Barriers to Climate Change Policy Implementation on Community Adaptation in Coastal Bangladesh

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Abstract

Coastal people in Bangladesh encounter major adaptation challenges to cope with climate change effects. The different government and non-governmental organizations implement adaptation policies in reducing these challenges. However, these organizations encounter multiple concerns over the implementation processes which create survival problems for the marginalized groups of local people. In this context, this paper will explore a research question: what are the barriers to policy implementation which cause adaptation to local groups of coastal people in Bangladesh. To address this question, we conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) on 47 respondents at national and district levels in Bangladesh based on a questionnaire developed by DECCMA research project. For this KII, we focus on some specific government programs and policies important to promote successful adaptation. The findings of this paper argue that policy makers need to incorporate voices of multiple stakeholders in the policy making process along with resource mobilization, appropriate training, consciousness raising, and community engagement.

Table 1: Number of Respondents and Policies, Plans, Programs

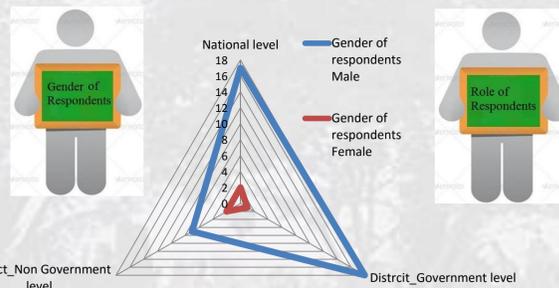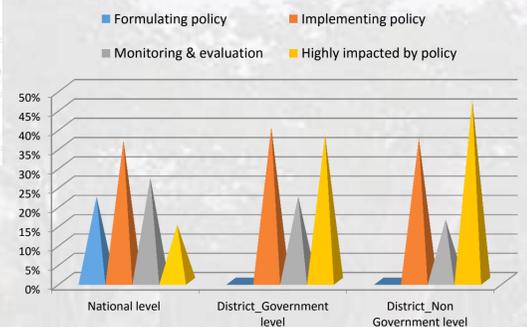| Types of respondents		Number of respondents	Number of polices, plans and programs
National level		19	12
District level	Government	19	10
	Non Government	9	4

Figure 1: Gender of Respondents

Figure 2: Role of Respondents in Policy Making & Implementation Process
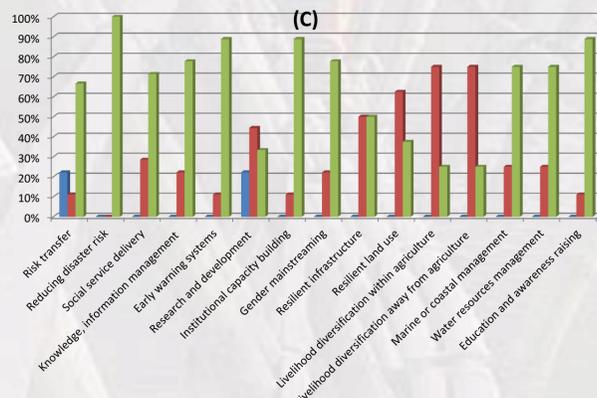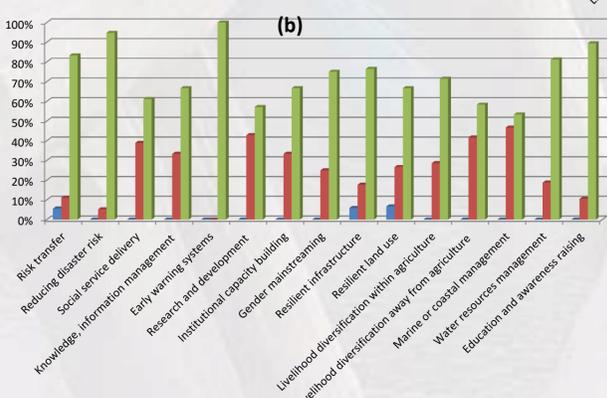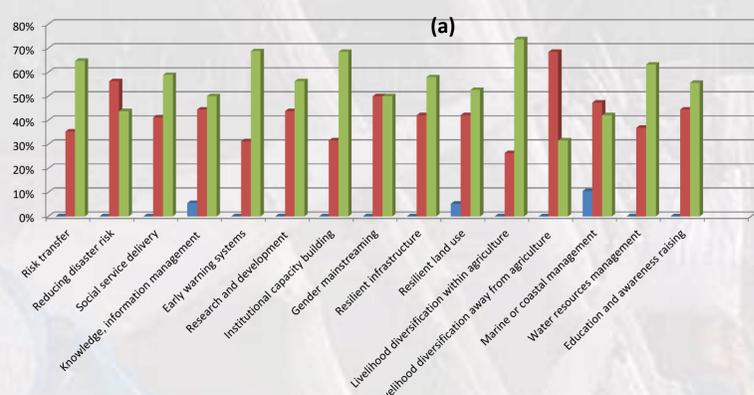

Figure 3: Policy Effectiveness According to (a) National level, (b) District Government and (C) District Non Government level

