# Rohingya issues, sustainability, and development in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

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## **Abstract**

Many countries' economies are becoming increasingly reliant on tourism. It is an essential source of revenue, employment, and investment for several nations, such as Bangladesh. However, the tourist business faces several obstacles, and its development attempts are unsustainable. The recent surge of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar has shaken the country's tourism economy. As a result, this study aims to understand better how the inflow of Rohingya refugees negatively impacts various tourist stakeholders. Propose a long-term plan to ensure the tourist industry's long-term viability and development as a destination. This study follows a mixed-method where both qualitative and quantitate data were taken into account as the population size is unknown due to the involvement of the informal economy, the researcher followed a convenient sampling procedure. For identifying the sample size, Godden's theory followed with a 92% confidence level and an 8% margin of error. A total of 120 sample sizes were finalized for the analysis and discussion. A structured questionnaire was developed with both open and close-ended questions to collect data from the respondents. Descriptive and crosstab analysis was conducted to see and narrate the economic impact and vulnerability of the stakeholders and to identify the social impacts and threats; conceptual analysis was conducted on the open-ended answers. Most of the respondents faced income reduction during the influx at different levels. Uneducated, lower class and migrated stakeholders are most vulnerable to this influx. Security issues, price hikes, overcrowding and change in the land cover are the common problem faced by the tourists and the industry stakeholders. Reduction in the number of tourists, lesser attractions, shrinking the industry and security are the primary threats posed by this influx. The findings of this study are useful, at the very least, in assisting in the development of strategic management plans for Cox's Bazar tourism, in which residents & Rohingya refugees are viewed as tourism development partners, and the positive impact highlighted by this study should be emphasized for a variety of benefits to tourism stakeholders, including the local community. And the study's findings on tourism's negative impact should be addressed to benefit the local community and tourism in Cox's Bazar.

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## Introduction

The flood of Rohingya refugees has become a major issue in Bangladesh. The Rohingya people are said to be the world's biggest stateless people. Over 0.7 million Rohingyas have been forced to flee Myanmar for Bangladesh. One of the world's fastest-growing refugee crises has been defined as the occurrence. On the other hand, the newly relocated Rohingyas are hesitant to return to the refugee camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar region, in the south-east, despite receiving international aid (Lewis, 2018). The flood of Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh has created serious border, public, and social security issues. They are engaging in various criminal acts, such as forging documents and other illegal actions. Several national and international organizations have raised awareness of the security threat posed by Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh. As a result, the refugee crisis poses several security challenges to law enforcement authorities and the country's peace. Many tourists have lost trust in Cox's Bazar due to security concerns and unforeseen circumstances. The Rohingya situation in Bangladesh may provide an opportunity to comprehend better Bangladesh's tourist environment, which may worry visitors and people throughout the world.

The Rohingya issue hurts Bangladesh's economy and is causing significant disruption to the country's tourism sector in Cox's Bazar. The income streams from tourism in the Cox Bazar region have been threatened due to the abrupt growth in the overall population in the region, directly hurting Bangladesh's national GDP. Bangladesh would find it challenging to deal with the Rohingya situation as a least developed country due to its large population (Yilmaz & Talukder, 2019). Furthermore, because of the refugee surge, the economic impact of the Rohingya problem in Bangladesh has been considered from the initial wave of economic shifts. As a result, Bangladesh has significant challenges in maintaining its security and economy due to the Rohingya refugee flood. As a result, the international community must act quickly to compel Myanmar to end the situation and assist Bangladesh in recovering from it. This article intends to bring attention to such security challenges in the tourist industry and recommend future efforts to improve Bangladesh's tourism sector's environment. In this context, this study illustrates the current state of the tourism environment in Bangladesh as a result of the security challenges posed by Rohingya refugees.

## **Background of the Study**

The Rohingya crisis is the one primary subject that is now circulating in Bangladeshi society. In August 2017, the Bangladeshi government allowed more than 300,000 refugees from Myanmar, who were fleeing persecution at the hands of the country's army (Sohel, 2017). Bangladesh has shown its grandeur by enabling them to continue to live for a bit period. However, the population was steadily expanding day by day throughout time. According to official figures, the number of refugees has already reached 1.5 million. However, the recent refugee crisis attacked the tourism environment in Cox's Bazar, the most attractive tourist spot in Bangladesh. In this context, Rohingya refugees have migrated to the tourism capital city of Bangladesh. The present scenario and effects of the refugee crisis on Bangladesh's tourism industry have created challenges and security threats in Bangladesh's tourism industry (Roy & Chowdhury, 2021).

Additionally, they are staying in the Teknaf neighbourhood, a section of Cox's Bazar that is well-known as the primary tourist attraction and home to the world's longest sea beach. Recently, refugees have caused a great deal of disruption to visitors visiting the nation from inside or outside of the country. People are afraid of their actions and have lost interest in seeing them, causing problems for the tourist industry.

#### **Problem Statement**

The refugee crisis has become a global problem in the modern world. Thirty million people were displaced at the end of World War II. However, there is a long-term solution to this refugee crisis, and the world community agreed on this in the 1950s. More than 2.4 million refugees were registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1974, which grew to 10.5 million in 1984. UNHCR handled over 27 million refugees, displaced persons, and asylum seekers in 1996 (Hatton & Williamson, 2006).

For my study, I'm focusing on the effect of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, particularly in Cox's Bazar tourism aspect, since they are regarded as the world's most significant and most persecuted ethnic minority. Rohingya refugees have been pouring into Bangladesh since August 25, 2017. GOB (Bangladesh government), with the support of international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), has been providing refugees with food, housing, and relief since then (Chowdhury & Mostafa, 2020). These camps were not supposed to be long-term solutions for Rohingya refugees in 2017, yet the present camp

circumstances prove that they are. As a result, it seems as though the Rohingya refugees' life in the temporary camp circumstances is becoming longer-term.

## **Significance of the Study**

This story of one-sided victimisation does not convey the complete picture; this narrative of one-sided victimhood will benefit readers who want to understand the causes of the situation or the Rohingya themselves. The Rohingya are a Muslim minority from Bangladesh who has lived in Myanmar's western Rakhine province for many years. Some Muslim families in Rakhine may trace their roots back to the 16th century. However, the present plight of boat people is not only a Myanmar issue. The United Nations estimates that up to 60 per cent of the persons stranded at sea are Bangladeshi economic migrants, while the rest are presumed to be Rohingya refugees. As a result of international pressure, the Myanmar government has begun its rescue efforts in recent weeks, bringing roughly 1,000 people ashore by early June (Ahmed et al., 2021). The world has to take a more united approach to the Rohingya and end one of Asia's most contentious conflicts. As a final point, countries in Southeast Asia should enforce zero tolerance for human trafficking and commit to bringing smugglers who profit from human misery to justice.

## **Research Aim and Objectives**

#### Aim

This research evaluates the effects of Rohingya issues on tourism sustainability and development around Cox's Bazar place in Bangladesh. This study aims to estimate the severe crisis and determinants of Rohingya situations in Cox's Bazar and how the current trends can mitigate the problem and compose a program on sustainability and development of the Rohingya issues.

#### **Objectives**

The following are the objectives of this research:

- To identify the problems faced by the tourists in Cox's Bazar due to the Rohingya influx.
- To evaluate the economic losses of the stakeholders of Cox's Bazar tourism industry.
- To estimate the overall impact of the Rohingya influx on the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar.

### Research Questions

- What are the problems experienced by tourists who visited Cox's Bazar after the influx?
- What are the major effects of the Rohingya influx on the stakeholders of the Cox's Bazar tourism industry

## **Limitations of the Study**

The Rohingya refugee crisis is a recent event in Bangladesh that is causing colossal trouble in most country sectors. Very little literature is available for the trim work to understand the adverse effect falling upon the tourism sector due to the Rohingya influx. There is minimal research in this field because of the shortage time of the crisis, but research is gradually increasing. However, time is not adequate to conduct the research by surveying respondents from all participants. With the limited respondents, the researcher has tried to fulfil the research objectives in the findings. Along with all limitations, the researcher has answered all research questions by arguing with adequate information from respondents.

## **Literature Review**

#### Introduction

In academic research, the concept of subject matter serves as the basis for analysis (Solomon, 2007). The conceptual framework, which comprises interconnected concepts and ideas, provides critical interpretations and conclusions (Routray et al., 2019). It also aids in clarifying the study's goal, the progression of thesis subjects, the selection of appropriate methodologies, and the identification of possible research constraints.

According to Doedens & Burns (2001), the literature review offers a sound basis for creating research frameworks. Therefore, the chapter opens with key definitions of terminology that are often used in refugee-related literature.

## **A Systematic Review of Literature**

According to Mohammad (2011), the growing problem of refugees, the involuntary movement of people, and the necessity to cope with increasing regional crises are among the most pressing difficulties facing national and global administrations. The Rohingya refugee crisis has been dubbed the fastest-growing refugee catastrophe (McDonald 2018). More than 500,000 refugees fled northern Burma to Bangladesh, risking their lives on the river and on foot due to the devastation of their cities and the military regime (Observerbd 2018). The Rohingya refugee inflow put tremendous strain on community members' social, economic, and environmental elements and Bangladesh's national resources in a developing country like Bangladesh, which struggles to satisfy its people's fundamental requirements and overcome the difficulties of overpopulation.

One of the thesis' key aims is to study the long-term impacts of the Rohingya refugee intake and camp construction on the local population's long-term sustainability and development. Several case studies on refugee situations and their consequences on host communities have shed light on Bangladesh's problems.

According to studies, large refugee influxes have a wide range of social, economic, political, and environmental effects on existing social and economic institutions (World tourism organization, 2019). In Bangladesh, the shelters were constructed in distant, undeveloped locations where the host communities were already impoverished and under awful conditions. Rohingya immigration, according to Truelove and colleagues, has had an impact on the quality

of life and the long-term survivability of people in refugee camps. As the study suggests, Rohingyas travelling to Bangladesh has increased substantially, corresponding impact.

## **Tourism Research & Migration Studies**

There is no question that a significant amount of study has been done on tourism worldwide. Yet, surprisingly, few works and literature on the growth of the tourist sector throughout the world have been discovered.

Similarly, there is no study on the same aspect of the tourist business in Bangladesh. However, the researcher had access to a few publications and research studies addressing marketing concerns and dealing with the tourist industry's challenges on a surface level. As a result, the literature evaluation for this study included a thorough examination of both published and unpublished material on all elements of Bangladesh's tourist business.

