

Jaladas

A Seafaring Fishing
Community



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Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and
Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD)

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Imprint

Jaladas

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Preface

The Jaladas are a low caste Hindu fishing community living in coastal districts of Bangladesh. Originally known as Kaibarta, their ancestors once had a rich culture and held a commanding position in the Indian subcontinent. In Bangladesh, now they are a community, extremely marginalized and isolated. Moreover, they are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters as their lives and livelihood depend on the sea.

In Bangladesh, fishing in the coastal waters was the exclusive domain of the Jaladas until mid-1960s. After that, increasing population, landlessness, lack of opportunities in the industrial sector, introduction of free market economy and the concept of commercial fishing brought about significant economic and social changes. As a result, people from other communities including Muslims entered the profession of the Jaladas. Moreover, many Hindu fishermen migrated to India over the years.

The Muslim fishermen now own majority of the motorized small scale fishing boats and they hire Hindu or Muslim fishermen as their crew. The significant changes in the social groups involved in fisheries caused extreme marginalization of the Jaladas community and introduced destructive fishing methods in Bangladesh.

No official record has been found on the actual number of the Jaladas currently living in the country. According to Dr. Harishankar Jaladas, a novelist from the same community, they live in 60 spots along the coastline from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar to Mirsarai in Chittagong with an approximate population of 150,000.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) took lead in conducting a study on the Jaladas with assistance of Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) under a European Union and ICCO Cooperation-funded project. The study was conducted in 20 of the most populous Jaladas villages in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar districts with a population of 24,144.

The key objective of the study is to develop a comprehensive map, analysis and clarity about the Jaladas community, which will become strategic tools for the human rights defenders and organizations who work on this community. Detailed information about the Jaladas in their most populous and well-known locations as well as the state of their habitation, education, health, income, expenditure, access to different government facilities among others are valuable knowledge to make the community statistically visible.

The study findings are put into two sections—quantitative findings on the demographic and socioeconomic condition of the Jaladas and qualitative findings on the social capital, changes and aspirations of the community.

As opportunities to fishing has deceased for various reasons such as grabbing of

fishing ground and maritime piracy, a portion of the Jaladas community had to change their traditional occupation of fishing. As the scope of their traditional occupation is decreasing, they are facing more risks of being unemployed. The study found that low education rate is another reason behind unemployment in the community. The majority of the Jaladas community has not continued study after primary or secondary school. Lack of access to higher education hinders them from entering into other occupations.

Access to drinking water is one of the primary needs of the Jaladas. They drink water from tube wells but saline intrusion and low level of ground water are common in the coastal areas. The solution to this problem is to set up deep tube wells in their localities. Access to drinking water in the coastal areas of Bangladesh is a big concern, which greatly affects the Jaladas community.

Attacks by pirates in the ocean is another serious problem for the Jaladas who still earn a traditional living by catching fish in the Bay of Bengal. The study found that inadequate surveillance and insufficient number of coast guards are the main reasons behind the unchecked threats of maritime piracy. Moreover, pirates and people from the majority Muslim communities control the ocean grounds, which greatly affects the life and livelihood of the Jaladas.

Like other Hindu marginalized communities, the Jaladas face problems to access cremation ground. The study found that around half of the community has no access to cremation ground. No one from the Jaladas community has access to fisheries loans as so far the government has taken no initiative to introduce fisheries loans to them. They are also excluded from majority of the social safety net programmes of the country.

This study was conducted by a team of PPRC staff supervised by Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC and lead researcher for PPRC. The strategy and tools of the participatory research were developed by the research team of PPRC, SEHD and members from the Jaladas community.

A team of 21 field researchers from the community carried out the FGDs in 20 Jaladas villages. They are Rabishankar, Milon Kanti Das, Kiran Das, Joshedhar Das, Bablu Das, Parimal Das, Shohag, Chandra Das, Tarashankar, Subhash Das, Bonojit Das, Munna Das, Bojro Das, Nironjon Jaladas, Ratan Das, Krishnapodo Jaladas, Konjulaal Jaladas, Proshanto Das Mongol, Jiyanto Raju, Rambhokto Das, Joysen Jaladas and Montu Das. Uchan Aoung, research officer supervised the field team.

The collected data was analysed with statistical analysis tools including SPSS and Microsoft Excel by Iftekhhar Ahmed, data analyst. The documentation and data analysis process were supervised by Uchan Aoung. The report and graphical presentations were prepared by Sabrina Miti Gain under the guidance of Hossain Zillur Rahman.

Special thanks goes to Dr. Harishankar Jaladas and members of the Jaladas

community who assisted the research team in every step of the study and participated in the consultation meetings.

Prosad Sarker of SEHD has set up pages and Md. Mozharul Haque supervised the printing of the report. Babul Kumar Boiragi and Borsha Chiran from SEHD have assisted the production team in the SEHD office. Dr. S. G. Hussain, a cartographer prepared the map of the monograph. Many thanks to them.

Philip Gain, program director of the project under which this study has been possible guided the entire study team and did the final editing of the texts. He has also contributed photographs used in this report and designed the cover. We are particularly thankful to him.

We hope that the Jaladas community and those interested in them will find the study findings presented in this monograph useful.

Hossain Zillur Rahman

Sabrina Miti Gain





Fish market in Chattogram right after the catch.

Executive Summary

The Jaladas are a fishing community living in coastal districts of Bangladesh. They belong to the lowest caste of Hinduism. They have been traditionally involved in fishing—mainly in the coastal areas—for hundreds of years. According to sources they live in 60 spots along the coastline from Teknaf in Cox’s Bazar to Mirsarai in Chattogram with an approximate population of 150,000. Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) conducted a study in 20 of the most populous Jaladas settlements in Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar districts. The study covered 3,886 Jaladas households with a population of 24,144.

Half of the Jaladas community (51.73%) are comprised of men whereas 37.36% are women, which is also reflected in the sex ratio at 138.47. It is significantly higher than the national sex ratio at 100.3 (BBS Census 2011). The rest 14.79% of the Jaladas population consists of children. The size of an average Jaladas family is 6.63, which is higher than average family size at the national level at 4.06 (HIES 2016).

More than one fourth of the Jaladas community (27.10%) is completely illiterate. Nearly 62% of the community have not continued their study after primary or secondary school. Only 6.45% of the Jaladas community has studied up to Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination and 3.20% has completed Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examination.

The majority of the Jaladas households(67.7%) live in *kutcha* houses; around 13.45% in tin-shed houses and 8.65% in semi-*pukka* houses. The majority of the Jaladas households(95.79%) drink water from tube well. Nearly no one from the Jaladas community has access to pipeline or tap water and 3.44% Jaladas households still drink water from ponds.

At the national level, 61.37% households use sanitary or *pukka* toilet, which is either water sealed and/or has flush (HIES 2016). On the contrary, only 5.35% Jaladas households use *pukka* toilet. The majority of the Jaladas households(89.9%) use ring-slab toilet, which is either sanitary or unsanitary and does not have a concrete structure.

The Jaladas households in the majority of the upazilas (90.24%) have access to electricity. However, the average duration of daily electricity supply is only 14.76 hours. Other major energy source available to the Jaladas community is firewood. Around 84% households use firewood for cooking. The majority of the Jaladas community does not have access to cylinder gas or pipeline gas.

Catching fish is the main occupation of the Jaladas community, the traditional Hindu fisher folk of the country. Around 64% of the Jaladas households earn a livelihood as fishermen. A significant percentage of the Jaladas households(16.4%) now earn a living working in government or non-government offices. Around 7% of the employed persons are garment workers.

The Jaladas women are involved in only housework in 77.55% of the families. However, 12.30% of the households were found where women provide government or non-government services to earn a living. In 3.40% of the households women sell fish and 4.75% are garments workers. It should be noted that no woman from the Jaladas community are fisher woman as fishing in the ocean is a completely male-dominated occupation.

At the national level, average monthly income is Taka 15,945 (HIES 2016). Average monthly income from the traditional occupation of Jaladas, which is fishing and other related work, is around Taka 9,052. Monthly income from different occupations accessible to Jaladas ranges from Taka 7,000 to Taka 10,666.

Majority of the Jaladas households own homestead and arable land (68.5%). On average, 12.35% of the Jaladas are completely landless and 19.15% Jaladas occupies land but do not own land. Majority of the Jaladas households own mobile phones (89.5%) and around 80% households own a television too. Nearly half of the Jaladas households own fishing net and 24% own boats because of the nature of their traditional occupation.

More than half of the Jaladas households(52.63%) are in debt and the average amount of debt of a Jaladas family is approximately Taka 31,578. On the contrary, 35.5% households from the Jaladas community have savings. However, the amount of savings is only Taka 215 on average. Only 11.88% Jaladas households have bank accounts with Taka 1,112 in their accounts on average. None from the community use bKash or mobile banking.

The Jaladas community does not have access to majority of the social safety net programmes. Only 1% of the Jaladas households receive freedom fighter's allowance. Nearly 3-4% of the Jaladas households receive widow and old age allowance and 13.4% households have access to VGF. However, 99% of the Jaladas households have maternal health vouchers.

It was found that in almost half of the study locations, the Jaladas community follows a *sardari* system, which is a rural system of self-governance without any legal or state authority. Respondents from all the Jaladas clusters stated that they do not participate in any political activity.

The main problems of the Jaladas community are attacks by maritime pirates, control by pirates and Muslims and grabbing of fishing grounds, crisis of drinking water, lack of access to cremation ground, poor condition of roads, no fisheries loan, housing problems, unemployment, no access to cyclone centre, waterlogging and hygiene-related problems.

The Jaladas respondents have identified access to drinking water as their primary need, the only solution to which is setting up deep tube wells in their localities. Introducing fisheries loans is another major need of this traditional fisher folk community. The other needs and aspirations of the community are construction of new roads to improve communication, access to government jobs, rehabilitation in *khas* land, access to cremation grounds, setting up coastal shelters, sufficient supervision of the coastal guards to stop maritime piracy, improved law and order, setting up electricity connection and access to solar energy among others.

Introduction to the Community

The Jaladas are a low caste Hindu fishing community living in coastal districts of Bangladesh. The literal meaning of the word Jaladas is “slaves of the water.” The Jaladas have been living in secluded villages in coastal or riverine areas in Bangladesh for a long time. Their ancestors once had a rich culture and held a commanding position in the Indian subcontinent. In Bangladesh, now they are a community who are extremely marginalized and isolated. Moreover, they are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters as their lives and livelihood depend on the sea.

The Jaladas in Bangladesh originated from a large fishing and cultivating tribe of Bengal known as Kaibarta. According to HH Risley (1891). There were two groups of Kaibarta in Central Bengal—Halik or Chasa who lived by agriculture and Jalik or Jaliya who are fishermen. Jaliya Kaibarta—the fisher sub-caste occupied a lower position than the purely agricultural Kaibarta. The Census of India (1881) found Kaibarta living in Dhaka, Khulna, Jashore, Mymensingh, Chattogram and several other districts of the then Eastern Bengal (present day Bangladesh). In Dhaka, the Jaliya Kaibarta were all members of one *gotra*—Aliman and had the common title Das (Risley 1891).

