

Why SSF matter! The Bangladesh story

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Fish and fisheries, in Bangladesh, play an important role in the livelihood, food, and nutrition security of millions of fishers, both in inland and marine waters. It is estimated fisheries and related activities support more than 7% of the country's population. Besides, fisheries account for 3.57% of the Gross



Domestic Product (GDP), 4.4% of export earnings, and 60% of the animal protein intake of the population. There are more than 1.6 million fishers in Bangladesh, of which more than half a million are marine fisher. In Bangladesh generally, craft length 10-40 m and the mechanized boat with an engine no more than 40HP are considered as SSF.

The life of small-scale fisher in Bangladesh is not so sound. The small-scale fishers do not have any steady income all year round as a consequence most of the fishers living their lives below the poverty line. The fishers are unable to sell their catch or product directly to the consumers. Generally, there are 8 layers of middlemen between the fishers and consumers. As they are highly disorganized, any of the extension activities do not reach them. The market price is decided by the money lenders. A good catch does not ensure good price as the fisher do not have any control over it. Furthermore, the Bay of Bengal is one of the most highly disaster-prone areas where typical cyclones, storm surges are common phenomena. In the past few decades, there was a drastic change in climate as a result, people of the coastal areas are facing more natural calamities. The climates have limited their fishing activities. Because of limited options of livelihood, the small-scale fishers

often ignore the weather forecast warnings and prefer to fishing, put their lives at risk to feed their families. The most elegiac part is that, even after taking such risk, they don't get the proper price of their catch.



Fish are inextricably connected with the Bengali culture. The contribution of SSF in increasing food supply, job creation, rising nutritional status, and earning foreign exchange have been developed in the last few decades. Most of the fishers in Bangladesh engage with small-scale

fisheries. By promoting SSF in Bangladesh, huge change can be done to the livelihood of the coastal people of Bangladesh.

SSF do matter when it comes to the development of the fishers living below the poverty line!!

SSF do matter when we want to bring the marginalized coastal people in the light of literacy!!

SSF do matter when it comes to meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) 1 & 2.