Hossain and Hossain (2002) said in research on marketing promotion techniques for the tourism sector in Bangladesh that tourism has become a top priority in most of the world's destination nations and that there is growing rivalry among countries to attract visitors. However, in the face of rising global competition, Bangladesh lags far behind in attracting many international tourists

The impact of tourism on the local community and their perceptions of the socio-cultural, economic, and environmental impacts of tourism in Cox's Bazar town is a vital context to comprehend. Furthermore, identifying important socio-cultural, economic, and ecological variables and ideas in the literature to develop an acceptable research methodology and instruments that will allow us to ascertain the following: Finally, it's worth mentioning that the tourism effect problem in Cox's Bazar town appears to have gotten little or no attention. As a result, the focus of the research is on the impact of tourism on the local community. And how the bad aspects might be addressed to turn Cox's Bazar's mass tourists into community-friendly tourism.

Swarbrooke (2002) found that tourism may be considered an economic activity with various positive and negative repercussions in his previous research. On the other hand, sustainable tourism strives to achieve the most excellent possible balance between economic benefits and social and environmental costs. Therefore, to develop and promote tourism successfully, tourism's economic, environmental, and social components must all be adequately understood.

Scheyvens (2011) stated tourism socio-cultural developments are connected to local quality of life and sense of place. Personal income increases, for example, which helps to improve living circumstances for those more directly involved in the sector, supports the diversity of restaurants and other forms of cultural entertainment, impacts the selection of things for sale in many local businesses that would not be available in the same amount if tourism did not exist to support them, park areas are constantly updated, street furniture and design criteria are developed, and so on. However, local store overcharging, petty theft from automobiles and lodging, increased aggressive personal attacks, and other adverse changes in quality of life may occur. On the other hand, reigniting local culture and beliefs, enhancing urban knowledge and appreciation of culture and traditions, a feeling of joy in local heritage, celebrations/festivals becoming main attractions, and large-scale crafts promotion, for example, are all examples of positive improvements in the feeling of the place.

Tourism has become increasingly sensitive to and reliant on a high-quality, sustainable environment, according to Williams & Baláž (2014). As a result, to maintain nature's integrity and cultural-historical riches, future tourist marketing must focus on ecologically responsible tourism. Furthermore, he argued that sustainable tourism would benefit the global economy and the economies of local locations in the future.

Williams & Baláž (2014) argues, "Sustainable tourism must be intertwined with all other activity in the local region to exist." Based on this opinion, it's reasonable to presume that the destination's industry and renowned organizations share part of the blame. As a result, management and control must include sustainability in tourism growth.

Williams (2004) claims various reasons for travelling, but curiosity is one of the most popular. "Curiosity drives a traveller to seek out various experiences in different corners. Travel is primarily motivated by the desire to observe different people, cultures, and political systems."

According to Shaw and Williams (2004), if tourism is carefully structured, organized, and maintained ethically, it may give several socio-cultural benefits. If the economic advantages of tourism are appropriately dispersed, they can, for example, enhance people's living conditions and assist pay for upgrades to community infrastructure and services. Promoting and investing in sustainable tourism, an alternative kind of tourism that may assist in safeguarding a destination's natural, cultural, and social surroundings, is one strategy to help avoid this development. This type of tourism, whether it's referred to as eco-tourism, responsible travel, or anything else, responds to the adverse effects of mass tourism.

According to the Department of Environment research, the existing tourist pattern in Cox's Bazar marginalizes residents' ability to manage sustainable tourism in Ecologically Critical Areas (March 2018). As a result, instead of paying some of the social and environmental costs associated with tourism, disadvantaged communities in the vicinity gain no meaningful benefits. Communities can be involved in management, according to the research, by delegating tourism rights to communities or guaranteeing that government planning practices are inclusive and responsive to local needs.

## **Refugee Migration on Destination Perception**

Migration and tourism have complex relationships, with one driving the other in some instances and opposing behaviours and events in others (Foa, U. G., & Foa, 1980). As global mobility grows and tourism and migration become more intimately intertwined, more research on the linkages, complexity, critical problems, and future directions are required. According to Adams (2020), Western tourism ideas typically confound our understanding of the links between migration and tourism, with scholars and tourism authorities establishing binary divisions between the two. On the other hand, both result from a convergence of social, economic, and political factors, with mobilities fueled by creative tropes and a movement full of aspirations, dreams, worries, and uncertainties (Sofique & Parveen, 2009).

Refugees and immigrants and national and international recognized assistance and control agencies may become the most visible groups of individuals during times of crisis. An outgroup, such as refugees and immigrants, may feel threatened by dominant local's ingroup members. If they consider they are invasive or hazardous to their collective or individual interests, such as safety, security, resources, and general quality of life, according to the Group Threat Theory Garay & Cánoves (2011). However, research on their impact on the image and brand of the affected site and tourist incentives to visit during and after the crisis is limited and only draws attention in light of current mobilities in the Mediterranean region (Landlopers, 2011).

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However, when it comes to internal determinants of travel intentions, a person's unique combination of beliefs, attitudes, expectations and past experiences muddles the perception of a destination's safety (Shamsuddoha & Nedelea, 2008). Therefore, one's thoughts and attitudes constantly skew perceptions of refugee and immigration movements. Apart from an individual's psychographic profile (origin, age, gender, income, and level of education), Williams & Balá (2014) claim that political ideology and orientation, as well as attitudes toward refugees and immigrants, as well as security and control forces, are very likely to influence visiting intention and destination image. According to the Group Threat Theory, visitor political orientation at a destination affected by refugee and immigrant movement is linked to views of altruism or prejudice toward outgroups and their relationship to hazards and security concerns at the destination level (Ndiuini & Baum 2021). Moreover, in how they treat outgroups, they prefer visiting areas that align with their political views. Therefore, to better understand the relationship between personal ideas and the visual image impacted by outgroup mobility.

## **Sustainable Tourism Development**

The purpose of sustainable tourism is to plan first, then develop. This development approach is more suited since it is moderate, regulated, and long-term growth that creates jobs, currency exchange revenues, and necessary buildings while safeguarding cultural assets and living culture and minimising negative environmental and social consequences. It's high-quality, has local control, and runs quietly. It ensures long-term economic sustainability while preserving biodiversity. Local developers redevelop the neighbourhood on a moderate scale, with some mental preparation (Garay & Cánoves, 2011).

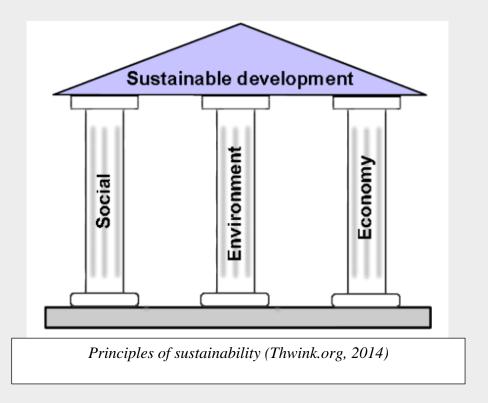
The principle of sustainable tourism is to educate travellers so that they may travel in an environmentally responsible manner, and it entails travelling to a place with interest in nature and ecology under the guidance of a naturalist, which, if followed by tourists, will help to generate additional forms of sustainable tourism. Furthermore, to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection should be developed as an essential element of the development process, not as a separate action. (United Nations Environment Programme, 2005)

Every country has the freedom to exploit its resources for social and economic growth, but it must ensure that it does not harm the environment outside its boundaries. Nations should adopt international regulations to compensate territories outside their boundaries for harm caused by activities under their control (UNEP, 2005)

Nations must reduce and eliminate unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and demographic strategies should be pushed following current and future generations' development and environmental demands. In addition, sustainable development necessitates a more comprehensive scientific knowledge of the issues so that countries may share data and innovative technology to achieve sustainability. Finally, nations should also collaborate to maintain, protect, and restore the Earth's ecosystem's health and integrity(Garay & Cánoves, 2011).

## The Three Pillars of Sustainability

Three important pillars of sustainability should be addressed in the growth of tourism. The notion of the three main pillars has gained worldwide acceptance. Tourism-related organisations must consider the three pillars of sustainable tourism. These three aspects of sustainability are social, environmental, and economic. Communities, businesses, and people should all think about these three areas. The fundamental goal of sustainable development is to achieve an understandable and long-term equilibrium between these three aspects. The interrelationships between all three factors must be acknowledged if sustainable tourism management is effective (Scheyvens, 2011)



#### **Environmental Sustainability**

One of the essential aspects of tourism is environmental sustainability, namely natural, physical, and ecological conservation. The term "environmental sustainability" refers to ensuring that resources in a given region remain well-maintained for future generations to use (Adams, 2020).

Tourism organisations must carefully consider the environment to safeguard the environment, particularly the natural environment and its preservation. Wildlife is a key draw for travellers all around the world. However, tourism is destructive to wildlife, as evidenced by habitat damage, changes in eating habits, disruption of reproductive cycles, forest fires, and humans picking up rear plants (Scheyvens, 2011)

Tourism makes extensive use of natural resources. Natural resources are the primary draw of a destination's goods. Natural resources, for example, include clean, pure water, mountain ranges, lakes, rivers, oceans, beaches, and natural woodland, yet in many nations, the natural environment is constantly impacted by human activity. There are just a few natural landscapes left on the planet. Tourism is destructive to all parts of the ecosystem because tourism is an enterprise that alters the natural environment (Swarbrooke, 2002. 47)

Because of its worth as a tourism resource, the government or tourism board should make different efforts to conserve the natural environment and animals. Motivation is critical, especially in developing nations, since industrial and residential expansion would harm the environment and species if tourism-related groups cannot inspire the government. Locals should raise visitors' knowledge of environmental concerns and encourage them to participate in environmental conservation campaigns. The government should not build unnecessary new cities, towns, highways, airport infrastructure, or dams that would devastate the natural ecosystem. (Adams, 2020)

#### Economic Sustainability

Economic sustainability refers to an economy's capacity to maintain a given level of economic production indefinitely. Tourism has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economic sectors. In 2019, 1.4 billion individuals travelled to an abroad nation, spending more than US\$ 1.47 trillion, according to the World Tourism Organization. International tourist receipts coupled with passenger transportation now exceed US\$ 900 billion, becoming tourism the world's top export earner, surpassing automotive products, chemicals, petroleum, and food. (United Nations World Tourism Organization, 2020).

When tourist organisations discuss sustainability, they often overlook economic sustainability, but the truth is that it is the most crucial aspect in making a tourism enterprise more sustainable. Moreover, it is essential for economic advancement, poverty reduction, and stimulating new economic activity. It is a critical instrument for regional development in many developing nations. (Zhang et al., 2017)

Tourism has a positive economic impact on employment, gross income, and production, but it also has drawbacks, most notably on the environment. As a result, unplanned and unregulated tourist expansion cannot be the most effective technique for achieving maximum output over time. In addition, the environment is an important supplier of tourist goods. As a result, it must be protected in the future for tourism and economic growth to prosper. (2017, Zhang et al.)