The Haliya Kaibarttas or agricultural Kaibarta broke away entirely from the Jaliya Kaibarttas because of their low status in casteism and succeeded in getting recognition as a separate caste under the name of Mahishya (Hutton 1961). Jaliya or fishermen Kaibarta remained in the low caste and they are the ones who are Kaibarta now (Roy 2019). They have been enlisted as a Scheduled Caste in the present-day Indian states of Assam, North Bengal, Odisha and Bihar. In the caste system, they fall in the lowest caste Sudra; the other three castes above them are Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaishya.

In Bangladesh, fishing in the coastal waters was the exclusive domain of the Jaladas until mid-1960s. After that, increasing population, landlessness, lack of opportunities in the industrial sector, introduction of free market economy and the concept of commercial fishing brought about significant economic and social changes. As a result,

people from other communities including Muslims entered the profession of the Jaladas. As considerable changes started to take place in the traditional structure of fisheries, many Hindu fishermen migrated to India. The Muslim fishermen now own majority of the motorized small scale fishing boats and they hire poorer Hindu or Muslim fishermen as their crew, mostly on a catch share basis (Silvestre et al 2003).

The significant changes in the social groups involved in fisheries caused further marginalization of the Jaladas community in Bangladesh. According to Ahmed (1987), changes in the demography of marine fishing community also has other implications. Often the newcomers are compelled to become fishermen after losing their farmland and give no effort to obey traditional fishing norms as they consider it as a temporary occupation. Therefore they are more prone to using destructive fishing methods, which are harmful for the environment.

Background to the Study

The study is a mapping exercise on the demographic and socioeconomic conditions of the Jaladas community in Bangladesh under a European Union-funded project “Defining the excluded groups, mapping their current status and strengthening their capacity and partnership.” Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) took lead in conducting the study with assistance from Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD). The study is conducted to prepare a comprehensive map on the current situation of the Jaladas community and the difficulties they face, which will be an important tool for dialogue and advocacy for the community. The research outcomes added to the existing literature will add value to the discussion on social exclusion of the traditional coastal fishermen in Bangladesh. (For more on the Jaladas and other excluded communities of Bangladesh, see *State of the Excluded and Marginalized Communities.*)

Objectives of the Study

The key objective of the study is to develop a comprehensive map, analysis and clarity on the Jaladas, which are strategic tools for the human rights defenders and organizations who work with this community. Detailed information about the Jaladas in their most populous and well-known locations as well as the state of their habitation, education, health, income, expenditure, access to different government facilities among others add valuable knowledge to make the community statistically visible. The study also aims at identifying the most recent changes in their lives, their problems and possible solutions as well as their needs and aspirations. Another aim of the study was to engage the community members in the participatory research process for the broader goal of capacity building.

Methodology

Research team: The lead researcher of the project, the program director and the in-house research team developed the strategies and methodologies for the participatory research. They had discussions with the community representatives to finalize the choice of research instruments and study locations. Training of the field researchers and community key informants were also conducted by the team.

Sample design: The Jaladas live in community clusters, which is the case for most of the excluded communities in Bangladesh. The research approach was to identify these community clusters and select a reasonable sample of such clusters to collect both cluster-level as well as household-level information. The community leaders and researchers of the project selected the number and location of Jaladas villages that are to be mapped. Selective or purposive sampling method was applied to select the Jaladas clusters. After consultations with the community leaders, a sample of 20 most populous clusters of the Jaladas community was selected that would represent the community most accurately. The sample covered Chattogram and Cox's Bazar districts.

Data collection and analysis: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted at the cluster sites to collect data for the study. The FGD questionnaire was structured, which was utilized to generate quantitative information on household characteristics as well as qualitative information on cluster characteristics. The study was conducted from 27 November to 15 December 2016. A team of 20 field researchers from the Jaladas community carried out the FGDs in 20 cluster sites, which was supervised by the research officer. The collected data was analysed using a statistical tool—SPSS and Microsoft Excel.

Limits of the Study

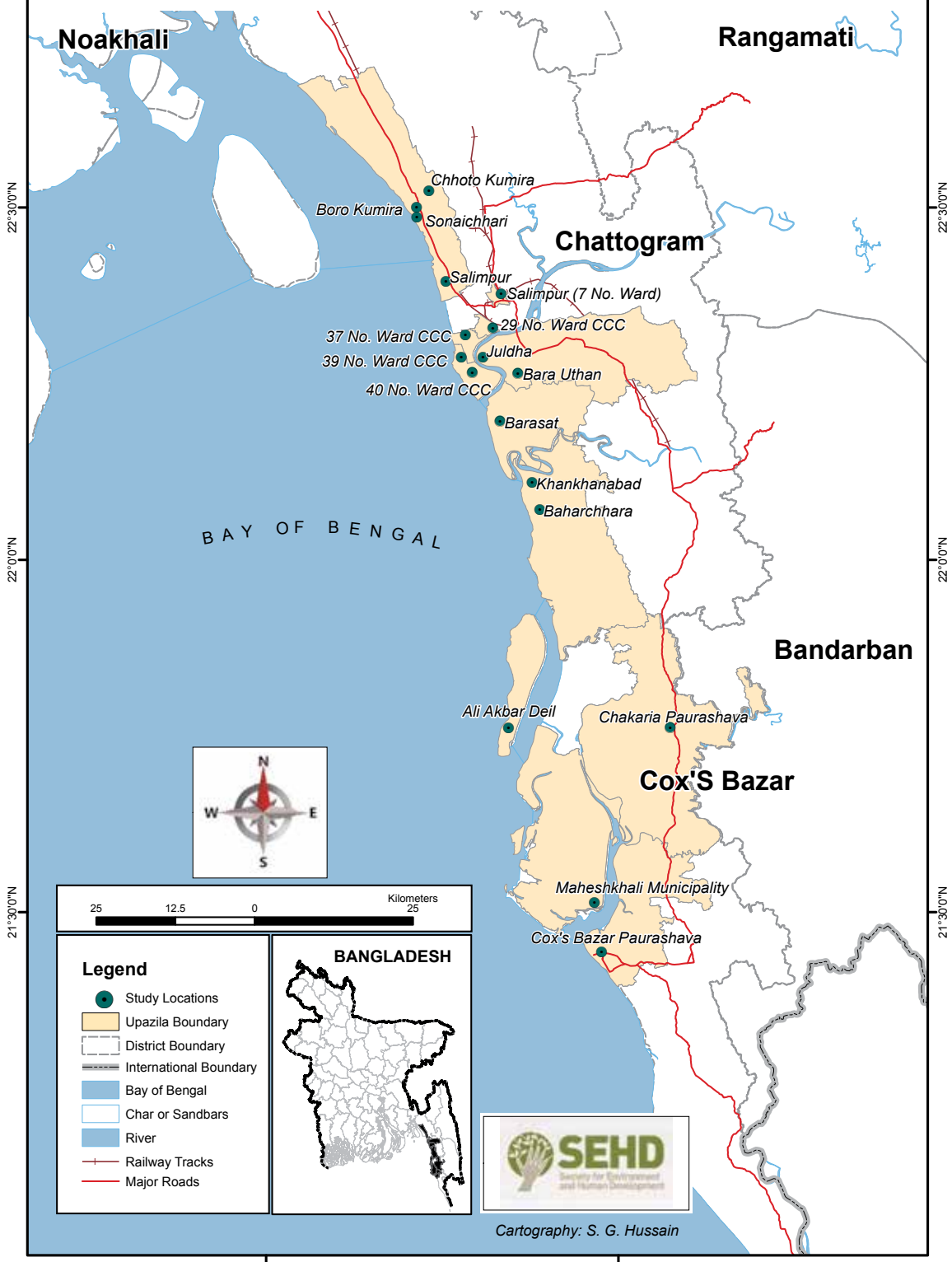
The study could not identify all of the Jaladas clusters in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar due to lack of accessibility and time constraint. For the study, a sample was selected that would be most representative of the entire community. Accessibility and availability of information during both primary and secondary data collection were other major constraints of the study. Moreover, the study was based on FGDs. A household survey could have generated a more concrete database, which was not possible due to resource constraints.

Study Locations

Following are the locations of 20 sample clusters from the Jaladas community in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar districts:

Sl. No.	District	Thana/upazila	Union	Para/village
1	Chattogram	Karnaphuli	Juldha	Juldha Jele Para
2			Juldha	Dakshin Juldha Jele Para
3			Boro Uthan	Shahamirpur
4		Sadarghat thana (Chittagong Metropolitan Police)	Chittagong city corporation (29 No. Ward)	Parbati Fakir Para (Majir Ghat)
5		Anwara	Barasat	Dudhkumra Parki
6			Barasat	Natun Boalia
7		Patenga thana (Chittagong Metropolitan Police)	Chattogram city corporation (40 No. Ward)	Uttor Patenga
8		EPZ thana (Chittagong Metropolitan Police)	Chattogram city corporation (39 No. Ward)	Bandartila Jelepara
9		Bandar (Port) thana (Chittagong Metropolitan Police)	Chattogram city corporation (37 No. Ward)	Moddhom Halishahar Jelepara
10		Banshkhali	Baharchhara	Ratnapur (Balukhali)
11			Khankhanabad	Khankhanabad Jelepara
12		Sitakunda	Salimpur (7 No. Ward)	Dakshin Salimpur (Durga Bari)
13			Sonaichhari	Dakshin Ghoramara
14			Kumira (8 No. Ward)	Boro Kumira
15			Kumira (5 No. Ward)	Choto Kumira
16		Sitakunda (under Akbar Shah police station)	Salimpur	Latifpur
17	Cox's Bazar	Maheshkhali	Maheshkhali municipality	Gorokghata
18		Cox's Bazar sadar	Cox's Bazar municipality (9 No. Ward)	Jaladas Para, Hospital Road
19		Chakaria	Chakaria municipality (3 No. Ward)	Batakhali
20		Kutubdia	Ali Akbar Dail	Ali Akbar Dail Jele Para

Locations of Study on Jaldas



91°30'0"E

92°0'0"E

22°30'0"N

22°30'0"N

22°0'0"N

22°0'0"N

21°30'0"N

21°30'0"N

91°30'0"E

92°0'0"E

Findings

Population

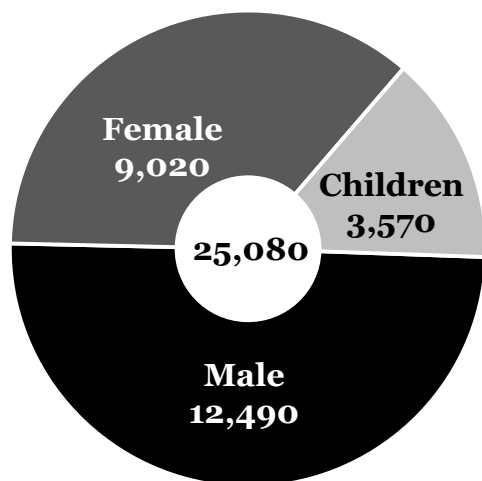
The Jaladas are a unique Hindu fisher folk community. They have been traditionally involved in fishing—mainly in the coastal areas—for hundreds of years. No official record has been found on the actual number of the Jaladas living in the country. According to a well-known novelist from the same community, Dr. Harishankar Jaladas, they live in 60 spots along the coastline from Teknaf in Cox’s Bazar to Mirsarai in Chattogram with an approximate population of 150,000. The islands of Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and Sandwip are home to some Jaladas settlements and the riverine Jaladas households live near Karnaphuli, Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers.

