Bazar is forcing their children to do hard labour,
- To put a spotlight on the effects of Rohingya intervention on the economic status of Cox's Bazar,
- And lastly, to propose some probable solutions to minimize the child labor rate in the Cox's Bazar area and ensure a safe and healthy life for them.

#### **4. Statement of the Problem**

##### **4.1. Effects of Climate Change on the Children of Cox's Bazar**

Many believe that the primary effect of climate change is increased temperatures. However, the temperature rise is just the start of the tale. Since everything on Earth is interconnected, changes in one place might have an impact on changes in all other areas since the Earth is a system.<sup>26</sup> The social and economic effects of climate change are particularly severe in coastal areas; issues that need to be addressed include increased erosion, water pollution, seawater intrusion into groundwater and surface waters, flooding and submergence of coastal land, and threats to both man-made infrastructure and coastal ecosystems. Cox's Bazar, one of the coastal zones most vulnerable to climate change, has intense rains, landslides, and flash floods.<sup>27</sup> According to the UNICEF report year 2023, 1.3 million people, including 480,000 children (0-19 years old) affected by the natural disasters in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar zone during 2023 by Mocha, Hamoon, and Midhili, etc. Due to the outbreak of dengue on record and by the end of 2023, 321,179 cumulative dengue cases (40 percent women and 17 percent children 0-15 years old) were recorded. The situation is vulnerable in the Rohingya camps. For family urgencies Rohingya children specially boy children are engaged in labours work like adults was published in a report by CPSS-Situation-Analysis-Report-2024, where it is mentionable that 7.58% cases of child labor, with 97.5% aged (12-17) of the 7.58%, only 0.34% were girls while 24% were boys.

##### **The effects of climate change are discussed below**

###### **Exposure to Illness**

Climate change is anticipated to increase the incidence of diseases caused by pathogens. Malaria and dengue fever are widespread in Bangladesh. Practically speaking, parasites like mosquitoes would benefit from a rise in surface temperature. Therefore, it stands to reason that those fatal illnesses like dengue, malaria, etc.<sup>28</sup> According to research, climate change may make 58% of infectious diseases that affect humans worse,<sup>29</sup> and children are the ultimate sufferers.

###### **Climate Refugee**

People forced to flee their homes and communities due to the effects of global warming and climate change are known as climate refugees. Climate refugees are members of the broader immigrant community referred to as environmental refugees.<sup>30</sup> According to the WHO, which evaluated the situation in the nation of about 168 million people, over 7.1

million Bangladeshis were displaced by climate change in 2022, and that figure might rise to 13.3 million by 2050.<sup>28</sup> By 2050, increasing sea levels are predicted to have displaced nearly 20 million people and submerged about 17% of the nation's coastal regions<sup>31</sup> where the children have sacrificed their whole.

### **Salinity Intrusion**

To guarantee drinkable water for households, the largest difficulty is salinity intrusion in the coastal aquifer. A growing hazard to livelihoods and public health, increased salinity from saltwater intrusion affects infrastructure, agriculture, aquaculture, coastal ecosystems, and the supply of freshwater for domestic and commercial usage. In Bangladesh, the total area impacted by salinity was 83.3 million hectares in 1973. This figure rose to 102 million hectares in 2000, and it is still rising now, reaching 105.6 million hectares in 2009. Salinity intrusion is progressively moving into inland water due to the growing effects of climate change.<sup>32</sup> As a result, children have to suffer from various diseases.

### **Food Security**

Floods, droughts, cyclones, sea level rise, and other climate-related natural disasters are the main ones that affect Bangladesh; among their effects are livestock loss, damage to pasturelands, increased fodder scarcity, destroyed shelters, decreased production, and increased management costs due to disease outbreaks.<sup>33</sup> Wind-based shocks in the northeastern and coastal regions decreased Boro output in 2007 and 2012, resulting in production losses of 6.35 percent and 10.65 percent, respectively<sup>34</sup> which pushes children to work at their early age.