The construction of linkages and the elimination of leakage are two definitions of economic sustainability. For example, a foreign-owned hotel or company will take as much money as possible from the host country and send it abroad. This is unsustainable since it does not contribute much to the local economy. Instead, the community must be actively involved in tourism to gain financial benefits (Landlopers, 2011).

## Social Sustainability

The phrase "social sustainability" refers to a social system's ability to enhance procedures and arrangements that suit the demands of present members and assist future generations' ability to maintain a healthy community at a standard level of social well-being and harmony perpetually. A civilization's qualities commonly described as "socially unsustainable" include war, widespread injustice, extensive poverty, and low educational rates. Several well-known tourist spots worldwide draw a considerable number of tourists from other countries. There are various social and cultural consequences when visitors visit a tourism zone. Every year, many tourists from different countries visit various well-known tourist spots worldwide. When visitors begin to see a tourism zone, the host community experiences multiple social and cultural effects. When visitors start to visit a tourist zone, there are various social and cultural consequences for the local people (Adams, 2020)

Tourist activity may negatively influence the quality of life in the host town, resulting in overpopulation, traffic jams, drug and alcohol problems, prostitution, and rising crime rates. Tourists may also violate human rights; for example, the tourism industry may force residents to be evicted from their houses to build new housing developments, cottages, parks, and resorts. On the other hand, social sustainability minimizes negative consequences while highlighting good ones, such as cultural contact and the preservation of local customs. This is typically achieved by enlisting the help of locals in the tourism industry (Zhang et al., 2017).

Suppose the local tourist organization can integrate the host community into the tourism sector. In that case, visitors will have a more natural experience, and the host community will be more likely to see tourism positively and be proud of it. The host community must modify its attitudes and relationships with visitors and attempt to preserve civilization and culture for succeeding generations. In addition, the tourist business should improve public knowledge about environmental challenges and encourage sustainable tourism practices (landlopers, 2011).

## **Destination Development**

Destination development supports the development of desirable travel destinations focused solely on the tourism supplier by providing compelling experiences, quality infrastructure, and special services that facilitate recurring visits (Halkier et al., 2014). It is a significant tourism industry area that requires strategic planning and progress. Destination development involves all the recreational side of a specific tourist spot or many spots. Destination development is a

package where the authority initiates various activities to make the place more attractive to the tourists (Butler, 2009). Worldwide there is a massive emphasis on destination development in the tourism industry. It can be because tourists always want the best experiences for their money and time. They will skip any destination from repetitive visits when that place turns boring and monotonous.

Mill & Morrison (1985) argued that any tourist spot combines several things, from ethnic culture to geographical location. Everything is important for making a place attractive to tourists. They further added that all the elements of a tourist spot, both material and non-material, are equally important and work as a complementary product to each other. Laws (1995) added that one tourist spot should offer tourists at least basic things, which is a must to make that place a tourist spot. A pleasant climate, perfect ecology, local traditions and exceptional architecture are important elements of any destination. Therefore, destination development and up-gradation are vital for any tourism industry. Moreover, Destination development should be considered an ongoing process that gradually makes the destination better. The success of any tourism industry solely depends on customer experiences and word of mouth; therefore, it is crucial for developing destinations holistically.

Moreover, Buhalis (2000) and Balakrishinan (2008) claimed that the tourism industry is highly competitive where everyone wants more share of the tourists to their particular location. Due to that, tourism industries are spending more on marketing and grabbing more and more tourists. Pike (2008) states that all tourism destinations are promoting themselves rigorously to hold a larger share and provide tourists with a better alternative. Therefore, every tourism industry must have a destination development strategy to survive. Cox's Bazar tourism industry also needs to focus on destination development as it is exposed to high competition from other destinations both within and outside of the country.

## **Objectives of Destination Development**

Destination development comprises several vital objectives to make the industry more profitable and attract more tourists. Those objectives might vary from place to place, but some primary targets remain for every destination. Ammirato et al. (2014) indicated several purposes of destination development that every country should keep in mind while planning for destination development.

First destination development should involve enhancing the smoothness of experiences. As tourists get a more user-friendly experience, they will feel more relaxed and will be able to

enjoy more. Because in tourist destinations, no one wants to do a lot of physical work except for some dedicated spots.

Secondly, destination development should not harm or change the natural view; it will refine the view but not alter or replace nature with something else. Destination development always involves regaining the natural views of the destination or enhancing those with some artificial comfortless. Still, those tweaks always should focus on making the place more origin centric.

Finally, Destination development should involve a new economic system that will spread the industry's earnings more evenly, which will enhance the sense of ownership among the stakeholders.

With all of those, destination development always involves new marketing strategies or refines the existing marketing strategy. Carlsen (1999) argued that the tourism industry needs to promote itself to a greater audience, and to accomplish that holistic marketing strategy is a fundamental thing. In the current situation, the Cox's Bazar tourism industry also needs to adopt these strategies as there are huge misconceptions regarding the destinations among the tourists. The new marketing strategy will help gain the tourists' attention again and help to grow.

## **Stakeholders of Destination Development**

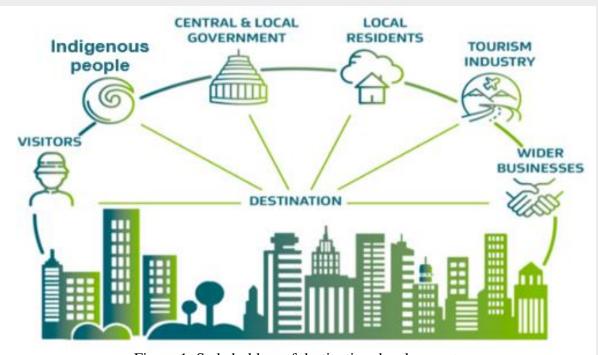


Figure 1: Stakeholders of destination development

Figure 1 shows different stakeholders of destination development. All the stakeholders mentioned above need to work together to upgrade any destination. First of all, the local and central governments of a country have to be concerned about enhancing the capabilities of any tourist destinations. The local government is more vital for initiating the process because they can observe the ground-level fluctuations of the tourism industry. Residents also need to be active participants in developing the overall situation because they can contribute to many sectors of the tourism industry (Fyall and Garrod, 2019). Indigenous people and their culture add a new dimension to the tourism industry. Tourists like to observe their culture and tradition; preserving and amplifying indigenous cultures and traditions can add value to the overall tourism industry. George and Poyyamoli (2013) suggested that tourists are the most important part of maintaining a destination because they use and destroy the destination. Tourists or visitors have a crucial role in managing the destination. They can change their attitude towards the destination and provide important feedback to entail further improvements. Stakeholder analysis and assigning appropriate responsibility are critical to effectively enhancing the destination's quality. Fyall and Garrod (2019) stressed that everyone in a tourist area is a vital part of that tourism industry, and the joint effort of all can result in sustainable tourism in future. They also stressed that tourism would be 100% sustainable in the future, and there should be more emphasis on the environment and promotions of ecotourism worldwide. So, it is important to prepare for the future and develop the destination as required by sustainable tourism. Cox's Bazar is now going through a hard time, but sustainable destination management can achieve sustainable tourism if all the stakeholders come together and take responsibility.

## **Process of Sustainable Destination Management**

The idea of sustainable destination management comes from sustainable development, where people of this generation will meet their needs without compromising the capabilities of future generations (Polese and Minguzzi, 2009). In sustainable destination management, the stakeholders and industries should follow proper procedures and ways to conduct certain things. From policy promotion to execution, there should be an emphasis on nature and its capacity. In this regard, Clarke and Godfrey (2000) provided three steps for destination development which are simple but effective. First, the stakeholders of the destination development project should identify the available resources and opportunities in the existing structure and location of the destination. Secondly, they have to be very precise with their selection of tourists whom they want to attract to their destination. Finally, they have to get

information regarding the preferences of those tourists and customize the destination concerning the environment. Goeldner, Mcintosh, and Ritchie (2000) divided the entire policy formulation process for destination development into four different phases. The introductory or initiation phase, where all the drafts and alternatives are evaluated to select the best option, then the analytical phase starts, where projections for different tasks are estimated. Then, in the operational phase, works are distributed among the management team and finally implement the plan and actions.

Christian (2015) emphasized five different aspects of sustainable destination management. He claimed that all elements are equally important for sustainable destination management; each plays a vital role in making a place sustainable. Those aspects are destination management organization, destination planning and development, destination marketing management, human resource development, and environment management. If those aspects are managed intensely, a place can hold more people sustainably and operate for a longer time. The Rohingya influx affects the Cox's Bazar tourism destination, but sustainable management can regain the pace and attract more people. The environment and lang cover can be replaced with rigorous effort, but there is a need for a complete system change.

#### Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar, our research area, is a district in Bangladesh's Chittagong Division, located in the country's southeast corner (Figure 5, Appendix), between the River Naf to the east and the Bay of Bengal to the west and south (Hassan et al., 2018). The region is elongated in form, reaching 135 kilometres north-south and 30 kilometres east-west from the higher northern section to less than 3 kilometres surrounding the lower southern half. The research area covers a total of 213,639 hectares (2136.39 km2).

Cox's Bazar is Bangladesh's tourism centre since it has the world's longest sea beach with a sandy shore (Mukul et al., 2019). The tourist attraction is enhanced by the inhabitants' warmth and cultural influences. You may immerse yourself in the beauty of nature in its Sky at any time while watching the Sunset or rise to begin a new day, spreading life and light across the Earth (Tani & Rahman, 2018). Every evening, one may be delighted by the things available at the Barmise market, and the lengthy journey down Marin Drive Road will always be a memorable experience. Cox's Bazar sea beach has proven to be a fantastic tourist destination, with an unrivalled length of 120 feet of Sandy Shore that is unrivalled anywhere else. The Cox's Bazar Sea beach is naturally ornamented with golden beaches, waves that people from

all over the world find incredible to surf in and through, delectable seafood, temples, pagodas, etc. Kolatoli, Suganda, Laboni, Inani, Himchori, Teknaf, Mohaskhali, Ramu, Saint, and Martin Island are some places on the Sea Beach.