The PPRC study was conducted in 20 of the most populous Jaladas settlements in 13 upazilas or sub-districts and thanas of Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar districts. There are 24,144 people living in these settlements who comprise of 3,886 families.

Table 1: Number of sample Jaladas clusters, HHs and population

Thana/upazila	No. of sample clusters	No. of sample HHs	Sample population	Male	Female	Children
Karnaphuli	3	552	2,650	1,150	1,050	450
Sadarghat	1	80	560	230	240	90
Anwara	2	65	470	250	140	80
Patenga	1	300	2,100	950	750	400
EPZ	1	60	400	200	140	60
Banshkhali	2	434	2,500	1,200	850	450
Bandar	1	450	2,800	1,500	1,000	300
Sitakunda	4	990	6,800	3,500	2,300	1,000
Akbar Shah	1	150	1,000	500	350	150
Maheshkhali	1	175	1,300	700	400	200
Cox’s Bazar	1	45	300	160	100	40
Chakaria	1	85	900	350	400	150
Kutubdia	1	500	3,300	1,800	1,300	200
Total	20	3,886	25,080	12,490	9,020	3,570

Number of sample population



Half of the Jaladas community (51.73%) are comprised of men whereas 37.36% are women, which is also reflected in the sex ratio. The sex ratio is determined by calculating the number of male against every 100 female. The sex ratio is 138.47 in the Jaladas community, which is significantly higher than the national sex ratio at 100.3 (BBS Census 2011). The rest 14.79% of the Jaladas population consists of children. The family size of an average Jaladas family is 6.63, which is higher than family size at the national level at 4.06 (HIES 2016). In some upazilas, average family size is 7 or above.

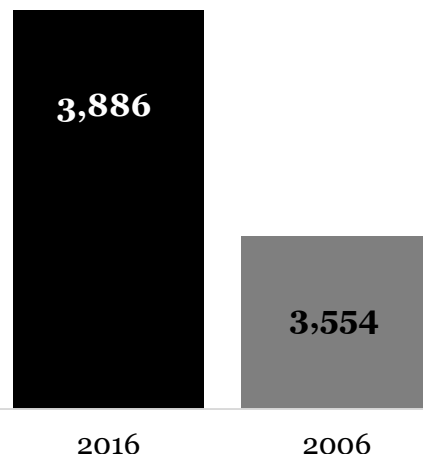
Table 2: Average HH size and sex composition

Thana/upazilas	Average HH size	Sex ratio
Karnaphuli	4.80	109.52
Sadarghat	7.00	95.83
Anwara	7.23	178.57
Patenga	7.00	126.67
EPZ	6.67	142.86
Banshkhali	5.86	141.18
Bandar	6.22	150.00
Sitakunda	6.79	152.17
Akbar Shah	6.67	142.86
Maheshkhali	7.43	175.00
Cox's Bazar	6.67	160.00
Chakaria	10.59	87.50
Kutubdia	6.60	138.46
Total	6.63	138.47

The number of Jaladas households has increased from 2006 to 2016. On average there were 3,554 Jaladas households in 2006, which increased to 3,886 households in 10 years. The highest number of Jaladas households were found in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram district. Almost one thousand Jaladas households live in Sitakunda.

Table 3: No. of HHs now (2016) and 10 years ago

Thana/ upazilas	No. of HHs (2006)	No. of HHs (2016)	
Karnaphuli	255	552	4000
Sadarghat	60	80	
Anwara	90	65	3900
Patenga	234	300	3800
EPZ	60	60	
Banshkhali	500	434	3700
Bandar	400	450	
Sitakunda	855	990	3600
Akbar Shah	170	150	
Maheshkhali	185	175	3500
Cox's Bazar	40	45	3400
Chakaria	105	85	
Kutubdia	600	500	3300
Total	3,554	3,886	

Number of families**Education**

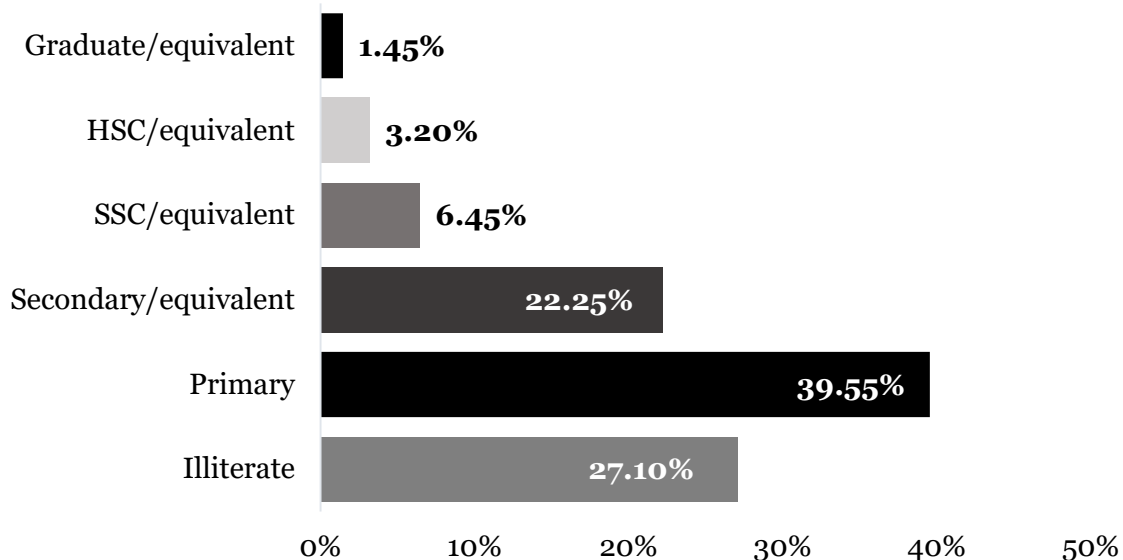
More than one fourth of the Jaladas community (27.10%) are illiterate. At the national level, literacy rate is 70.38% (HIES 2016). Nearly 62% of the Jaladas community have not continued their study after primary or secondary school. Around 39.5% of the community studied up to primary education (Class 1-5) whereas 22.25% studied till secondary education (Class 6-10). Only 6.45% of the Jaladas community who are above 18 years have passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination. On average, 3.20% have passed Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examination and a meagre 1.45% have graduated.

Half of the Jaladas population in Anwara, Maheshkhali and Kutubdia upazilas are illiterate. In Bandar and Akbar Shah thanas majority of the Jaladas received only primary education. However, 40% of the Jaladas have studied up to secondary school in Patenga thana. On average, 20% of the Jaladas have passed HSC examination and 15% have graduated in Sadarghat thana.

Table 4: Education (% of 18 years and above)

Thana/up-azila	Status					
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary /equivalent	SSC/ equivalent	HSC/ equivalent	Graduate/ equivalent
Karnaphuli	19.00	50.00	20.00	8.33	2.67	-
Sadarghat	10.00	15.00	25.00	15.00	20.00	15.00
Anwara	50.00	30.00	14.50	5.00	0.50	-
Patenga	5.00	30.00	40.00	15.00	6.00	4.00
EPZ	20.00	40.00	30.00	7.00	3.00	-
Banshkhali	35.00	38.50	20.00	3.50	2.50	0.50
Bandar	15.00	66.00	11.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Sitakunda	20.00	47.00	23.25	6.25	2.25	1.25
Akbar Shah	10.00	60.00	20.00	5.00	5.00	-
Maheshkhali	50.00	20.00	20.00	5.00	3.00	2.00
Cox's Bazar	30.00	45.00	20.00	2.00	2.00	1.00
Chakaria	45.00	20.00	30.00	5.00	-	-
Kutubdia	50.00	20.00	27.00	3.00	-	-
Total	27.10	39.55	22.25	6.45	3.20	1.45

Education (18 years and above)



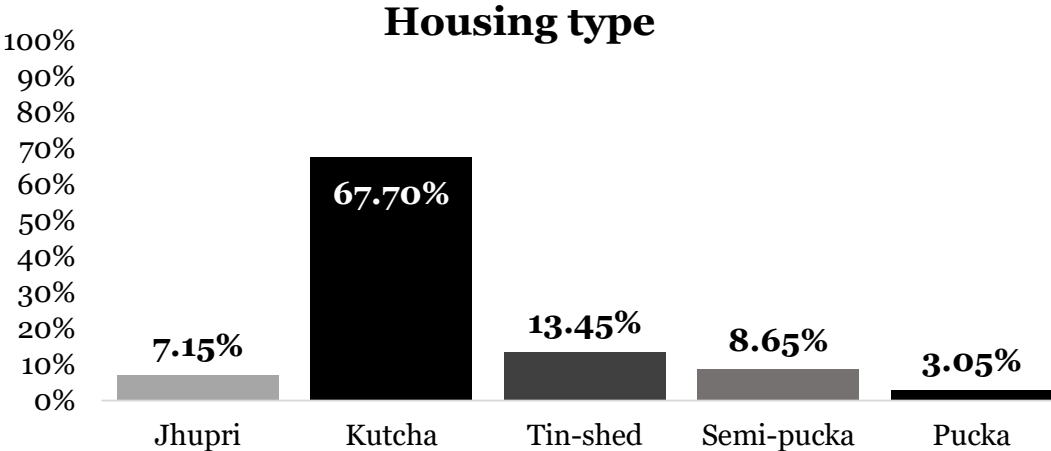
Housing

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), there are four categories of housing structures—*jhupri* (temporary structures made of plastic, polythene, board, scraps, etc.); *kutcha* (semi-durable structure with wall and roof made of bamboo, wood, leaves, etc. that requires some annual upgrading); semi-*pucka* (semi-permanent structures with brick wall and corrugated sheet roof) and *pucka* (permanent structures with brick wall and concrete roof). An additional category of housing structure—tin-shed—has been added in the study, which has corrugated sheet roof and wall.

The majority of the Jaladas households(67.7%) live in *kutcha* houses and around 7.15% in *jhupri* houses whereas even back in 2011, only 2.9% of the households lived in *jhupri* houses at the national level (BBS Census 2011). The majority of the Jaladas households in Maheshkhali (60%) live in *jhupri* houses. On average, 90% or more households live in *kutcha* houses in Karnaphuli, Anwara, Cox’s Bazar sadar and Kutubdia upazilas and EPZ thana. On average, 13.45% of the Jaladas households live in tin-shed houses, most of who live in Akbar Shah upazila (93%). Around 8.65% households live in semi-*pucka* houses and 3.05% live in *pucka* houses. In Sadarghat upazila of Chattogram, 67% of the households live in semi-*pucka* houses.