### **Child Labor and Child Marriage**

Children of a country have no role in climate change, but they are the ones who are paying the highest price for it. According to UNICEF estimates, over 20 million children in Bangladesh, or one in three children, are daily affected by climate change. Extreme weather, floods, river erosion, sea level rise, and other environmental shocks brought on by climate change affect children.<sup>35</sup> In the coastal area, almost 4.5 million children are affected by strong Cyclones very often.<sup>36</sup> For Bangladeshi children living in rural areas, the far-reaching socioeconomic effects of these shifts are nothing short of catastrophic. 300 children, ages 13 to 18, participated in a survey by ActionAid Bangladesh in eight districts that are prone to disasters. Unbelievably, 63% of the kids surveyed said their families' income or means of subsistence had decreased or disappeared. As a result of the ensuing financial instability, some families have even forced their kids to drop out of school to marry off the girl child or to help out around the house or find other jobs to support the family.<sup>37</sup> Children from homes destroyed by natural disasters are compelled to labor in some capacity to make ends meet. As a result, UNICEF research states that there is a growing likelihood that children will be the victims of various forms of torture. Too proud to accept responsibilities, many families are marrying off their daughters at an early age.<sup>38</sup>

### **4.2. Rohingya intervention and its effect on the children of Cox's Bazar**

From 1978 to 2017, when the largest number of Rohingya refugees (655,000) left Myanmar for Bangladesh, the UNHCR set up 20 camps in the Cox's Bazar district for the Rohingya refugees. The first wave of Rohingya refugees arrived in Bangladesh in 1978, with 250,000 of them, and the second wave in 1991–1992, with a similar number

of refugees.<sup>39</sup> As of December 31, 2023, the UNHCR and the government of Bangladesh had jointly given paperwork to 971,904 Rohingya refugees.<sup>40</sup> The local community people of this area are highly affected by the Rohingya intervention, and the ultimate sufferers are the children of this area. The health, education, and nutrition are affected because of these extra people. Moreover, the negative impact is also compounded by drug addiction. This rohinga community is engaged with drug and rape culture. That causes a high risk for our children.

**TABLE 1: The effects of Rohingya Interference on Cox's Bazar in Heads.**

Area(s)	Effect(s)
<b>Economical</b>	Bangladesh must pay a high price for the labor force required to handle the Rohingya refugees in addition to the direct financial costs A basic barbed-wire fence has already been installed for BDT 1 billion (more than US 90 million)
<b>Environmental</b>	Three thousand five hundred acres of the 2,092,016 acres of forest land have already been lost as a result of the Rohingya concentration in Cox's Bazar. That is equivalent to 1.67 percent of Cox's Bazar's whole forest area being lost
<b>Drug</b>	Approximately 80% of Yaba enters Bangladesh over the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar, according to law enforcement organizations. The most startling fact is that almost 70% of these Yaba tablets are first stored in the camps for Rohingya people
<b>Rising Offenses</b>	Rohinga people are engaged in various types of offence directly in country and abroad by holding Bangladesh passport.

#### **4.3. Analysis of the Impact of Climate Change and Economic Insecurity on Child Labor**

To make this statement, we have completed a field study by random sampling of 200 children in Cox's Bazar. And make a questionnaire survey amongst them. We found them engaged with various types of work for various reasons that differ from person to person. Children are the most vulnerable part of the family. Due to natural disasters and family crises such as abandonment by father, illness of parents, etc., they have to engage in direct work for monetary gains. Recently, we found them engaged in drug and prostitution also. As coastal people are not in good economic conditions, this insecurity pushes their children to forced labour. The pie chart attached in Appendix "B" shows the employment percentage of 200 child laborers in various sectors. It demonstrates that 24% of children out of 200 children are doing farming, and 20% are in fishing. 12% of them are in salt farming, 15% are in Day Labor, 10% work as store clerks, 9% as hotel staff, and 10% in other occupations.

##### **Fishing**

As Cox's Bazar is a coastal area, most of the families depend on sea-related occupations, where fishing is most common amongst them. Most of the child labor is directly or indirectly engaged in fishing. Out of 200 children in Cox's Bazar, 20% are involved in direct fishing and fishing-related work or the dry fish sector. In the dry fish sector, a large number of child laborers are working. They earn 30000 Tk per month by catching fish, working at the dry fish sector, fish market, and so on.

**TABLE 2: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Fishing Industry.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged in this work due to lack of education or it is the only source of family income.</li> <li>• Fishing is a family occupation where family members getting involved in this profession to help their parents.</li> <li>• For these families, the income is generated by their children is considered more valuable than education, which requires their children to stop working.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are physically affected by the fishing profession they are involved in. In many cases, children drown in the sea without knowing how to swim while fishing. Along with that, their education is also damaged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing is the family profession.</li> <li>• Engaging in fishing to support the family financially.</li> <li>• Family income is more valuable than education, that's why they are engaged in fishing forcefully by families.</li> </ul>

### Farming

Amongst those 200 children, 24% are engaged in farming with their parents directly or indirectly. Sometimes they are not recognized as a worker either. They just work to help parents. And ultimately, this unrecognized section becomes unpaid. While the section that is paid is also poor in number.