An estimated 2.7 million Bangladeshis live in Cox's Bazar. Many of these inhabitants have been identified as being involved in subsistence food production, betel leaf and betel nut gardening, salt extraction, fuelwood production, and capture and cultured fisheries production, according to many studies (Hassan et al., 2018; Mukul et al., 2019; Tallis et al., 2019; Tani & Rahman, 2018; UNDP & UN Women, 2018). According to research conducted before the 2017 refugee crisis, 57 per cent of households in the region, including their refugee counterparts, "completely rely on woods" for their livelihood (Uddin & Khan, 2007). For their livelihoods, most of the population relies on natural capital assets and ecosystem services generated from agriculture, forestry, marine, and farmed fisheries resources, and eco-tourism services (Tallis et al., 2019; Tani & Rahman, 2018). According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the agriculture sector employs roughly 63 per cent of the entire population, while the service sector employs 25%, and the industry sector employs about 12%. (Hassan et al., 2018).

The research region has a subtropical environment with seasonal fluctuations in temperature (average of 78.98°F (26.1°C) and significant precipitation events (average rainfall of 4,000 mm/year). A hot-humid summer/pre-monsoon season (March to May), a cool-rainy monsoon season (June to September), a cool-dry winter/post-monsoon season (October to November), and the dry season (December to February) are the four most prevalent seasons known to the area (Hassan et al., 2018; UNDP & UN Women, 2018).

Cox's Bazar is essentially a floodplain, with a mean slope of 4 degrees and 17 meters above the global mean sea level (Alam, Huq, and Rashid, 1999). Flat floodplains, mudflats, dunes, tidal creeks, hillocks, and sandy beaches run 120 kilometres along with the Bay area's geomorphological characteristics (Alam et al., 1999; Roy & Hoque, 2015). The beach in Cox's Bazar is regarded as one of Bangladesh's most popular tourist spots (Hassan et al., 2018; Hassan & Shahnewaz, 2014).

Protected areas, wildlife reserves, and national parks dominate the terrain in this district (Hassan et al., 2018; UNDP & UN Women, 2018). More than a quarter of the district is covered in forest, with an estimated 10,849 hectares of protected forest (Hossen et al., 2019) and 11,615 ha of designated wildlife sanctuary (e.g., Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary) (Hossen et al., 2019). (UNDP & UN Women, 2018). Thousands of plant and animal species, including birds,

monkeys, snakes, bats, and other vertebrate and invertebrate species, live in the forest environment. It also contains endangered and threatened animals like the Asian elephant in the wild (Tallis et al., 2019; UNDP & UN Women, 2018).

#### Cox's Bazar & Tourism Sector

Cox's Bazar is Bangladesh's most popular tourist attraction, with the world's longest sea beach. The district town and its surroundings attract the most national and international tourists throughout the year. While the travel and tourism sector contributed 10.4% of worldwide GDP and 9.9% of global employment in 2017, its contributions to GDP and employment in Bangladesh are 4.3 per cent of GDP and 3.8 per cent of total employment (World Travel and TourismCouncil [WTTC], 2018). Even though this scenario is a step forward compared to the past, the global situation shows that the country has yet to reach its full potential. Given the country's huge coastline and marine territory, it is the potential to promote coastal and marine tourism on a significant scale in this country.

Another popular tourist attraction is St. Martin Island, the country's lone coral island. Due to continuing violence on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, ship passage near St. Martin has recently been limited. This has caused considerable alarm among local travel operators, who fear that the deteriorating situation may significantly lose tourists. Many visitors remain at Cox's Bazar overnight before travelling to St. Martin Island, in addition to the typical tourists. As a result, the prohibition in St. Martin may impact the entire region's commercial prospects. Many residents in the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf-St. Martin area relies heavily on tourism. The current scenario, including border instability, law and order issues near campers, and other matters, is projected to reduce tourist profits drastically. Bangladesh has received a sizable chunk of money from the tourism business during the preceding sixteen years. Tourism contributed BDT840.2 billion (USD10.6 billion) or 4.2 per cent of overall GDP in 2016, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council's Bangladesh Country Report 2017 (www.wttc.org). It is predicted to increase by 7.4 per cent in 2017 and 7.1 per cent every year until it reaches BDT1.783.0 billion (USD22.6 billion) in 2027, or 4.7 per cent of total GDP. The sector's real assistance to employment was 4 per cent of complete work (2187 000 jobs). In 2027, this is predicted to increase by 1.8 per cent per year to 2,695,000 jobs (1.6 per cent of total employment). Visitor exports produced BDT 11.1 billion (USD 140 million), accounting for 0.4% of overall exports in 2016. This is expected to increase by 11.2 per cent in 2017 and 7.6 per cent every year from 2017 to 2027, totalling BDT25.6 billion (USD324.2 million). In 2016, BDT72.5 billion was invested in travel and tourism, accounting for 1.2 per cent of overall

investment (USD0.9billion). It is expected to grow at a 9.3% annual rate over the following ten years, reaching BDT201.8 billion (USD2.6 billion) in 2027, accounting for 1.8 per cent of total investment.

### The Necessity of Sustainability in Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar is the world's longest natural sandy sea beach and one of Bangladesh's most famous tourist destinations, but it is in grave danger. It was formerly a peaceful beach resort that drew many Bangladeshis to escape the noise and pollution of larger cities such as Dhaka and Chittagong. Nonetheless, there has been some recent uncontrolled development in Cox's Bazar. The government plans to double the number of overseas tourists by 2025, increasing to almost a million. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2012)

Developers would be permitted to look for new building sites, which will increase pressure on Cox's Bazar. Hundreds of high-rise hotels, motels, cottages, apartment complexes, and restaurants have been built in practically every town in this region, notably along with the coastal districts, as the construction boom continues. Moreover, various businesses offer apparel, souvenirs, toys, and fast food in the main beach area. As a result, people trash the beach with plastic, polythene, and other non-biodegradable items, polluting the sea and the beach. Furthermore, supporting many Rohingyas has a long-term impact on the surrounding ecology, as detailed in subsequent parts.

As a result, rubbish may be discovered in various places, wreaking havoc on this once-beautiful setting. Locals are careless about the environment, as a consequence of which, they indiscriminately chop down trees on the hill, resulting in multiple landslides during monsoon seasons, killing many people. Deforestation, overfishing in salt fields, shrimp hatcheries along the seashore, hill cutting, grabbing land from local people for unplanned construction, shipbreaking industries, and unplanned tourism management, according to experts, are hastening ecosystem damage and putting the environment and wildlife at risk. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) (British Broadcasting Corporation, 2012)

Furthermore, Cox's Bazar is home to many Rohingya refugees from northern Myanmar. Due to religious violence, they were compelled to migrate over the border into Bangladesh. Criminals target such vulnerable individuals efficiently, and girls and women mainly get trapped in a life of dark risk as their only means of survival. When they were between the ages

of 16 and 25, they were pressured into soliciting in the sex trade and becoming sex slaves in brothels or bawdyhouses in various locations (Calderwood & Soshkin, 2019)

Aside from prostitutes, drug smuggling is a thriving activity on the Bangladesh-Bangladesh border in Cox's Bazar due to the recent influx of the Rohingyas. Over the last decade, yaba tablets have grown in favour among the younger population. This narcotic has now surpassed heroin in terms of popularity. These pills are marketed at this lovely tourist destination. The drug's target market is the young generation, who get into the habit out of passion, frustration, and sadness, helped by a lack of direction and care from guardians. Each year, border officers capture millions of tablets. 1.5 million Yaba pills were confiscated from traffickers in 2016, according to Navy and Bangladesh Coast Guard officials. According to the Bangladesh Border Guard, traffickers usually use fishers and trawlers to carry goods from Myanmar. Vice News (Vice News, 2015).

## **Influence On Local Tourism From The Refugee Influx**

The impact of the Rohingya Refugee Crisis on the host community/stakeholders is one of the primary goals of this thesis. However, the severity of the consequences is determined by local factors and the nature of refugee-host relationships (Ahsan, 2018).

## **Economic Impact**

In the host nation, rapid, unexpected intakes of migrants may devastate already delicate natural balances, putting social and economic stresses on the population (Lee 2005, p. 74). The influx of migrants might upend traditional settlement balances based on ethnicity, religion, community values and beliefs, and social service provision, leading to violence (Betts, 2009). Furthermore, the presence of refugees presents a security danger to the local population's social life owing to an increase in thievery, homicide, sex trafficking, and drug smuggling (Gomez & Christensen 2010, p. 11).

According to Alix-Gracia and Saah's study published in the World Bank Economic Review (2009, p. 166), the economic effect of a refugee influx on the host community is both beneficial and harmful. New good livelihood options usually develop for the host community, while rivalry over natural resource utilisation may produce difficulties. On the other hand, immigrants may be a threat, according to Kobia and Cranfield (2009), since they are a burden if they are unemployed and put pressure on the local labour market if they are employed. The consequences of these complex processes vary depending on social sustainability and

economic development, with growing competition for restricted resources and employment opportunities adding to the pressures (Hamilton & Moore, 2003).

The Rohingya crisis has resulted in significant tourist disparities between Cox's Bazar, which has long been renowned as a refugee camp hotspot, and other parts of Bangladesh farther north (Lewis 2018). Tourist attractions such as hotels and restaurants in Cox's Bazar and along the Myanmar border, for example, have suffered from fewer visitor visits and greater awareness of the region's issues since the Rohingya crisis began (Panday. 2004). Maystadt and Verwimp (2014) feel that refugees, especially in large numbers, may impact the economic structure, agricultural sector, and local life due to increased labour market competition and the cost of everyday items. In May 2018, the United Nations (UN-HABITAT) and several other nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) stated that they would work together to analyse the effect on livelihoods, the local economy, job prospects, and the socio-economic impact on the local community.

According to Sattar (2017), the Bangladeshi government has long failed to stimulate tourism in the country's southern and border regions to alleviate poverty and in Cox's Bazar to support the Rohingya minority. As a result, the UN and UNHCR have been more worried about the effect of migration on local populations. The UNHCR, however, advised caution, advising that any transfer be preceded by a conversation and voluntary participation in a sustainable zone. According to various local and international news outlets, the government has approved a plan to move Rohingya refugees to Hatiya Island or another island in Bengal. In interviews with the government, Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina stated that moving Rohingyas to the low-lying island would be a "temporary solution" to ease congestion at the camps in Cox's Bazar (Rahman et al., 2020). According to Garrett, economic changes have happened due to a decrease in tourist numbers and an increase in the number of aid workers congregating in Cox's Bazar (2020).

On the other hand, Cookson did not believe there were any straightforward solutions to the refugee impact issue. The literature focuses on the international community's issues posed by the Rohingya refugee crisis. Only a few authors have provided explicit suggestions for addressing the issue. As a result, finding a clear answer to the Rohingya refugee crisis has been difficult.

The developing Rohingya issue can drastically alter the local economy and job systems. The Rohingyas and the people of Cox's Bazar speak the same language (Kudrat-E-Khuda, 2020).