Table 5: Housing condition

Housing type	% of HHs
Jhupri	7.15
Kutcha	67.7
Tin-shed	13.45
Semi-pucka	8.65
Pucka	3.05

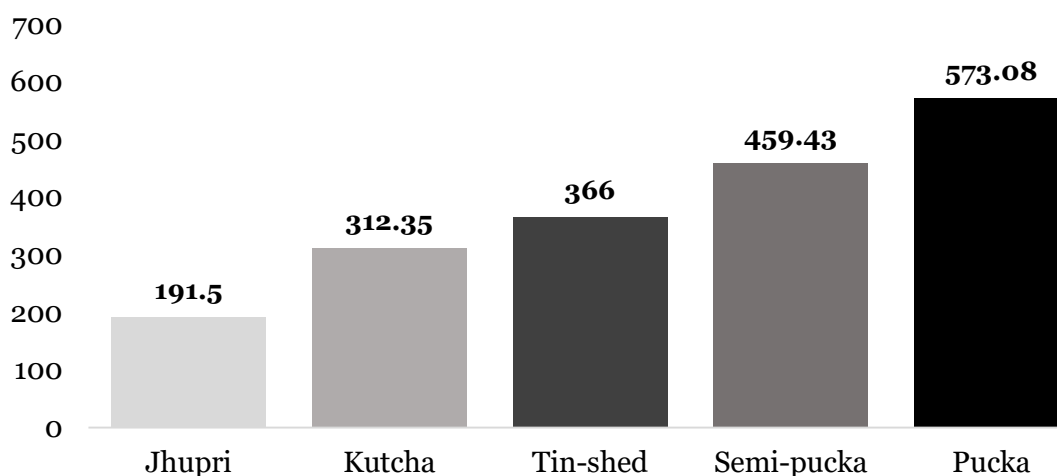


House size: *Jhupri* houses are usually the smallest as they have temporary structures made of non-durable materials. Average size of a *jhupri* where Jaladas lives is 191.5 square feet. On average, *kutcha* houses are 312 square feet and tin-shed houses are 366 square feet. Semi-*pucka* houses are twice as big as *jhupri* houses, which is 459 square feet on average. *Pucka* or concrete houses are naturally the biggest, which is 573 square feet on average.

Table 6: Average size of houses

Housing type	Size (square feet)
Jhupri	191.5
Kutcha	312.35
Tin-shed	366
Semi-pucka	459.43
Pucka	573.08

Average size of house (sq ft)



Health and Sanitation Facilities

Sources of drinking water: Access to drinking water in the coastal areas of Bangladesh is a big concern due to saline intrusion and low level of ground water, which also affects the Jaladas community. Majority of the Jaladas households(95.79%) drink water from tube well, which is also the main source of drinking water at the national level (HIES 2016). All the Jaladas households in more than half of the upazilas under the study drink tube-well water. Nearly no one from the Jaladas community have access to pipeline or tap water except 10% households in Sadarghat thana of Chattogram district. However,

3.44% Jaladas households still drink pond water, which is not a safe source of drinking water and usually avoided nationwide.

Table 7: Sources of drinking water

Sources	% of HHs
Tube well	95.79
Pipeline/tap water	0.77
Pond	3.44

Latrine facilities: At the national level, 61.37% households use sanitary or *pucka* toilet, which are either water sealed and/or has flush (HIES 2016). On the contrary, only 5.35% Jaladas households use *pucka* toilets. The majority of the Jaladas households(89.9%) use ring-slab toilets, which can be either sanitary or unsanitary and do not usually have a concrete structure. An odd 90% Jaladas households in Moheshkhali upazila in Cox’s Bazar district still use *kutchra* or hanging toilets. A small percentage of the Jaladas households in Karnaphuli upazila still defecate in the open space (1.67%).

Sources of drinking water

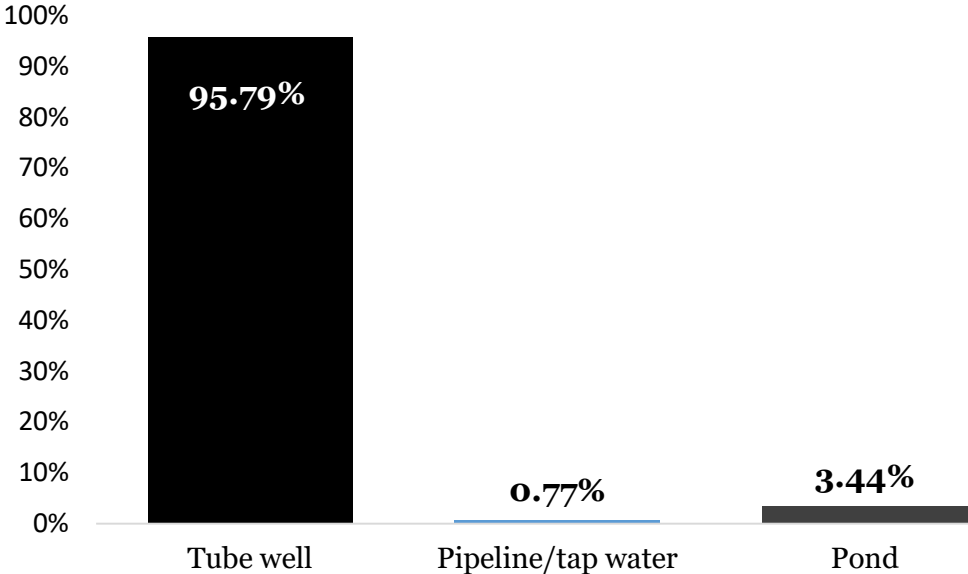
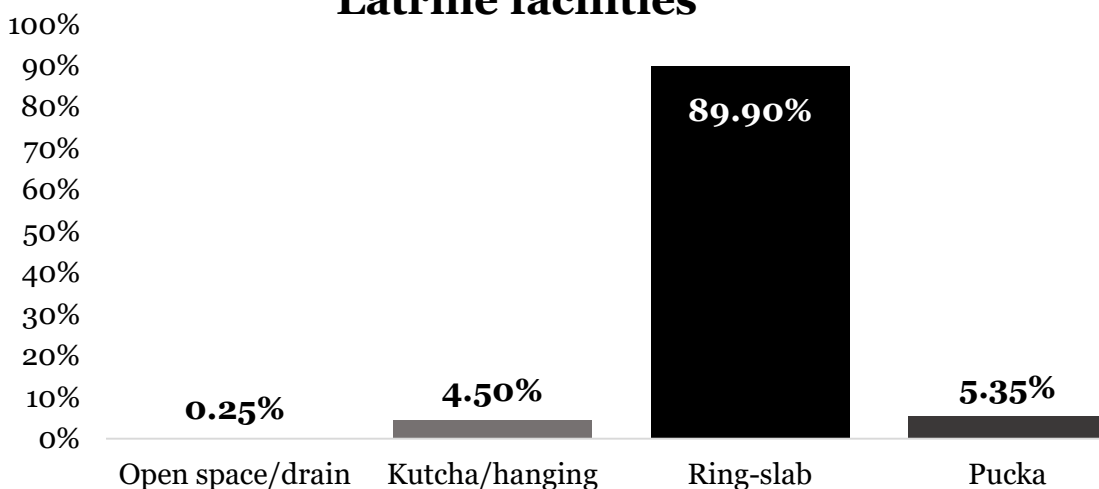


Table 8: Latrine facilities

Latrine type	% of HHs
Open space/drain	0.25
Kutch/hanging	4.50
Ring-slab	89.90
Pucka	5.35

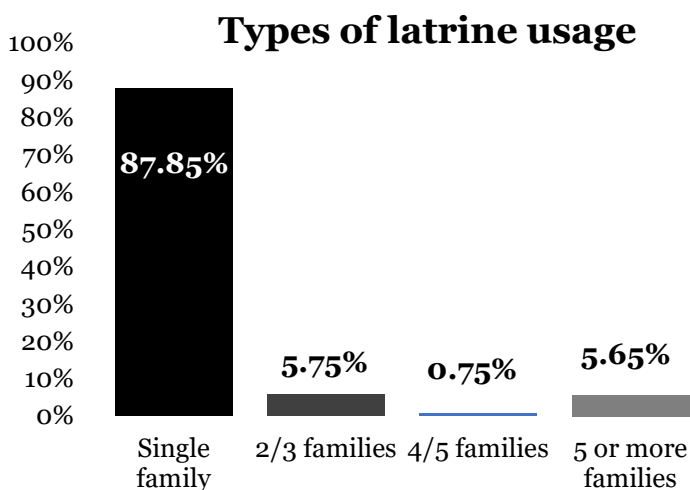
Latrine facilities



In majority of the Jaladas para or villages, the households do not have to share a toilet. Around 88% households have their own toilet whereas 5.75% households have to share toilets with two to three families. However, 95% of the Jaladas households in Cox’s Bazar Upazila have to share a toilet with five or more number of families. .

Table 9: Types of latrine usage

Facility	% of HHs
Single family	87.85
2/3 families	5.75
4/5 families	0.75
5 or more families	5.65



Electricity and other Energy Sources

Electricity: The Jaladas households in majority of the upazilas have access to electricity (90.24%). However, the average duration of daily electricity supply is only 14.76 hours. Half of the households in Chakaria upazila do not have access to electricity. The situation is similar for the Jaladas in Anwara upazila. In Banshkhali, Maheshkhali and Chakaria, electricity is available for only 7-9 hours daily.

Table 10: Electricity supply

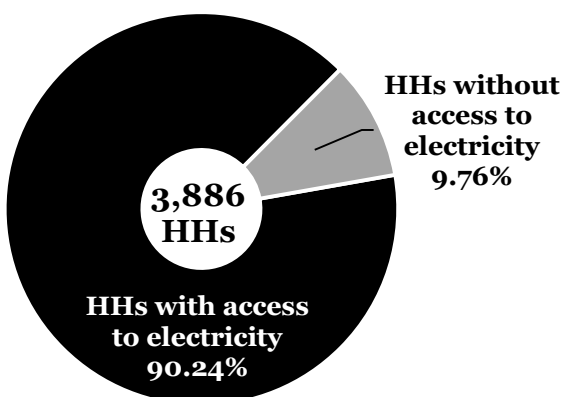
Status	Electricity supply
% of HHs with access to electricity	90.24
% of HHs without access to electricity	9.76
Average duration (hours) of daily supply	14.76

Other major energy source available to the Jaladas community is fire wood. Around 84% households use fire wood as an energy source and it is mainly used for cooking. Majority of the Jaladas community do not have access to cylinder gas or gas lines. A percentage of Jaladas households in Sadarghat, Patenga and Bandar thanas have access to pipeline gas. On average, 13.69% of the Jaladas households have access to pipeline gas. On the other hand, only 2% households use cylinder gas.

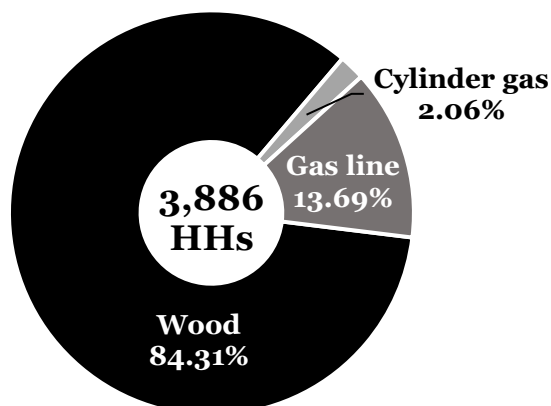
Table 11: Other energy sources for cooking

Status	% of HHs
Wood	84.31
Cylinder gas	2.06
Gas line	13.69

Access to electricity



Other energy sources



Income and Expenditure of the HHs

Major occupations: Catching fish is the main occupation of the Jaladas community—the traditional Hindu fisherfolk of the country. Around 64% of the Jaladas households earn a livelihood as fishermen. On average, 4.25% of the Jaladas households sell fish only. The majority of the Jaladas households(90%) in Maheshkhali and Kutubdia upazilas are involved in fishing. However, in some areas they are not involved in their traditional occupation like before. For instance, only 10% households in Cox’s Bazar sadar upazila and 35% households in Patenga thana are involved in fishing.