Table 2: Level of Stakeholder Involvement in Policy Implementation

Types of respondents	Level of stakeholders	Not involved at all	Less/somewhat involved	very/fully involved
National level	Government ministries		11%	89%
	National government agencies		5%	95%
	Local government		21%	79%
	Bilateral donors	11%	42%	47%
	International organisation	11%	47%	42%
	NGOs	5%	47%	47%
	Civil society organisations	5%	58%	37%
	Private sector	5%	74%	21%
District_ Government level	Government ministries		22%	78%
	National government agencies		16%	84%
	Local government		53%	47%
	Bilateral donors	11%	72%	17%
	International organization	5%	68%	26%
	NGOs		32%	68%
	Civil society organisations	16%	68%	16%
	Private sector	26%	58%	16%
District_ Non Government level	Government ministries		11%	89%
	National government agencies		11%	89%
	Local government		33%	67%
	Bilateral donors		56%	44%
	International organisation		56%	44%
	NGOs	11%	22%	67%
	Civil society organisations	11%	78%	11%
	Private sector		89%	11%

Table 3: Political Factors Facilitating or Hindering Policy Implementation

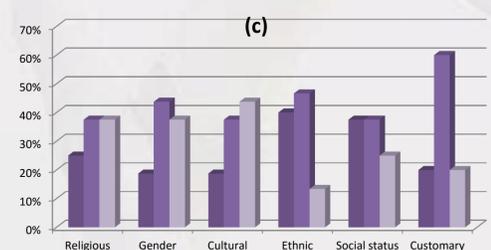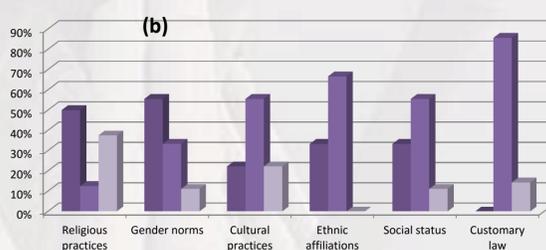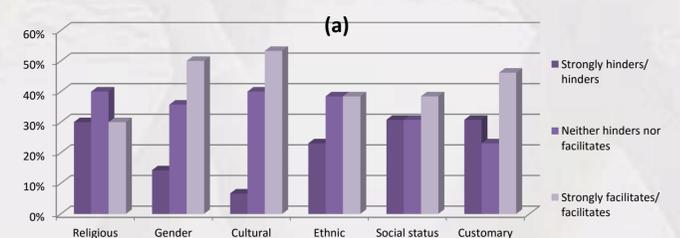| Types of respondents	Level of stakeholders	strongly hinders/ hinders	neither hinders nor facilitates	facilitates/ strongly facilitates implementation
National level	Changes in government	69%	13%	19%
	Decentralisation	6%	12%	82%
	Policy environment	50%	13%	38%
	Donor priorities	38%	13%	50%
	International agreements	13%	19%	69%
	Prioritisation of other issues	41%	24%	35%
District_ Government level	Changes in government	44%	44%	11%
	Decentralisation	11%	17%	72%
	Policy environment	33%	56%	11%
	Donor priorities	41%	12%	47%
	International agreements	31%	50%	19%
	Prioritisation of other issues	71%	29%	
District_ Non government level	Changes in government	71%	29%	
	Decentralisation	22%	11%	67%
	Policy environment	44%	44%	11%
	Donor priorities	11%	11%	78%
	International agreements		50%	50%
	Prioritization of other issues	67%	33%	

Figure 4: Social Factors Facilitating or Hindering Policy Implementation in (a) National Level, (b) District Government and (C) District Non Government Level

- Most of the respondents from national level are engaged with policy formulation and monitoring aspects where respondents from district level are mainly responsible for implementation and they are also highly impacted by policy (Figure 2).
- In the case of **policy effectiveness**:
  - Early warning system, risk transfer, institutional capacity building, water resources management, education and awareness raining are working very effectively in national and district level (Figure 3)
  - Effectiveness of reducing disaster risk and gender mainstreaming is better in district level than national level (Figure 3)
  - Resilient land use, reducing disaster risk, livelihood diversification should be prioritized to improve the effectiveness

- Government ministries, local government agencies and local government are mostly engaged in policy implementation in national and district level (Table 2).
- NGO, civil society organization, private sectors and bilateral donors are less or somewhat involved in policy implementation (Table 2).
- In the case of **social factors** to implement policy:
  - Gender norms, cultural practices, social status and customary laws strongly facilitates or facilitates the policy implementation in national level but hinders or strongly hinders in district level (Figure 4).
- In the case of **political factors** to implement policy:
  - Decentralization and donor priorities strongly facilitates or facilitates the policy implementation both in national and district level (Table 3).
  - Changes in government, policy environment and prioritization of other issues strongly hinders or hinders the policy implementation in national and district level (Table 3).

The findings of this research present the importance of incorporating voices of the different stakeholders from national to local level in the policy making process with resource mobilization, appropriate training, consciousness raising and community engagement.