Consequently, they may mix with the indigenous population, presenting a threat to Bangladesh. Many unemployed local students work for the government, non-profit organisations, and development partners (Rahman, 2017). Day labourers are also relocating to humanitarian organisations' camps because employment is available. This job opportunity has created a labour shortage, making it difficult for local farms to find workers.

Another economic effect of the current Rohingya scenario is a low tourist turnout on Cox's Bazar's Saint Martin Island. Because of the ongoing instability along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. According to Cox's Bazar Tour Operators, Bangladesh is at risk of losing over 100000 travellers annually.

Khatun & Kamruzzaman (2018) have observed the social and economic impacts of the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, especially in the tourism industry. Their study examines the estimated resource requirements for hosting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and how economic and social impacts impact the tourism industry. Their study finds that USD 1,211 million is required for the Rohingya population in the fiscal year. With limited resources, Bangladesh cannot take this inflow of Rohingyas, which would significantly pressure the national economy. Khatun & Kamruzzaman (2018) have also discussed the various initiatives taken by the Bangladesh government to resolve the crisis and address the challenges for the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar.

Yilmaz & Talukder (2019) have uncovered the economic impact of the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh due to the refugee influx since its first wave by understanding the economic changes. This Rohingya crisis affects the national economy of Bangladesh and causes enough trouble to its tourism industry in Cox's Bazar region. Due to the sudden increase of the total population in the Cox Bazar region, the income sources through tourism in the region have been at risk, directly affecting Bangladesh's national GDP. As a result, the Rohingya refugee influx is immense pressure on Bangladesh to maintain its security and economy. As a least developed country, it would be very tough for Bangladesh to handle this sudden Rohingya crisis with its vast population (Yilmaz & Talukder, 2019).

According to the CPD research team, there are various indicators of the changing employment structure in the local economy. The Rohingyas and the residents of Cox's Bazar speak similar languages, allowing them to integrate quickly.

Because bamboos make most shelters, they have become a precious product. Locals have developed small enterprises to sell fish, vegetables, bamboos, twigs, and other items within the

camps, which has provided some revenue options. Day labourers are also employed inside the centres since many ongoing projects need their participation on a massive scale, such as constructing temporary dwellings or installing latrines, tube wells, and other facilities. Because there are so many camps, day labourers leave the local employment market to work for humanitarian groups. On the other side, this has resulted in a labour scarcity for local farmers, negatively influencing them.

It was revealed throughout the field study that the host communities and other local stakeholders are dissatisfied with their daily earnings. For a full day's work, a day labourer, for example, used to earn half a thousand dollars. The daily wage rate in the settlements, on the other hand, is as low as Tk. 100-200. Furthermore, residents have noted that the cost of many products and services, such as transportation, has increased dramatically since the migration began. This is due mainly to an increase in relief worker demand.

## **Social Impact**

Rapid, unexpected influxes of migrants in the host country may disrupt fragile environmental balances, producing social and economic hardship (Abrar, 1996). The influx of migrants can disturb existing settlement balances based on ethnicity, religion, community values and beliefs, and the provision of social services, all of which might lead to clashes (Betts 2009, p. 9). The presence of refugees frequently causes security difficulties for the local population's social life due to an increase in thievery, homicide, sex trafficking, and drug trafficking.

Several NGO workers told the study team that the Rohingyas had a high birth rate due to a lack of knowledge about family planning. In addition, about 4% of Rohingya women were pregnant, and 8% were nursing, necessitating particular dietary support (Relief Web, 2018). As a result, the Rohingya population in the settlements is expected to grow in the coming days, putting more strain on food, health, and other necessities. Several NGO workers told the study team that the Rohingyas had a high birth rate due to a lack of knowledge about family planning. In addition, about 4% of Rohingya women were pregnant, and 8% were nursing, necessitating particular dietary support (Relief Web, 2018). As a result, the Rohingya population in the settlements is expected to grow in the coming days, putting more strain on food, health, and other necessities.

The widespread health problem in the Rohingya camps might become a severe worry due to the unsanitary water and sanitation environment. Each toilet is devoted to 10 households (60 people), While each of their tube-wells is set for almost half a hundred homes, according to one of the NGOs working on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Concerns have been raised about the suitability of latrine or tube-well facilities and their structural integrity. Because latrine trenches have just 2-3 rings, they fill up quickly, forcing many Rohingyas to defecate in the open. In the camps, the youngsters either do not have shoes or do not want to wear them. As a result, there is a greater risk of sickness. In addition, families are typically hesitant to embrace new and improved latrines. Women are reluctant to use the latrines since they are distant from their shelters, and there are sometimes large lines. As a result, open defecation is expected to become more widespread, increasing the risk of disease transmission.

Some schools in the camp regions are being utilised as military barracks, impeding local pupils' education. In addition, many youngsters skip school and labour in the camps to supplement their income. This will significantly impact their chances of graduating, dropping out, and doing well on national tests. As a result, the educational system is harming the local community.

Many families send their children to the camps' mastabas, as is the situation with the Rohingyas (religious schools). The Rohingya children are not allowed to learn Bangla and are taught Burmese, English, and basic maths. Unfortunately, due to the language barrier and a shortage of Burmese experts, it is hard to determine what the Rohingya children are learning in their tongues. When it comes to higher education for local students, it has been observed that persons with just a higher secondary degree may now easily find work with development partners in a variety of capacities. Because most of these students are skipping their education to benefit from these sources of temporary money, this may influence their long-term prospects.

Similarly, it was revealed during one focus group that hygiene is a significant concern for Rohingya refugees in many camps. A tube well serves 50 people, but a single latrine serves just ten dwellings. The bulk of the bathrooms is equipped with two or three rings, suggesting that they will quickly fill up (Hossain, 2021). Some people are opposed to utilising new latrines because they assume they are identical to the old ones. Consequently, open defecation is more probable, spreading infections among them. Another difficulty with tube-well placement is that some were constructed at a lower height (30–40 feet).

As a result of their inability to reach groundwater, these tube wells have become outdated. Consequently, the Rohingyas will face a drinking water deficit in the not-too-distant future. Furthermore, since they either do not have shoes or do not want to wear them, the camp children go barefoot (ISCG, 2018). Moreover, during the FGD, it was determined that their shelters had

few windows and that the smoke created by cooking inside the camp would cause respiratory issues. Furthermore, since there is no local government hospital, diagnosing patients is challenging. Their well-being is likewise a concern. They are too distracted to take care of their basic demands for food and clothes.

## Rohingyas Commit Crimes In Society

Figure 9(Appendix) depicts the rising rate of crime committed by Rohingyas from 2017, the first year of the new inflow. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of cases against Rohingyas surged dramatically, more than doubling in only two years. Table 10 demonstrates that the number of accused Rohingyas has climbed more than threefold in two years, from 2017 to 2019.

#### **Arms**

According to the press, over six thousand sharp pieces were recently found in a blacksmith shop. According to locals, those were intended to be distributed to Rohingyas. According to press reports, several Rohingyas were also caught carrying firearms. "We now see a deeprooted conspiracy going on," Tofail Ahmed, a top lawmaker, remarked (Bdnews24.com, 2019). According to the Bangladesh NGO Bureau, 144 local and foreign NGOs have established offices in Cox's Bazar (Mahmud, 2018). Some NGOs have been suspended for allegedly supplying weaponry to Rohingya youngsters. These actions were described as "misdeeds" by the Foreign Ministry (Bdnews24.com, 2019). The local population claims to have seen additional home weapons available to Rohingyas and guns and sharp things. Residents, specialists, and law enforcement officers show concerns over the rising number of such cases.

#### **Rape and Sexual Harassment**

As seen in Figure 10(Appendix), more than 31 rape and attempted rape incidents against Rohingyas have been registered, with the majority occurring within the camp and some occurring outside. According to the Post Traumatic Stress Order Theory, people's natural senses, morality, and norms do not work for them when they have a traumatic experience or are in a life-threatening situation, such as inhuman treatment, uncertainty about fundamental rights, minimal human rights, and a lack of conformity in receiving justice (National Institute of Mental Health, 2019). As a result, criminal acts such as rape and attempted rape have escalated. Allegations of sexual harassment have mostly come from Rohingyas against their people, although tourists and residents have also reported being sexually abused. Girls and women are purportedly teased by Rohingya youngsters using verbal and nonverbal cues. They

whistle and say something uncomfortable in front of girls on occasion. As a result, the fear of sexual harassment is growing.

#### **Murdering and Committing Violence**

Personal, familial, and tribal turmoil intensifies by the day, resulting in massive violence and casualties within the camp. However, the battles are mostly about gaining authority and leadership over various topics, such as repatriation, rehabilitation, tenting, and foreign aid distribution.

At least 22 individuals were allegedly slain inside the camp, including one of the tribal chiefs (Molla, 2019). As a result, tensions between locals and Rohingyas have lately risen, resulting in widespread violence. The significant causes of conflict are the appropriation of local people's land, the accusation and counter-accusation of crimes, and the expression of hatred. Locals have long accused Rohingyas of instigating violence, but the Rohingyas have consistently denied any responsibility.

#### **Narcotics**

One of the most severe charges against Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar is drug trafficking. Bangladesh recently opened its border to allow Rohingya unrestricted passage in a humanitarian gesture. On the other hand, Opportunists see this as an opportunity to bring in Yaba, Heroin, Fencidil, Marijuana, and other drugs. Bangladesh, according to Reuters, has lately emerged as a significant drug market (Das, 2017). According to the government, law enforcement personnel seized a record quantity of methamphetamine tablets in 2018, over 53 million (Gulf News, 2019). "The border region has been vulnerable to being utilised as a hub of drugs trafficking," one Cox's Bazar police officer said. It had been curtailed, albeit only for a few days, due to government anti-narcotics operations in mid-2018. Now it's back to being its wave."

However, Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have accused the Anti-Narcotics operation of extrajudicial killings (Gupta & Pokharel, 2018). Furthermore, the local authority finds it challenging to combat drug trafficking because of the Rohingyas' enormous and uncontrolled influx. In addition, the majority of Rohingya youth are jobless. As a result, local or international drug smugglers have found it relatively easy to exploit them for drug trafficking.

#### **Human Trafficking**

Human traffickers are targeting Rohingyas, mainly children and women. Several gangs are involved in abducting women and children and trafficking them overseas, primarily to Middle Eastern nations, as enslaved people and sex slaves, according to police authorities in Cox's Bazar (Al-Jazeera, 2019). As a result, the abductor may occasionally demand money instead of releasing the abducted victims. However, certain recent kidnapping occurrences have heightened anxiety among residents and visitors, particularly among women and children.

Tourists currently complain that there aren't enough security measures at popular tourist destinations. Abduction accusations have also been rising at an alarming rate (The Independent, 2019). Experts advise the government to act quickly before the issue spirals out of control.