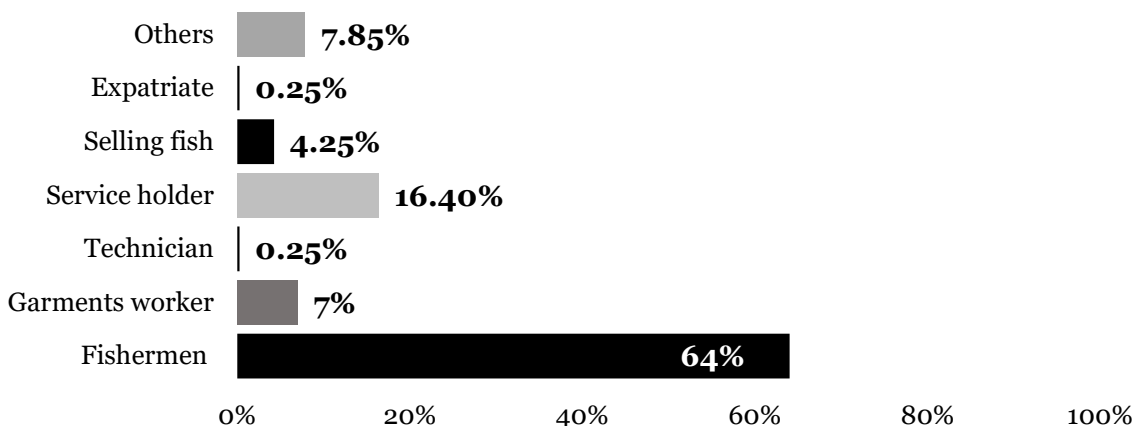
On the contrary, a significant percentage of the Jaladas households(16.4%) earn a living by providing services in the government or non-government offices. The majority of the Jaladas households(80%) in Cox’s Bazar sadar upazila are involved in service sector. It should be noted that a percentage of the community earn a living as garment workers in Karnaphuli upazila and Sadarghat and Patenga thanas, which comprises 7% of the community.

Table 12: Major occupations

Occupation	% of HHs
Fishermen	64.00
Garments worker	7.00
Technician	0.25
Service (government/ non-government)	16.40
Selling fish	4.25
Expatriate	0.25
Others	7.85



Major occupations

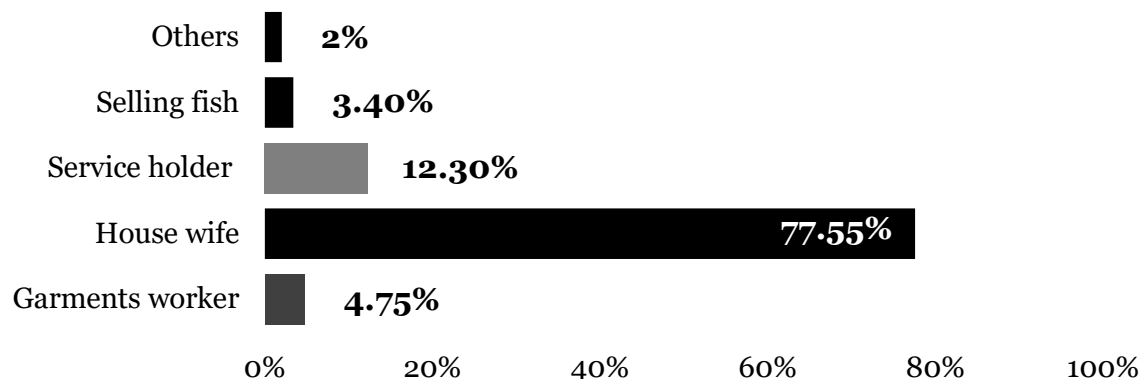


Occupation of women: The majority of the Jaladas women are housewives. Women are involved in only housework in 77.55% of the Jaladas families. In several upazilas, women are housewives in more than 90% of the families. However, women in 12.30% of Jaladas households work in government or non-government offices. The majority of the women from Jaladas households in Maheshkhali upazila (80%) earn a living by providing services. In 3.40% of the households women sell fish and in 4.75% households they work in garments factories. It should be noted that no woman from the Jaladas community catch fish because fishing in the ocean is a completely male-dominated occupation.

Table 13: Occupations of women

Occupation	% of HHs
Garments worker	4.75
Housewife	77.55
Service (government/ non-government)	12.30
Selling fish	3.40
Others	2.00

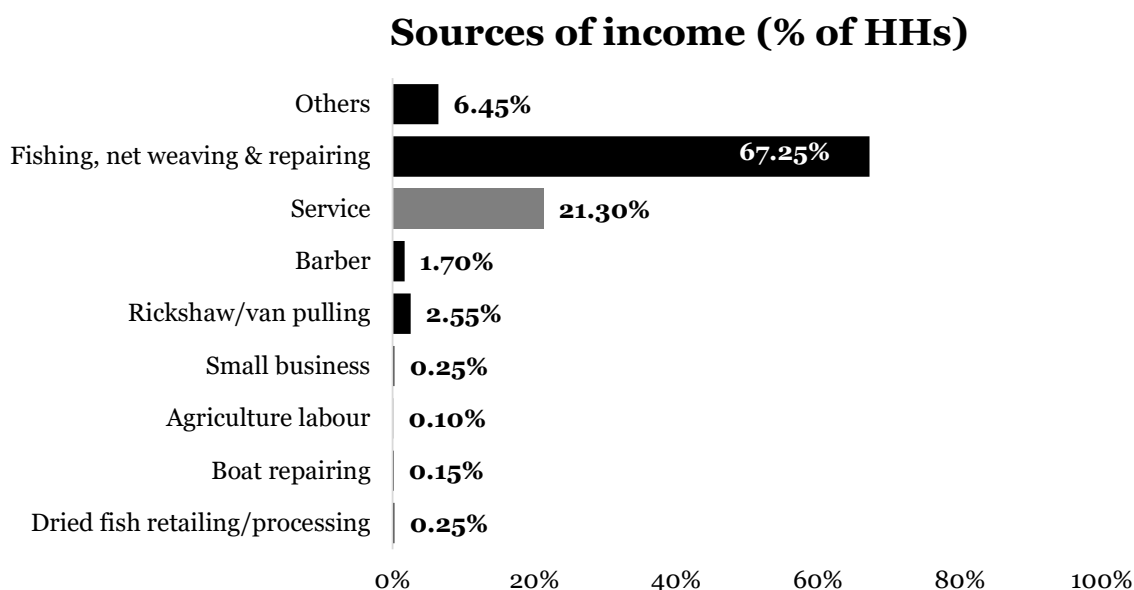
Major occupations of women



Sources of income: Majority of the Jaladas households(64.25%) are involved in fishing and other works related to it such as weaving and repairing of fishing nets. On the other hand, around 21.30% of the Jaladas households earn a living by providing services. More than three quarter of the Jaladas households in Sadarghat thana and Cox’s Bazar sadar upazila earn a living by providing services. Other occupations for Jaladas in most of the upazilas and thanas surveyed were found to be rickshaw or van pulling and barber. Some of the Jaladas are also involved in boat repairing, agricultural labour and small businesses.

Table 14: Sources of income

Occupation	% of HHs
Dried fish retailing/processing	0.25
Boat repairing	0.15
Agriculture labour	0.10
Small business	0.25
Rickshaw/van pulling	2.55
Barber	1.70
Service	21.30
Fishing, net weaving & repairing	67.25
Others	6.45



Average monthly, highest and lowest income: At the national level, average monthly income is Taka 15,945 (HIES 2016). Average monthly income from the traditional occupation of Jaladas, which is fishing and other related work, is around Taka 9,052. Income for service providers is slightly higher than their traditional occupation at an average Taka 10,666 per month. Monthly income from different occupations ranges between Taka 7,000 and Taka 9,500. The Jaladas who work as agricultural labourers has the lowest income—Taka 7,000 per month. An Average highest monthly income from all the occupations available to the Jaladas is Taka 10,575 and average lowest income is Taka 7,675.

Table 15: Average monthly income

Occupation	Taka
Dried fish retailing/ processing	8,000
Boat repairing	8,500
Agriculture labour	7,000
Small business	9,500
Rickshaw/van pulling	8,181
Barber	8,733
Service	10,666
Fishing, net weaving & repairing	9,052
Others	8,833



Average monthly income (in Taka)

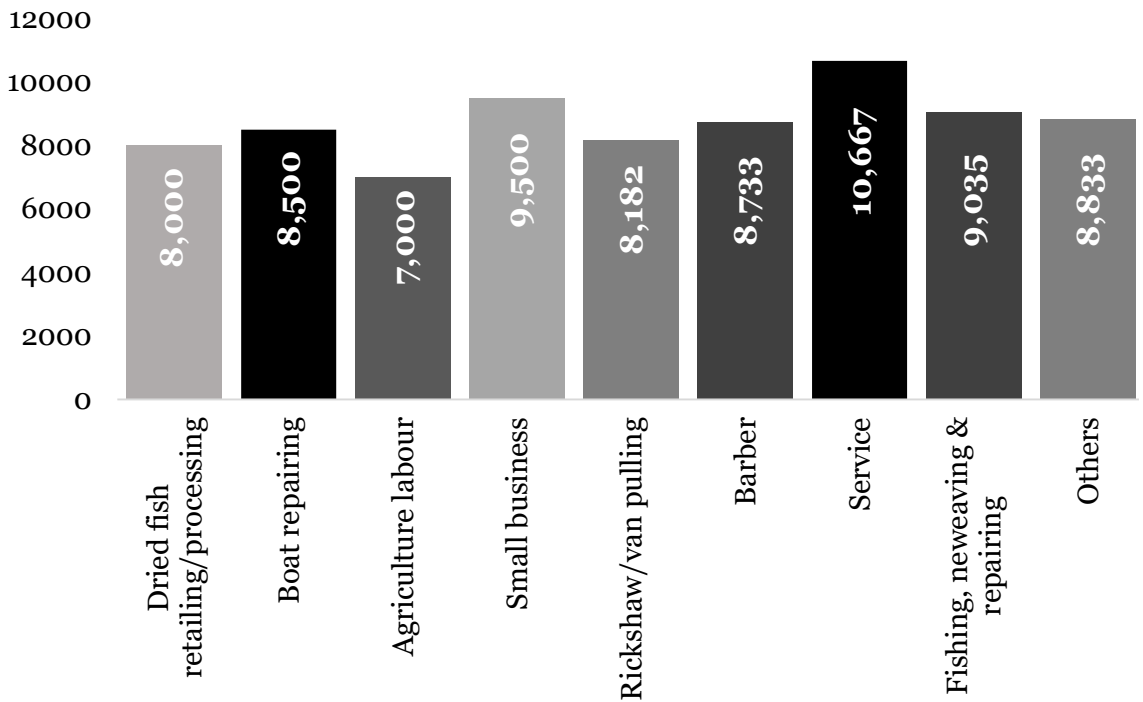


Table 16: Average highest and lowest income (in Taka)

Thana/upazila	Average highest monthly income	Average lowest monthly income
Karnapuli	10,333	7,666
Sadarghat	14,000	8,000
Anwara	10,000	8,250
Patanga	12,000	9,000
EPZ	10,000	8,000
Bashkhali	9,250	7,500
Bandar	12,000	9,000
Shitakunda	10,750	7,500
Akbar Shah	12,000	9,000
Moheshkhali	10,000	7,000
Cox's Bazar	9,000	6,000
Chakaria	10,000	6,000
Kutibdia	10,000	7,000
Total	10,575	7,675

Land and Non-land Assets

Ownership of land: A significant percentage of the Jaladas households own homestead and arable land (68.5%). On average, 12.35% of the Jaladas are completely landless and 19.15% Jaladas occupies land but do not own the land. Almost all Jaladas households in Cox's Bazar sadar upazila and EPZ thana occupy land but do not own any land. On average, 40-50% of the Jaladas households in Banshkhali and Kutubdia upazilas occupy some land but do not own it. Around 35% households in Patenga upazila and 30% households in Bandar thana are completely landless.