**TABLE 3: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Farming Industry.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to family poverty and ignorance the coastal people are reluctant to take regular education.</li> <li>• Involving in farming will generate more financial stabilities.</li> <li>• Engaged in agricultural work to ease father's suffering and support himself.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged in agriculture due to family poverty. but they are apart from personal development and due to poor education in personal life they are not in the situation to upgrade their personal status.</li> <li>• By involving themselves is agricultural work they are becoming skilled workers but which are relay lower paid in our country.</li> <li>• Many types of health and mental issues are adjoining with them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic education is getting less priority at the same time, children engaging in agriculture are physically harmed by using dangerous tools, carrying heavy loads and applying harmful pesticides.</li> </ul>

### Day Labor

The day laborers have to work for 9-12 hours daily. Day laborers include hawkers, rickshaw pullers, van drivers, selling jhalmuri, picking up abandoned bottles, etc. About 15% of the 200 children in Cox's Bazar are seen doing this. In this work, they earn 8000-9000 taka monthly.

**TABLE 4: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Day Labor.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be the support system of family they are engaged as day labor.</li> <li>Many children do not like to study because of the diverge education system. They better choose to work then study.</li> <li>After the death of the father, the responsibility of the family falls on the shoulders of the children and they are forced to work as daily laborers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to corruption in the education system the dropout rate is very high. They chose work then study.</li> <li>Daily monetary benefits attracts them towards work.</li> <li>As Cox's bazar has humid weather they prefer short time engagements rather then long-term investments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many children are physically injured by cutting their hands and feet while picking up abandoned bottles, and they are facing issues while working on construction site, as battery rickshaw puller, hawker etc.</li> </ul>

**Hotel Staffs**

Nowadays, most children are seen as hotel employees. Both local and migrated children want to do the job because this pays high. Many work in food hotels, and many children work in restaurants or tea shops, because they have extra income from tips, so children are pushed to do the job by their parents. But this job is not available throughout the year. During March to October, they have no work, so they become jobless during that time. Out of 200 children in Cox's Bazar, 9% of them are found working as hotel employees. In this work, their monthly income is the highest 10000 Tk without tips.

**TABLE 5: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Hotel Industry.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child has to work as a hotel staff to support the family and it is the most common jobs for children on Cox's bazar.</li> <li>They are offered with good food while working in the hotels so it is a cherish able job for them.</li> <li>Daily tips given by the visitors inspires them to work in the hotels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many children outside Cox's bazar also visit here during the business seasons to earn money.</li> <li>Primarily they got engaged to work because of family crisis which eventually they become detached from families.</li> <li>They got engaged with criminal activities, TikTok, gangs etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early childhood develop is totally absent and a great number of children got engaged with direct or indirect criminal activities.</li> </ul>

**Salt Farming**

Most of the children do not understand salt farming as a job. They are seen working in the salt fields to help their parents. Their works are not recognized as a proper contribution to the family. And 12% of the children in Cox's Bazar are working in the salt sector. They earn very little here.

**TABLE 6: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Salt Farming Industry.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many children are engaged in this work as a source of income.</li> <li>• Children engage in this work to support their education and family expenses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged in this work to carry family responsibilities.</li> <li>• Children are involved in this work to eradicate poverty.</li> <li>• Joined in this work due to financial instability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They work in the salt fields as children get sunburn. Science salt is produced in salt water, this salt affects their skin. The skin becomes crusty.</li> </ul>

**Clerical Job**

Currently in Cox's Bazar, children are often seen as employees of various shops, bus counters, medical stores, and super shops etc. As adults lack education, they often choose a child, so as a result, he has to pay a little for an adult. Here, the working environment is better than others. Out of 200 children in Cox's Bazar, 10% of children are working as shop employees. Their monthly income in this sector is up to Tk 12000.

**TABLE 7: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Clerical Job Industry.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have to work with their parents to help them in shops, they are preferred to stay on the shops to help parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently each shop and bus counters are occupied with child labors because they are low paid and easily accessible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They got jobless and unpaid because the proprietors are always in an aggressive mood to violate the rights.</li> </ul>

**Others**

Apart from regular work, a large number of children are engaged in prostitution, and sometimes they are also victims of human trafficking. Their other jobs include working in laundries, tea shops, offices, garages, and girl children are also seen working as cooks. Out of 200 child laborers in Cox's Bazar, 10% are in other sectors. Their monthly salary in this sector is 5000-9000 taka. And in most cases, the salaries are not paid.