#### **Robbery and Hijacking**

Since 2017, at least nine incidents of robbery and hijacking against Rohingyas have been reported in Cox's Bazar, according to police authorities, whereas the latest inflow has only recently begun (Khan, 2019). However, robberies and hijackings are on the rise due to a lack of adequate police patrols, efficient surveillance of Rohingya movements, and a disproportionately large number of Rohingyas in the town compared to the number of law enforcement officers. As a result, some locations have lately been classified as robbery and hijacking hotspots by police. In many instances, robbery and hijacking result in deaths. In addition, many people claim to have been stabbed while being attacked by hijackers or thieves. As a result, an increasing number of events have raised concerns about the ability of locals and visitors to travel freely or spend the night outside.

#### **Insurgency Threat**

Several national and international terrorist organisations have recently become active in Cox's Bazar. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) is a major terrorist organisation in Rakhine. ARSA has claimed responsibility for many strikes in Rakhine on Myanmar military posts and government installations. In reaction to the attacks, a current continuing military offensive has commenced. Several news outlets reported recently that many ARSA members have been active in Bangladesh (Alam, 2018). They are planning a terrorist strike on Myanmar from Bangladeshi territory. According to estimates, around 3500 ARSA agents work within the Rohingya camp (Conrad, Czimmek, & Islam, 2019). The Pakistani Taliban group 'Tehrike-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)' has also announced that their stronghold in Bangladesh will be activated. A TTP leader was recently witnessed inciting Rakhain Muslims to take up guns

against Myanmar's troops. It also promised to aid in the areas of militant training, guns, and intelligence (ABC News, 2015).

#### **Crime Acts on Tourist Spots**

Many Rohingyas in tourist areas steal and sweep tourists' accessories, baggage, and valuables while they are asleep. It has also occurred while tourists are swimming in the water. It creates a fearful environment, and passengers must be vigilant about their belongings. Such mishaps involving lost items and baggage make the tour a very unpleasant and unpleasant experience for the participants.

Cox's Bazar attracts travellers from all over the world with a wide variety of social backgrounds. As a result, clothes, accents, features, and mannerisms differed from person to person. However, Rohingya youth, particularly female beachgoers, frequently react violently with laughter, mockery, and teasing.

Teasing, jeering, whistling, and strange verbal and attitudinal suggestions to girls have recently been widespread in Cox's market. The Rohingyas, particularly the youth, are frequently reported to be involved in crimes that are classified as sexual harassment. Harassment has repeatedly escalated to danger, resulting in rape and group rape.

Hundreds of Rohingyas, including their children, have been spotted begging for food. Begging is forbidden in tourist areas because it creates an embarrassing scenario. However, by avoiding the gaze of law enforcement, a large number of beggars arise at various locations. They often solicit financial assistance by seizing visitors' hands and legs and straining their clothes unpleasant and humiliatingly.

## **Environmental Impact & Tourist Spot Damage**

Cox's Bazar has seen a broad spectrum of environmental degradation, including hill-digging and widespread deforestation due to Rohingyas' indiscriminate settlement, wreaking havoc on the ecosystem. The consequences of such environmental degradation have influenced the local people's lifestyle, living circumstances, and livelihood. As a result of ecological devastation, the deterioration of scenic beauty, environmental imbalance, and the ruining of a tourism-friendly climate in Cox's Bazar have been severely harmed. Following then, the number of visitors has decreased.

#### **Deforestation In Camp Areas**

Deforestation for settlement and wood-burning will directly affect the environment, economy, and society. For example, the entire forest area of Cox's Bazar was 2,092,016 acres in 2016. According to the Cox's Bazar District Commissioner's Office, the Rohingya incursion resulted in the loss of 3,500 acres. This loss equals 1.67 per cent of Cox's Bazar's total forest area and 0.05 per cent of the country's total forest area.

Between late August and December 2017, around 4,000 acres (2.4 thousand hectares) of land were deforested. Following the Rohingya influx, another 2,000 acres were slated to be flooded (Yousuf, 2017). The Rohingyas have compounded the situation by chopping down trees in the forests to get firewood for cooking. The collecting of fuelwood will naturally increase throughout the dry season. The worth of the forest land that has been lost is estimated to be Tk. 500 crore, according to a media report (ADB, 2018). Deduct the loss of firewood and lumber, (ii) the loss of carbon stock, (iii) the loss of non-timber forest products, and (iv) the loss of fodder production from the overall cost of deforestation to arrive at the expense of deforestation. Several secondary costs linked with deforestation, on the other hand, cannot be measured just in monetary terms. Biodiversity loss and a disruption in the region's natural balance are long-term repercussions.

The territory along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border in Cox's Bazar district was primarily wooded with only minor cultivable land before the massive Rohingya migration. The refugee communities in Kutupalong expanded by 835 per cent between December 2016 and December 2017, from 146 to 1365 hectares (Rashid et al., 2021).

Deforestation has also impacted local communities that depend on local forest resources. Continuing to drain the land's resources while neglecting to enable the ecosystem to rebound might have several long-term adverse effects for Rohingya and host communities. The frequency and amount of harmful situations increase as the pace of deforestation increases. Soil erosion is caused by removing ground coverings such as low-growing grasses and other plants and excessive wood harvesting (ADB, 2018). Topsoil removal, in particular, leads to less rich, useable soil for growing crops and re-growing trees and forest groundcover (Rashid et al., 2021).

The impacts of deforestation are far more severe in the region during the monsoon season. The Rohingya camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar prepare for the monsoon season every year, starting in April and lasting until October. The average annual rainfall in Cox's Bazar is 3770

mm (ISCG, 2019), the second-highest in the nation. This deluge has resulted in large-scale flooding and landslides.

#### Demolition of Hills

Rohingyas have ruthlessly chopped down trees for homes, gathered firewood, and made furniture (UNDP, 2018). Rohingyas are also excavating hills to improve the pathway and make the area more comfortable for them to live there. According to a UNDP assessment from 2018, half of the hill forest in the Ukhiya and Teknaf areas has already been destroyed. However, it causes landslides and soil erosion on a vast scale. Deforestation has also had a significant negative influence on the ecosystem, including biodiversity and ecological equilibrium implications. As a result, natural disasters and climate change occur (Huq, 2019).

#### Ecosystem and Biodiversity

Because of widespread deforestation, the biodiversity of Cox's Bazar area is in jeopardy. According to a 2018 UNDP assessment, at least 28 factors have been established for Rohingyas, causing biological damage in the camp region. Because the forest area has been reduced, wild elephants have penetrated the surrounding region, causing many casualties, including at least 13 deaths and several injuries. However, due to a broad spectrum of deforestation, many undiscovered species are also at risk of extinction (Alam2018). Human-elephant conflicts are growing increasingly prevalent in the area as well. Before the massive inflow of Rohingya in 2017, the Kutupalong camp was allocated for endangered Bangladeshi Asian elephants (UNEP, 2018). Confrontations with wild elephants in the vicinity have resulted in eleven deaths and several injuries among the Rohingya. However, numerous camps have installed observation towers to warn of approaching elephants in the past two years and a sound system to dissuade elephants from travelling into inhabited areas. There are also proposals to construct a concrete path to reestablish the elephants' migratory patterns through the camps.

#### Air and Water Pollution

Almost every day, many individuals, including NGO employees, visitors, volunteers, government officials, national and international celebrities, and law enforcement teams, visit Rohingya camps. Many tube wells have been installed to accommodate the need for water inside the Rohingya camps. As a result, the water level in the aquifer has dropped. It affects the entire surface, such as reducing soil moisture. The entire land has quickly become desolate. Due to a shortage of moisture in the soil, only a few trees can grow in that location. The smoke from heavy traffic, firewood, and occasionally forest fires and excessive particulates and

odours render the whole region inhospitable. According to WHO, airborne illnesses such as cancer, influenza, chickenpox, tuberculosis, TB, diphtheria, and bronchitis have been prominent in certain areas in 2019. (WHO 2019).

## Mass inhabitants of Rohingyas

Many Rohingyas have left the camps and set up campsites on beaches and parks. Tents are also erected near the market and along the road. However, such big gatherings of Rohingyas detract from the natural beauty of the area on the one hand and have reduced the size of the beach and tourism zone on the other. Others have lived on the crest of a hill, which negatively influences the surrounding ecology and poses a landslide risk.

## Theories Behind Rohingya's Disruptive Actions

Through numerous paradigms and discourses, the author examines the challenges posed by Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. It focuses on why Rohingyas are prone to committing a crime and what circumstances drive them to engage in such dangerous activities in Cox's Bazar.

#### Relative Deprivation Theory

The basic idea of Relative Deprivation is purely psychological. According to Walker and Pettigrew, relative deprivation refers to feeling deprived of desired items compared to their past, other people's belongings, eminence, and social situations (Walter & Pettigrew, 1984). The difference between an individual's subjective value expectations and value capabilities is also known as relative deprivation. A person's value expectation refers to the things and circumstances of life that they believe they are entitled to. As a result, value skills imply the capacity to get desired products and living situations (Gurr, 1970).

As a result, Davis and Runciman defined it as the result of relative comparisons based on social categories (Davis, 1959). Runciman discussed it in further detail. He referred to this as a comparison between friends, family, and those in one's immediate circle. As a result, he examined this notion from two perspectives. One is egoistical, focused on the person, and the other is brotherly, concentrating on the group (Runciman, 1966). In Figure 5(Appendix), Crosby established a model by listing five preconditions that characterised the individual level of relative deprivation (Crosby, 1976).

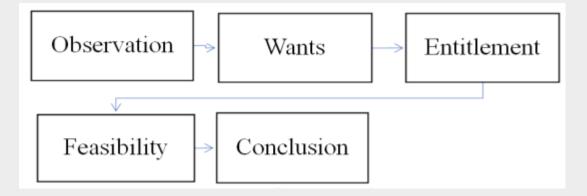


Figure 5 Five preconditions of Relative deprivation

- A person sees(observation) another person who has the coveted commodities and living situations.
- He is eager to obtain(wants) the items and terms that he has witnessed.
- He believes he is entitled(entitlement) to such desired things and situations in his own life.
- He began to believe that things were within his grasp(feasibility).
- He began criticising (conclusion) society and the system for lacking these ideal things and living circumstances.

Crosby also predicted two possible results if the desired commodities and life circumstances were not realised. The first is a beneficial outcome of constructive social progress, whereas the second is a terrible effect of violence against society (Crosby, 1976).