Table 17: Land assets (% of HHs)

Thana/ Upazila	Land Status		
	Totally landless	Owns homestead and arable land	Occupied but not owned
Karnaphuli	21.67	78.33	5
Sadarghat	5	90	-
Anwara	7.5	92.5	-
Patenga	35	65	-
EPZ	2	-	98

Banshkhali	1.5	48.5	50
Bandar	30	70	-
Sitakunda	20.5	79.5	-
Akbar Shah	-	80	20
Maheshkhali	10	80	10
Cox's Bazar	-	-	100
Chakaria	-	90	10
Kutubdia	-	60	40
Total	12.35	68.5	19.15

Land assets (% of HHs)

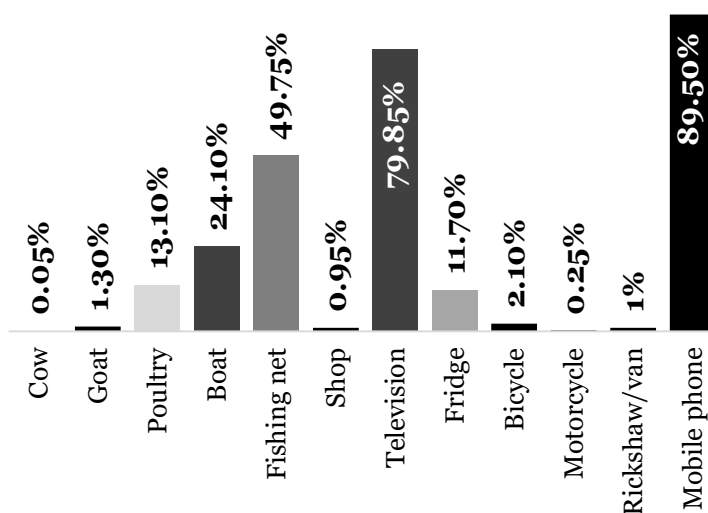
Totally landless 12.35%	Owns homestead and arable land 68.5%	Occupied but not owned 19.15%
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Ownership of non-land assets: The majority of the Jaladas households own mobile phone (89.5%) and around 80% households own a television too. Nearly half of the Jaladas households own fishing net and 24% own boats as 64% of the Jaladas households are still traditional fishermen. Around 13% of the Jaladas households rear poultry. A very small percentage of the households own bicycles, motorcycles, rickshaws or vans.

Table 18: Non-land assets

Non-land asset	% of HHs
Cow	0.05
Goat	1.30
Poultry	13.10
Boat	24.10
Fishing net	49.75
Shop	0.95
Television	79.85
Fridge	11.70
Bicycle	2.10
Motorcycle	0.25
Rickshaw/van	1
Mobile phone	89.50

Non-land assets (%)



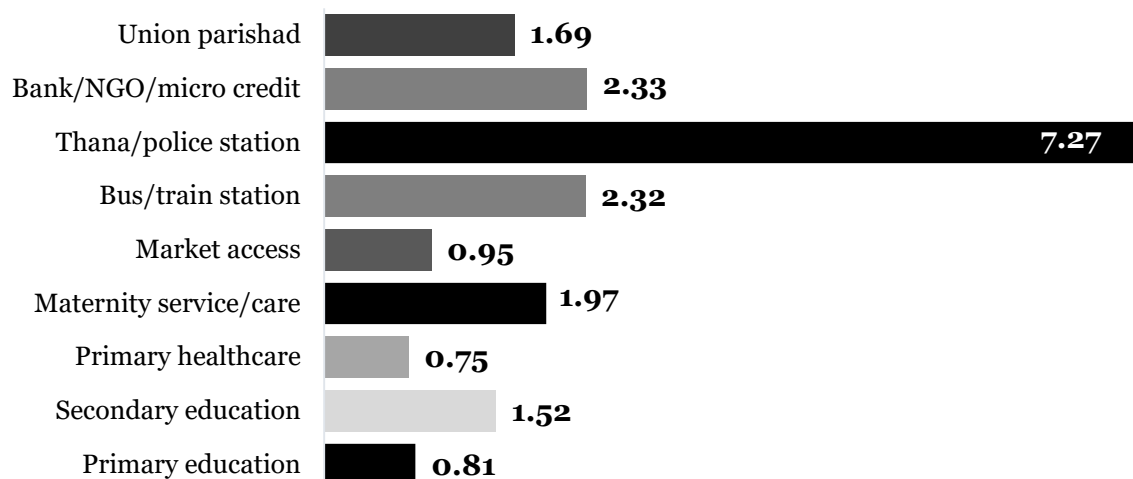
Access to Services

Distance to nearest facilities: Primary schools and primary healthcare services are relatively close to the Jaladas settlements, which is within one kilometre on average. On the contrary, high schools are nearly 1.5 kilometres away on average whereas maternity services are nearly 2 kilometres away from the Jaladas villages. Distance to nearest bus or train station, banks, NGOs or micro-credit services is even higher, which is 2.3 kilometres on average. However, markets are situated within one kilometre of most of the Jaladas settlements. The average distance between Jaladas settlements and police stations was found to be as high as 7.27 kilometres.

Table 19: Distance of nearest facilities (km)

Facility	Average distance
Primary education	.81
Secondary education	1.52
Primary healthcare	.75
Maternity service/care	1.97
Market access	.95
Bus/train station	2.32
Thana/police station	7.27
Bank/NGO/micro credit	2.33
Union parishad	1.69

Distance to nearest facilities (km)

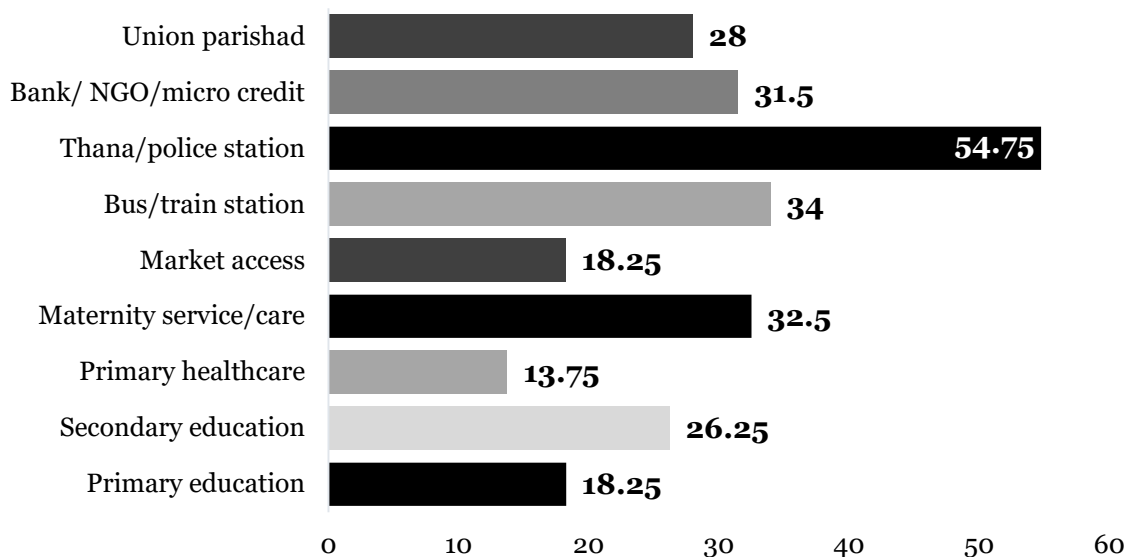


Average time to reach destination: On average, it takes 18.25 minutes to reach primary schools and nearly half an hour (26.25 minutes) to reach high schools for the children of the Jaladas community. Primary healthcare is around 14 minutes away but maternity healthcare, banks, NGOs and micro credit services are more than half an hour away from the Jaladas villages on average. Nearest police station is nearly an hour away from Jaladas settlements. The Jaladas can reach the markets in 18 minutes on average. On average, union parishads or rural councils are 28 minutes away from Jaladas settlements.

Table 20: Average time to reach (minute)

Facility	Average time
Primary education	18.25
Secondary education	26.25
Primary healthcare	13.75
Maternity service/care	32.5
Market access	18.25
Bus/train station	34
Thana/police station	54.75
Bank/NGO/micro credit	31.5
Union parishad	28

Average time to reach nearest facilities (minute)

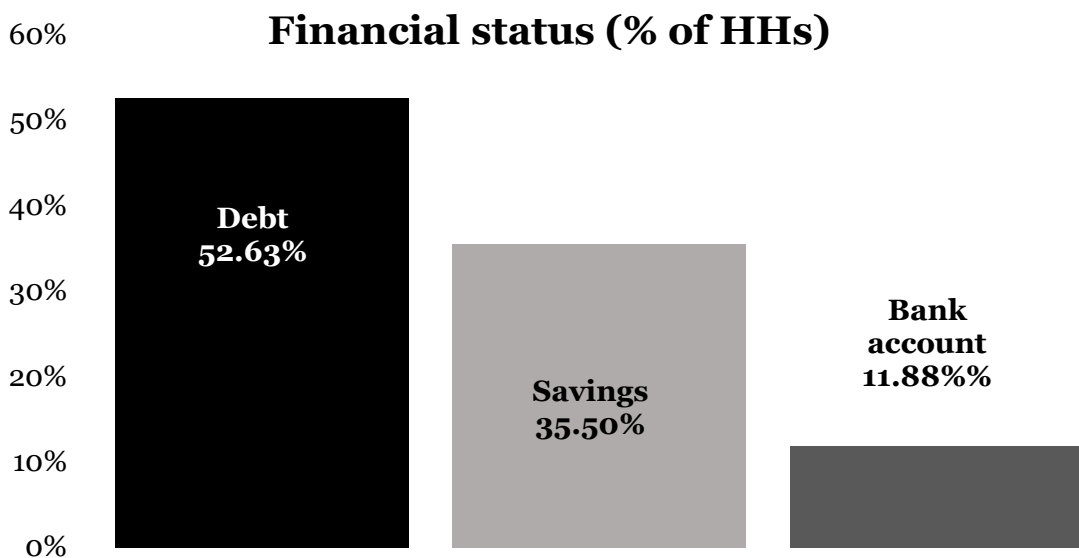


Economic Condition

More than half of the Jaladas households(52.63%) are in debt. In some upazilas, more than three quarters of the Jaladas households are in debt. On average, 90% Jaladas households are indebted in Bandar thana and 80-85% in Cox's Bazar sadar and Kutubdia upazilas. On the contrary, only 35.5% households from the Jaladas community have savings. Around 70-75% of the households have savings only in Anwara upazila and Bandar thana. Only 11.88% Jaladas households have bank accounts on average. The study found no one from the community who use bKash or mobile banking.