**TABLE 8: Factors Contributing to Child Labor in the Other Sector.**

Reasons	Situations	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During tourist season their family pushes them to work.</li> <li>• Because most of the parents are illiterate they are reluctant to send their children in school.</li> <li>• After the death of the father, the responsibility of the family falls on the shoulders of the children and they are forced to work as child labor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This seasonal jobs, includes street food engagement, tourist related works, and also drug smuggling.</li> <li>• Currently they have to also compete with Rohingya children also.</li> <li>• They are popular worker then adult.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many types of physical and mental problems they are facing due to working in the humid weather. Their education is unfolded and the aim of their life is to go abroad as to play the role of worker.</li> </ul>

## 5. Findings from the Study

As outlined in the objectives of this study, the primary aim is to present the current situation of children living in Cox's Bazar, with economic insecurities caused by climate change, and to identify some probable solutions to minimize the child labor rate in Cox's Bazar. With the above analysis, the findings are discussed below:

- There is an intertwined connection between the rapid natural disasters in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh and their direct economic effects on the lower-income families, which ultimately forces the children to do physical labor to support their families financially.
- Due to such regular calamities, most of the families have lost their major sources of basic livelihood. And for that reason, they are unable to bear the minimal educational expenses of their children, and hence, the male children are forced to drop out of school, and the female children are married off at such a young age or forced to work as house help. According to UNICEF data, the probability of children being subjected to torture in one form or another is increasing.
- The Rohingya intervention had a negative effect on the children of Cox's Bazar. The sudden increase in the population in Cox's Bazar drove up the prices of daily essentials. The basic wages of local laborers have dropped due to the competition, affecting their livelihood. Many families become economically vulnerable due to this intervention, leaving them no other choice but to force their children to work. Apart from this, that intervention is causing huge environmental degradation, an increasing number of deforestations, soil erosion, and water scarcity caused by massive camp settlements have hurt local livelihoods and food production. As a result, the children belonging to farming families face a loss of a major income source. Moreover, this environmental distress is a core cause of climate change in Cox's Bazar.

## 6. Some probable ways out towards the child Labor issue in Cox's Bazar:

- Poverty is a significant reason to raise child labor. If the government and private organizations create new work opportunities for parents and reduce inequality between the rich and the poor, then child labor can be reduced.
- Strengthen Social Safety Nets for Climate-Affected Families by introducing a relief fund and other monitoring benefits.
- The education system of this area should focus on community-based education inclusive and vocational based. The main concern should be to reduce dropout rates and to rejoin them in education.
- Compulsory schooling is an effective way to ban child labor, especially if schools offer various initiatives like food, books, toys, scholarships, etc., no child will drop out the school before finishing his/her schooling.
- Conditional cash transfer as an incentive to parents will improve the attendance of their child in school, and parents will ensure the engagement of their child in studies. Because this cash transfer may reduce the financial pressure on the family, it can remove the instant poverty, the debt of parents and children will re-engage the study instead of labor.
- Improve the infrastructural quality of schools and add more utility facilities such as digital classrooms, libraries, labs, computers, etc., in both urban and rural areas.

- Increase awareness about child labor and child rights through mass media and social media among employers, families, and children.
- The expansion of vocational and financial aid in rural areas for the effective implementation of compulsory primary education.
- By addressing the Rohingya issue and using the donation of foreign bodies from the perspective of child labor and poverty reduction.
- Strengthen child protection mechanism by cooperation amongst Government, non-government organizations, and media can create awareness to address the rapid population growth.

### **7. Conclusion:**

Children of Cox's Bazar will build a better future for this area. If they are exploited at a young age, they will not be able to contribute to the country's prosperity. Furthermore, children are constantly going through a negative environment, resulting in violence in families, neighborhoods, streets, workplaces, and schools, as well as in state and non-state institutions. They are facing exploitation by both their family and outside people. Our current legal system is deficit to exacerbates the issue. As legislators, executives, police, probation officers, and even judges are indifferent to protecting children's rights and fail to provide adequate protection, special care, and treatment. This is why immediate national and international action is needed, because timely intervention can bring beneficial effects in reducing or eliminating child labor at all levels of society.

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