### **Impacts on Cox's Bazar Tourism**

### Security Warnings from Different Embassy

The large influx of Rohingyas into Bangladesh and their unrestrained mobilisation around the nation, particularly in tourist areas, has created a climate of instability and anxiety among visitors from all over the globe, both inside and outside the country. As a result, different embassies and high offices in Bangladesh, notably the US Embassy in Dhaka (2019) and the UK High Commission in Dhaka (2019), have issued travel warnings to their citizens. The rising number of criminal activities in Cox's Bazar prompted the issue of these alerts.

### Declining Trend of Tourism Contribution to Bangladesh National GDP

Figure 11(Appendix) and the above table illustrated the declining tourism revenue rate since 2008 when it was at its highest level, around 5.1% of total GDP. The decline in tourism's contribution to GDP has begun in recent years, albeit with occasional ups and downs. The contribution of tourism to GDP was approximately 4.4 per cent in 2015, but it dropped considerably to 4.2 per cent in 2017. The income was somewhat raised in 2018, reaching 4.4 per cent. As a result, the growth rate has slowed marginally in 2019 and will continue to do so through 2020.

Year	Value (%)	Change (%)
2020	4.38	6.83
2019	4.39	7.56
2018	4.39	11.38
2017	4.25	8.23
2016	4.21	2.35
2015	4.41	5.52
2014	4.45	10.28
2013	4.28	4.45
2012	4.34	9.42
2011	4.23	-4.22
2010	4.70	8.04
2009	4.59	-4.69
2008	5.06	7.18
2007	5.01	7.03

Source: World Travel and Tourism Council Data (2019); World Data Atlas (2019).

However, according to a study published by the World Travel and Tourism Council in 2018, Bangladesh ranked 161 in tourism contribution to national GDP. In addition, Bangladesh was ranked 120th in the worldwide Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019 (TTCI) by the World Economic Forum, with a score of 3.1. (Calderwood & Soshkin, 2019).

#### **Observations From The Field**

Due to certain conducive elements on the ground, Rohingyas are considered a danger to the security situation in Cox's Bazar. The *first cause* is a problem with identification. The behaviour, look, linguistic qualities, and other distinguishing characteristics are usually the same as the local community. As a result, it's difficult for law enforcement to spot Rohingyas as they blend in with the surrounding population. The identification process is also becoming more difficult due to the bogus documents. Rohingyas have recently travelled overseas, mainly

to Middle Eastern nations, with Bangladeshi national ID cards and passports. They are, however, frequently implicated in criminal activity and jailed as a result. However, Bangladesh carried out the defamation because they have Bangladeshi access and identity. Bangladeshis have been tarnished all over the world as a result of it. The passports and ID cards were stolen from Rohingyas recently were acquired mainly by Rohingyas. As a result, it poses a threat to national security.

Hired crime is the *second most* alarming factor. Bangladesh's risk of being overrun by Rohingyas is increased by political tensions, division, and a criminalized system. A substantial number of jobless Rohingya youngsters have been recognized as being particularly vulnerable to exploitation in pursuing political goals. Terrorist groups worldwide have announced that they will expand their operations by arming Rohingya kids. Such a terror network will likely utilize it as a base for spreading militancy across the area.

The third important aspect that makes a situation more prone to crime is social isolation. The insecurity of living space, the inability to afford basic requirements such as food, health, and security, as well as poor housing conditions and a short life expectancy, contribute to the Rohingyas' social isolation (Abdullah, Basharat, & Kamal, 2012). The ideals of humanity, social connection, bonding, and communication are all undermined by social isolation. In specific ways, Rohingyas might be less sensitive to human sentiments and emotions, which leads to acts of violence and shame (Waddington, 2000). As a result, the likelihood of committing the crime has grown while the fear of punishment has diminished (UK Essays, 2018). The Rohingya child's incitement to crime is also due to a lack of a good upbringing. Parenting is an essential part of a child's personality and social conduct development. According to Kevin N. Wright and Karen E. Wright, in the absence of their father, the youngster is particularly prone to crime. The essential aspects of forming a child's personality have been deemed paternal leadership, inspiration, and encouragement (Dina, Christopher, Travis, & Satenik, 2004).

In most cases, the father has been the child's iconic figure. The virtues of love, conscience, compassion, and justice are imparted to the child through maternal tenderness. As a result, the youngster may become haughty and cruel (Popenoe, 1996). However, many Rohingya children have been born in orphanages or camps, particularly those who have lost one or both parents. Rohingya parents often cannot properly parent their children due to the insecurity of their living

space and conditions, a lack of knowledge, the insecurity of essential requirements, and a lack of regularity in their lifestyle.

## Literature Gap

Bangladesh's tourism hub is Cox's Bazaar. According to various literature, many studies have been undertaken on tourist potentialities, tourism development plans, tourism facilities, Rohingya difficulties and potential prospects, and the socio-economic effect of tourism in Cox's Bazar. However, no studies have been done on how the refugee inflow destroys Cox's Bazar's image as a tourist destination. The present scenario of feasible remedies is viable for progressing the reformation of Cox's Bazar as a destination area. Hence, there is a significant research deficit here.

# Methodology

### Introduction

The methodology is a research part that gives us ideas about the research procedures and techniques to finish the research thoroughly. A researcher who conducts the study is described in this chapter. There are various procedures to complete the research because data collection procedures, data analysis, and finding research outcomes are the parts of the research procedures. Based on the research objectives, the research framework is carried out using the methods described in the chapter. The researcher strongly emphasizes data gathering processes and data analysis in methodological research. Simultaneously, the methodology is a systematic research approach used to choose and analyze the data acquired in this study, and it enables readers to assess the research's efficiency and dependability (Ravitch and Carl 2019). The Rohingya refugee crisis has been a significant problem in Bangladesh in recent days. This research finds the challenges, sustainability, and development of Rohingya issues in Bangladesh with primary research procedures. First of all, this research determines the challenges in the destination of Cox's Bazar as a tourist place due to Rohingya issues. Secondly, it evaluates how the Bangladesh government can propose a sustainability and development program considering Cox's Bazar's destination. An effective research methodology can help reach research objectives with the reliability and validity of the research. Researchers have decided how they conduct the research procedures based on research methodology. Thus, it is a practical research part to succeed in the research procedures.

## Research Paradigm

Paradigm is the guideline of the research to make the research procedures fruitful and effective. It is one of the main issues to shape the research process in constructing research outcomes. Researchers cannot reach actual research findings without an appropriate paradigm. Four leading paradigms are used in the research: positivism, interpretive, critical, and pragmatic. Research, according to positivism, is a systematic method of analyzing human behaviour based on empirical observation to forecast human action in general (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). The positivist paradigm quantitatively collects data.

On the other hand, the interpretive paradigm investigates socially significant behaviours or socially produced behaviour representing the society under investigation (Ormston et al., 2014). The interpretive paradigm is based on the collecting of qualitative data. The research

paradigm's critical approach critically examines the components to determine the true causes of the study's topic. The critical paradigm includes several methods of data collection procedures and observation.

Moreover, most researchers use a pragmatic research paradigm to conduct qualitative research where primary research procedures are included. In this paradigm, researchers can use two or more two paradigms in a research process by selecting the best method which is the most appropriate for the research objectives (Yvonne Feilzer, 2010). Thus, this research paradigm is used as a mixed-method of research paradigm. The researcher has to collect information related to Rohingya issues, their sustainability, and the development program for the issues, both as a whole and as a percentage of the population, depending on demographics, to determine the effect of this influx on the tourism industries of Cox's Bazar. It may be possible to examine a more significant population using primary data, which will allow for a better understanding of the current situation of this Rohingya crisis and its overall effect on Cox's Bazar's tourism industry. Therefore, a mixed-method is effective for investigating the Rohingya crisis.

## **Research Approach**

Researchers need an analytical framework to conduct fruitful research. The research approach provides the study's theoretical framework to understand how researchers explain the collected data according to research questions. Many researchers use the deductive approach of research method to conduct the research. Deductive is a research method in which a researcher develops a hypothesis based on prior knowledge and theories. Then, the researcher analyzes the topic to describe the societal problem and applies it to the scientific inquiry of analysis based on general thinking. In the first study, the researcher uses a deductive technique to choose a hypothesis and then explains it using the facts to define the issue statement (Bougie & Sekaran, 2019).

On the other hand, the inductive method looks into the data first. It looks for a similar pattern of connected factors to generate a hypothesis that clarifies the research topic (Suter, 2012). Essentially, the researcher investigates acquired data for a common pattern to develop a hypothesis to describe the pattern. This research is conducted according to the inductive research approach because the primary research can explain the collected data to reach research findings. With an inductive approach, the researcher can explain the Rohingya crisis properly and how this crisis is hampering the entire tourism industry of that area. Because of the primary research, this study uses an inductive method to analyze. The researcher uses the inductive technique to look at the dimensions of the tourism industry where the Rohingya influx can have

a negative impact and how those impacts can have long-run negative effects. Therefore, the inductive approach would be convenient for this research to investigate the effects of the Rohingya crisis on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar.

#### **Research Methods**

The research method collects data from multiple sources, forms the research question, and identifies solutions to the problem. The researcher determines how he will gather related data, formulate research questions, and analyze the information gathered through the study technique. The qualitative and quantitative research approaches are primarily used in the study endeavour. According to Bell et al. (2018), the quantitative technique emphasizes quantitative and numerical data to generate a hypothesis for the analysis of this research. On the other hand, the qualitative method refers to gathering and analyzing data to emphasize qualitative information for the research to comprehend the descriptive and explanatory components of the research topic. According to Creswell (2005), the researcher collects information and words from participants to evaluate them to draw a common idea using clear and communicative language. The qualitative method emphasizes obtained data and meticulously analyses it to support the arguments.

Qualitative research is used to understand the serious and actual situations of the event. This research uses a qualitative method to explain the problem faced by the tourist after the Rohingya influx and the long-run threats posed to the tourism industry. The researcher collected and used quantitative data both to demonstrate the respondents' background data and analyze the economic impacts on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. Thus, the mixed research method is the most suitable method for analyzing the collected and existing data and evaluating the effects of the Rohingya crisis on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. There is also a part of the recommendation to overcome the situation, and mixed-method also helps get insight for that section. The Rohingya crisis affects Bangladesh's national economy and causes enough trouble to its tourism industry in Cox's Bazar region.