Table 21: Financial status

Types	% of HHs
Debt	52.63
Savings	35.5
Bank account	11.88

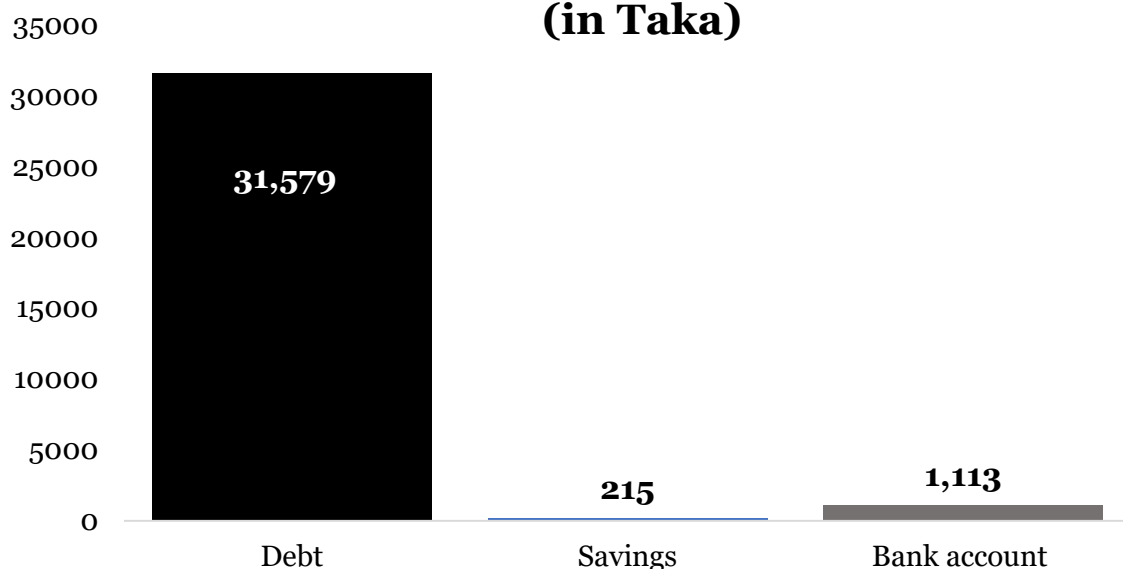


Average amount of debt of the Jaladas family is approximately Taka 31,578 whereas average savings is only Taka 215, which is an indicator of extreme poverty in the Jaladas community. Among the 11.88% of the Jaladas households who have bank accounts, the average amount of money they have in their accounts is only Taka 1,112.

Table 22: Average amount of debt, savings and bank account

Types	Taka
Debt	31,578
Savings	215
Bank account	1,112

Average debt, savings and bank account (in Taka)



Access to Social Safety Net Programmes

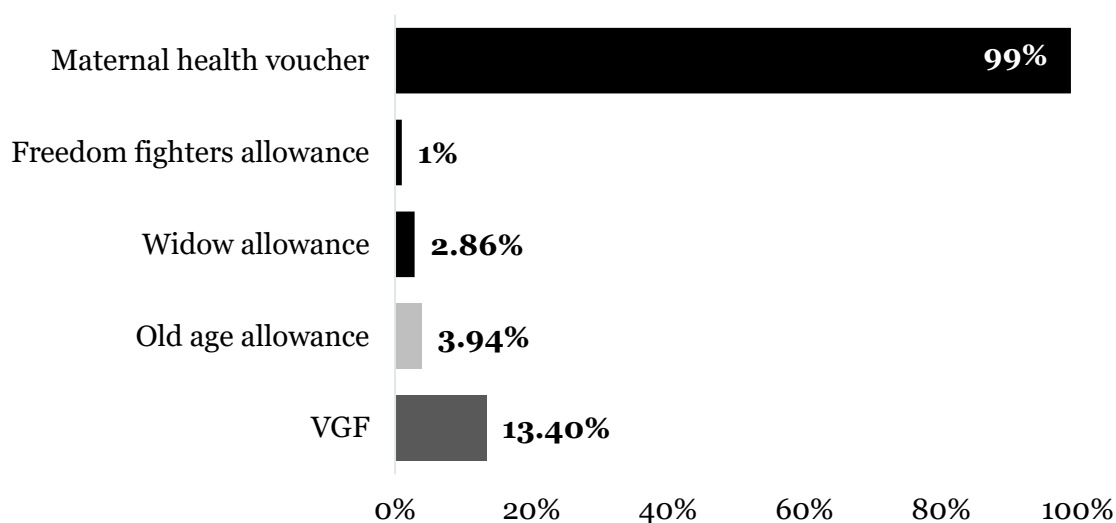
The Jaladas community do not have access to majority of the social safety net programmes available in the country. The main safety net programmes available in the country are Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Old Age Allowance, Widow Allowance, Freedom Fighters' Allowance, Maternal health voucher, disability allowance, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Open Market Sales (OMS), Gratuitous Relief (GR), Food for Work (FFW), Cash for Work (CFW) and Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP), primary and secondary school stipends among others.

Only 1% of the Jaladas households receive freedom fighter's allowance. Nearly 3-4% of the Jaladas households receive widow and old age allowance and 13.4% households have access to VGF. However, 99% of the Jaladas households have maternal health vouchers. No one from the Jaladas community was found to have received primary or secondary school stipends, VGD, FFW/CFW among others.

Table 23: Access to social safety net programmes (% of HHs)

Thana/ upazila	Vulnerable group feed- ing (VGF)	Old age allowance	Widow allowance	Freedom fighters allowance	Maternal health voucher
Karnaphuli	-	1.33	1	1	-
Sadarghat	-	-	-	-	99
Anwara	6	3.5	-	-	99
Patenga	15	-	1	-	99
EPZ	5	2	-	-	99
Banshkhali	1.5	3	-	-	100
Bandar	40	5	-	-	-
Sitakunda	27.5	4.33	3.33	-	98.75
Akbar Shah	3	1	5	1	-
Maheshkhali	1	15	3	-	98
Cox's Bazar	10	2	-	-	100
Chakaria	3	7	-	-	99
Kutubdia	5	5	-	-	-
Total	13.4	3.94	2.86	1	99

Access to social safety net programmes (% of HHs)



Social Capital, Changes and Aspirations

History and Culture

The majority of the people refer to the Jaladas community as *jele* (fishermen). Other common names used to refer to the Jaladas are *jailla*, *jala* and *dom*. However, the respondents stated in 5% of the community clusters that people call them *methor* (sweeper), which is a derogatory term to belittle and disrespect them. None of the respondents mentioned being called Kaibarta.

The Jaladas community are followers of Hinduism and the main festivals they celebrate are Durga Puja, Mohotshav, Kali Puja, Maha Biruli Puja, Ganga Puja, Saraswati Puja and Dol Purnima among others. The community identified craftsmanship as their special skill. Some of the other skills unique to the community are playing several types of musical instruments, working as artisans as well as reciting *puthi* (Hindu religious manuscripts) and *geeta* (Hindu scripture in Sanskrit).

Social Structure and Community-based Organizations

It was found that in almost half of the study locations that the Jaladas community follows a *sardari* system, which is a rural system of self-governance without any legal or state authority. However, they did not mention the practice of *sardari* system in the other half of the Jaladas clusters.

According to Harishankar Jaladas, a Jele village has five *sardars* (headmen). They settle all types of social disputes. The *mukkhos* (advisors) help the *sardars* to make decisions about all social affairs. If there are five *sardars*, then the entire village is divided into five clusters. One *sardar* is responsible for one cluster. If someone commits a crime, such as disturbing a young girl or catching fish by using muscle in the areas of the ocean where other fishermen are entitled to fish, the *sardars* immediately hold a trial. Permission has to be taken from the *sardars* before marriages. There is a tradition of taking advice from the *sardars* during rituals related to pregnant women and new born babies.

The study found rural social committees and puja committees that organize religious events in several Jaladas clusters. *Samabay samiti* or committee of fishermen has been found in only two Jaladas villages. No community-based organization of the Jaladas was found in the study. No one from the community mentioned if they participate in any political activity.

Recent Changes in the Community

For this study, several dimensions were considered in order to identify the recent changes that occurred in the Jaladas community including occupation, education, communication, scope of fisheries and change in family titles. The major positive change in the Jaladas community is improved communication due to development in their localities and construction or development of roads connecting their remote villages to the rest of the country, as mentioned in 94.4% of the study locations. Development in communication has also increased their scope of work and gaining new skills.

A majority (80%) of the community stated that their community has become more aware because of better access to education than before. Other positive impacts of increased access to education is that education rate has increased in addition to improving their skills, knowledge and working opportunities but in a very small scale.

Another major change is that around 74% of the Jaladas community has changed their family title because of condemnation or discrimination by the people from upper castes of Hinduism and 26.3% of the community changed their family tiles due to casteism.

There has been several changes in scope of fishing for the Jaladas community. Around 60% of the community stated that the major change is lack of fishing opportunities. Other changes that led to less scope of fishing for the Jaladas are maritime piracy, deceased number of fishes in the ocean for multiple reasons including water pollution and grabbing of fishing ground. In some areas the scope of fishing for the Jaladas came to an end (15%).

As opportunities to fishing have decreased for different reasons, many had to change their traditional occupation of fishing. The main reason for the Jaladas to change their occupation is maritime piracy. Some of them shifted to other occupations because of maritime piracy in 40% of the Jaladas community. Other major cause for this is decreased fish population in the ocean due to pollution. Some other reasons for changing their traditional occupation are lack of fisheries loans, grabbing of fishing ground, extinction of some fish species and risky livelihood of fishing in the ocean.





The Jaladas risk their lives while fishing in the open sea in such small boats. Many have lost their lives in cyclones; yet their journeys to the sea continue.

Table 24: Nature of changes (% of community)

Dimensions	Factors and nature of change	Type of change >20% major change <20% minor change
Occupation	Maritime piracy	Major (40%)
	Decreased fishing opportunities	Minor (10%)
	Decreased number of fishes for water pollution	Major (30%)
	Extinction of fish species and lack of fisheries loans	Minor (10%)
	Grabbing of fisheries	Minor (5%)
	Fear of life	Minor (5%)
Education	Increased awareness	Major (80%)
	Increase in scope of work and skills	Minor (5%)
	Increase in scope of knowledge	Minor (10%)
	Increase in education rate	Major (5%)
Communication	Road construction or change in locality	Major (94.4%)
	Increase in scope of works or kills	Minor (5.6%)
Scope of fisheries	Fishing has been stopped	Minor (15%)
	Fishing decreased because of piracy	Minor (5%)
	Decrease in fishing opportunities	Major (60%)
	Lack of fishes in the sea	Minor (5%)
	Decrease in number of fishes for water pollution	Minor (5%)
	Grabbing of fishing ground	Minor (10%)
Change of family title	Casteism	Major (26.3%)
	Condemnation or discrimination by upper castes	Major (73.7%)

Problem Analysis

Attacks by maritime pirates: Attacks by pirates in the ocean is a serious problem for the Jaladas community who still earn a traditional living by catching fish in the Bay of Bengal. The Jaladas respondents identified inadequate surveillance and insufficient number of coast guards as the main reasons behind the, unchecked threats of maritime piracy. The other reasons behind this problem are lack of administrative attention and supervision, lack of attention of the government, emergence of new pirates and lack of roads or not repairing the existing roads. In a few cases, fishing completely stopped for fear of pirates. Around 7% of the community stated that they had to give up fishing due to maritime piracy. It is reported that the combined number of piracy-related and armed robbery incidents in only ships was 23 in 2014 in the Bay of Bengal (*The Daily Star* 2015). However, some other reports claim that around 2,000 incidents of piracy took place in the Bay of Bengal in 2012 (*The Daily Star* 2013).

Control by pirates and Muslims and grabbing of fishing grounds: Pirates and people from the majority Muslim communities control ocean grounds, which is a

severe problem for the Jaladas community. Nearly 67% of the Jaladas community stated that maritime piracy and grabbing of fishing grounds in the ocean are serious problems for them. Lack of access to drinking water or deep tube wells in the coastal areas and salt and iron in the water can be the causes behind grabbing of fishing ground in some cases.

Crisis of drinking water: Access to drinking water is a serious concern for everyone living in the coastal regions of the country. The Jaladas community suffer from the drinking water crisis as well. All of the respondents of the Jaladas community stated that they have no access to deep tube wells or pure drinking water. They only have access to shallow tube wells as mentioned before.

Lack of access to cremation ground: Like other Hindu marginalized communities, Jaladas community also face problems to access cremation ground. Half of the community have no access to cremation grounds. In 25% of the community, the respondents stated that grabbing of cremation ground is the reason behind this problem.

Poor condition of roads: Bad roads and poor infrastructure in addition to difficult terrains in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram districts contribute to the poor living conditions, particularly in the remote areas. People from Jaladas community suffer from this problem as well. Access to no roads or lack of maintenance of existing roads were identified as the main reason behind this problem.

No fisheries loan: No one from the Jaladas community have access to fisheries loans as the government has taken no initiative to introduce this facility for them, which is especially targeted for fishermen.

Housing problems: The Jaladas community face different housing problems. Half of the community stated that inadequate habitation space is the cause behind this problem. Lack of proper sanitation system in the Jaladas households is another major problem identified by all of the respondents. Moreover, they do not have sufficient access to electricity. Electricity is supplied for only 14-15 hours in Jaladas villages as mentioned before. All of the respondents identified poverty as the reason behind the electricity crisis.

Unemployment: As the Jaladas community is being forced to change their traditional occupation of fishing, they are facing more risks of staying unemployed. More than a quarter of the community identified low education rate as the cause behind unemployment in the community. As mentioned before, the majority of the Jaladas community (62%) has not continued their study after primary or secondary school. Lack of access to higher education hinders them from entering into better occupations.

No access to cyclone centres: Respondents from all of the clusters under the study stated that people from the Jaladas community who live in the coastal areas have no

access to cyclone centres. As many of them live in the coastal areas, access to cyclone shelters during natural disasters is an important need of the community.

Waterlogging and hygiene problems: Waterlogging is a big problem in the Jaladas localities. Respondents from all the Jaladas clusters identified lack of drainage system as the main reason behind the problem of water clogging in the Jaladas villages. Moreover, no cleaner is assigned by the authorities in their localities, which led to serious hygiene issues.

Possible Solutions to the Problems

Construction of new roads or maintenance of existing roads with assistance from both public and private sectors as well as keeping the criminal activities of maritime pirates in check were suggested as the solutions to protect the Jaladas community. Construction and renovation of roads will also vastly improve their communication to the outside world as well as provide them better access to cremation grounds and sources of drinking water. They suggested that setting up deep tube wells or bringing in water pipelines in their locality can solve their acute drinking water crisis.

The respondents also suggested that grabbing of cremation grounds by the influential people of their localities need to be stopped in addition to renovating or establishing cremation grounds in *khas* land. They also suggested introducing fisheries loans in the government banks especially targeting Jaladas community to support them to continue their traditional occupation. The government or non-government organizations should set up and renovate coastal cyclone shelters and embankment dams, which need to be accessible to the Jaladas people living in the coastal areas.

Improving drainage system in their locality and establishing sufficient housing and sanitation facilities can vastly improve their housing conditions. The municipalities should appoint cleaners in Jaladas localities to solve the hygiene problem. Access to new job openings and creating opportunities to develop their educational and technical skills are also essential to deal with their unemployment crisis.

Needs and Aspirations

The Jaladas respondents have identified access to drinking water as their primary need, the only solution to which is setting up deep tube wells in their localities. Around 31% of the community stated that access to drinking water is their primary need. Access to deep tube wells has been identified as one of the two needs of the Jaladas community in Patenga thana and Chakaria upazila; the other needs being access to fisheries loans and

proper drainage system in the locality. Access to drinking water was also emphasized in Karnaphuli, Anwara and Sitakunda upazilas.

Introducing fisheries loans is another major need of this traditional fisher folk community, which was mentioned by 21% of the community. They mentioned that setting up *samabay samiti* or corporation of fishermen can significantly help them meet their needs. The other needs and aspirations of the community are construction of new roads to improve communication, access to government jobs, rehabilitation in *khas* land, access to cremation grounds, setting up coastal shelters, sufficient supervision of the coastal guards to stop maritime piracy, improved law and order, setting up electricity connections in their localities and access to solar energy among others.

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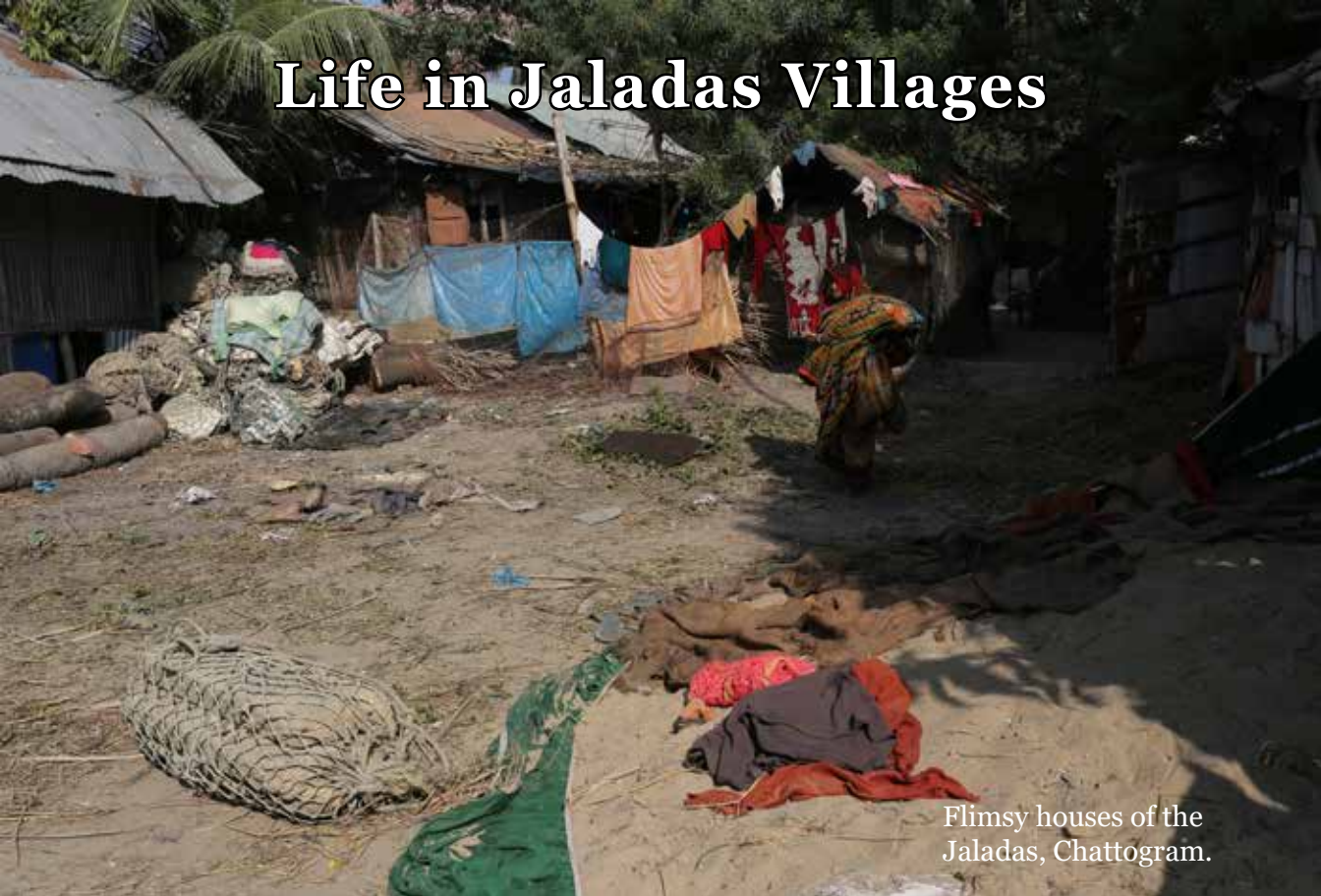
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Life in Jaladas Villages



Flimsy houses of the Jaladas, Chattogram.



Jaladas women singing religious songs (kirton), North Patenga, Chattogram.

Jaladas: A Seafaring Fishing Community

The Jaladas is a seafaring fishing community. They belong to lower caste Hindu community and are concentrated primarily in the coasts of Cox's Bazar and Chattogram districts. They have been living in secluded villages in these coastal districts for centuries. The Jaladas have their own distinctive cultural and social practices. However, they are a community extremely marginalized and vulnerable and are exposed to natural calamities. The fishers who venture the rough sea sometimes lose lives. Besides, fishing opportunities have drastically decreased for the Jaladas community for various reasons including grabbing of fishing grounds by non-traditional fishers and piracy. As a consequence, many have to either change their traditional way of living or become unemployed. With almost no access to higher education or formal occupations, they have little scope to migrate out of extreme poverty.

The monograph presents findings of a study of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) on demographic and socio-economic conditions of the community, which is a valuable addition to the academic and public discourse on social exclusion of the Jaladas in Bangladesh.



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