# Sample and Sampling

Probability and non-probability sampling are the two types of data sampling. Probability sampling includes cluster, stratified systematic, and random sampling. Quota, snowball, and

convenience sampling are instances of non-probability sampling (Pace, 2021). However, Convenience sampling might include the entire population at the researchers' discretion. Researchers are free to choose from any set of volunteers. With convenience sampling, this research is conducted to select research participants. The researcher follows Godden's (2004) formula for an unknown population for the research project. The researcher chooses to have a 92% confidence level with an 8% margin of error. The sample size is calculated below.

$$S = \frac{Z^2 *P(1-P)}{M^2}$$

$$= \frac{(1.75)^2 *0.5(1-0.5)}{(0.08)^2}$$

$$= \frac{3.0625 *0.25}{0.0064}$$

$$= \frac{0.765625}{0.0064}$$

$$\approx 119.63$$
=120 (for study purpose)

Here,

S=sample size

Z=Standard normal deviation set at 92% confidence level=1.75

P=Percentage of population picking a choice, expressed as decimal=50%-0.5

M=Margin of Error 8% =0.08

### **Data collection**

Data collection is an important aspect of research techniques. The key data collection procedures include acquiring valid data and accurately measuring and analyzing them using appropriate procedures. Furthermore, collecting data is seen as an important and direct phase in the research process, and it is an integral aspect of the research process. According to the

experts, primary data has both advantages and disadvantages in terms of study. One of the benefits of undertaking primary research owing to time constraints is the ease of collecting primary data in this report. The data collected from participants must be nonbiased so that researcher can use them to reach research findings. The information gathered is objective, and the data gathered can be used for future analysis. Secondary data is only used to develop the research's theoretical approach and research questionnaire. The internet, books, online portals, newspapers, magazines, and journals have secondary data. Researchers use secondary sources to improve the research's reliability and validity (Neuman, 2014). Participants' primary data will be obtained using questionnaires and surveys. The Rohingya crisis affects Bangladesh's national economy and causes enough trouble to its tourism industry in Cox's Bazar region. Because of the sudden increase in the total population in the Cox Bazar region, the income sources through tourism in the region have been at risk, directly affecting Bangladesh's national GDP.

## Data analysis

Data analysis is considered the most challenging and significant procedure of the research aspect. The qualitative research method finds out the research outcomes by analyzing data. Qualitative data analysis includes systematic data procedures, organizing collected data, decoding and breaking data into several units to categorize them, describing them under the theoretical framework, synthesizing them, and presenting the research outcomes and results in the paper (Bogdan and Biklen, 2007). Through these number of procedures, data analysis has to be done under qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the qualitative research method, data has to be preserved with number sequences so that researchers can find them out quickly when they need to use them to reach research findings. For this analysis, the researcher has to develop a list of coding categories primarily to select data with specific notes and relationships (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

Data sequences have been coloured according to type based on their coding, and this list of data has been saved in a separate file to easily be retrieved when they need to utilize it in discoveries. Unfamiliar words and phrases are detected and grouped into a general code (Bogdan and Biklen, 2007). These data-processing systems assist in the discovery of research topics and findings. Although the qualitative data analysis method is not linear, it does include referring to events, statements, and categories. The data were classified using subcategories to determine the significant relationships and connections with the study questions and

conclusions. Descriptive statistics and crosstabs are used for the quantitative data to demonstrate and identify the impacts on the tourism industry of this Rohingya crisis. Simple comparisons between situations before and after influx will provide a clear picture of the effects. The findings would be written in a logical order, using insights from both two types of data. The introduction focuses on the general overview and backdrop of the study, and the conclusion focuses on the major concepts from the categories and subcategories that include survey results views. The researcher concentrated the insights on research, arguments, proof, and providing facts to support my assertions in this research in the middle of the introduction and conclusion (Lichtman, 2012). This study has shown a discussion of the findings, including thoughts, opinions, explanations, and analysis based on the data.

The effect of the Rohingya crisis has to be analyzed in in-depth procedures considering both primary and secondary data. Various factors should be analyzed, adjusting secondary information from books, journals, and articles with participants' primary data. Both types of data have to be used to evaluate the effect of the Rohingya influx on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. It would be very tough to reach the research objectives of this research using only the qualitative research method. It is a complex and critical issue for Bangladesh, so the researcher chose a mixed method to identify the exact effects.

# Validity and Reliability

The validity and dependability of research are important considerations for a researcher since they suggest the research's acceptability to readers. Validity and dependability are inextricably linked aspects of research. The terms dependability and validity are used interchangeably in research techniques. Researchers must decrease the number of incorrect responses and inaccuracies as much as possible to take the study seriously and provide reliable and trustworthy results (Saunders et al., 2007). This research is valid since the researcher used a variety of reliable information sources, including scholarly journals, newspapers, web reports, and numerous research papers. Readers will find the study more credible based on appropriate and reliable data sources. The researcher should assess the sources of information from all possible angles to make presumptions about the research's internal validity. Simultaneously, the researcher cannot use any confidential or contentious information. Although researchers have certain challenges in gathering accurate data due to the availability of many sources, the information utilized in the research report must be reliable and genuine. According to Saunders et al. (2007), dependability refers to how your data gathering methods and processing processes

will produce dependable results. In this study, the research reliability and validity are strictly adhered to by employing reliable data. Therefore, this study focuses solely on assuring validity and reliability.

# Presentation of data and analysis

Within this researcher, the researcher has collected data from 120 respondents using a prestructured questionnaire; there, the researcher asked several questions regarding the background and the current situation of the respondents. The ultimate target of this study is to find out the effects of the Rohingya influx on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. Because of that, the researcher included both open and close-ended questions to analyse those data qualitatively and quantitatively to portray the actual picture of the tourism industry. For finding out the background characteristics and economic impacts, there are several closedended questions with predetermined options. For identifying the other impact, the researcher includes open-ended questions that the respondents can answer according to their will.

## **Background information of the respondents**

Table 4.1: Demographic and background characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	90	65.7
Female	30	21.9
Age		
21-30	28	20.4
31-40	46	33.6
41-50	23	16.8
51-60	19	13.9
60+	4	2.9
Marital Status		
Married	94	68.6
Unmarried	26	19.0
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
1-25000	14	10.2
250001-50000	17	12.4
50001-100000	35	25.5
100001-200000	25	18.2
>200000	29	21.2

Education		
Below Secondary	19	13.9
Secondary or Higher	66	48.2
secondary		
Higher education	35	25.5
Purpose of stay		
Business only	34	24.8
Recreation and business	58	42.3
Other	28	20.4
Occupation		
Shopkeepers	47	34.3
Hotel and Restaurant	27	19.7
workers		
Hotel and restaurant	22	16.1
managers		
Hotel and restaurant owners	24	17.5
Location		
Inani	25	18.2
Himchori	38	27.7
Cox'sbazar	57	41.6

In table 4.1, it can be observed that 65% of the respondents are male, and others are female. Because most of the shopkeepers and hotel workers in Cox's Bazar are male, and most males are interviewed due to the sampling techniques. Most of the respondents belong to the age group of 21- 40. 20.4% and 33.6% of respondents belong to 21-30 and 31-40, respectively. Most of the respondents are married as Bangladeshi people get married as soon as they get involved in a job.

Regarding the income of the respondents, most of them earn from 50000 to 100000 per month in those areas. Though many people earn a lot more than those, 25.5% earn 50000 to 100000 per month. On the other hand, 21% of people earn more than 200000 per month because, among the respondents, there are people who own hotels or managers from big hotels. The researcher wanted to make sure the variation in the respondent's income to provide a holistic idea of the impact on the stakeholders of the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar due to the Rohingya influx.

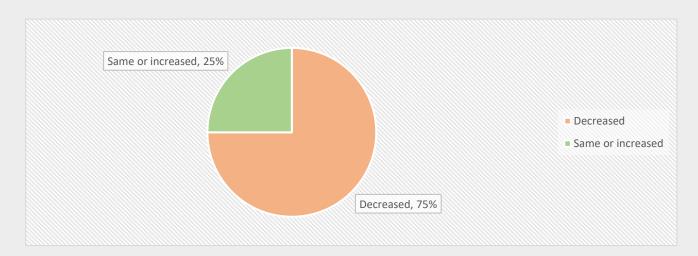
Among the respondents, most of them have secondary or higher education. Being involved in the tourism industry might need some education, so the respondents' education rate is quite good. Most respondents report staying in Cox's Bazar for business and recreation, though some stay for other reasons. But recreation is one of the major factors for those people, and the Rohingya influx might affect the recreational sector of Cox Bazar.

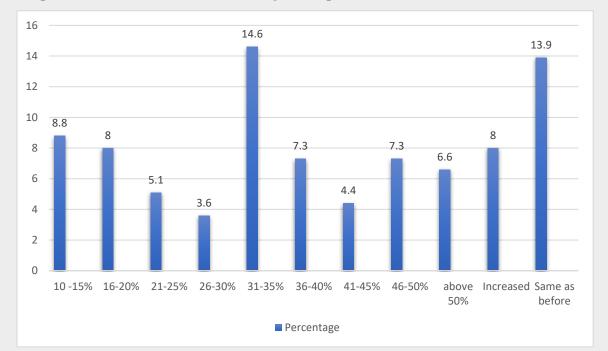
34.3% of the respondents are shopkeepers in the local market of Cox's Bazar and other areas. However, there is an almost handsome share of Hotel and Restaurant workers, managers, and owners. Variety in occupation is essential in this research because proving a holistic picture becomes a lot easier with a variation. Regarding the location of the respondents, they are divided into three different areas: Inani, Cox's-Bazar and Himchori. Most of them are interviewed in Cox's Bazar. However, Inani and Himchori have 25 and 38 respondents, respectively.

## **Economic Impact analysis**

Financial gain or profit is very important for the tourist industry. There are many people related to tourism and industry, and their livelihood depends on the profit of this one sector. For measuring the economic impact, the researcher incorporated close-ended questions. Those questions are asked about the fluctuation in income after the influx of Rohingyas. Predefined options were provided with the question to identify economic loss.

Graph 4.1: Income increase and decrease ratio





Graph 4.2: Income Fluctuations among the respondents.

In graph 4.1, it is clear that most of the people faced income reduction due to the Rohingya influx. They identified that their income was higher before, and eventually, they faced huge losses. Most of the respondents reported they faced income reduction in several ways. In graph 4.2 researcher tried to portray the level of income fluctuations during the Rohingya influx in Bangladesh. Most respondents reported reduced income by around 31-35% after the influx. 8% of respondents identified they have a loss of around 16-20% of their income. However, 13.9% and 8% of respondents said they had the same income and increased. But majority faced income reduction due to this incident, so it is evident that the Rohingya influx has had major effects on the overall economic structure of the tourism industry. These losses might increase or decrease in future, but right now tourism industry is going through a big economic challenge.

## Occupation wise economic loss analysis

The researcher included two variables to measure occupation-wise economic loss and showed the cross-table result to understand the overall scenario better. The researcher provides two different graphs one is about the economic loss faced by each occupation, and another shows the ratio between people who faced the economic loss. The sectorise analysis will provide an overall picture of how each sector is doing with the overall situation and how far they are facing economic losses.

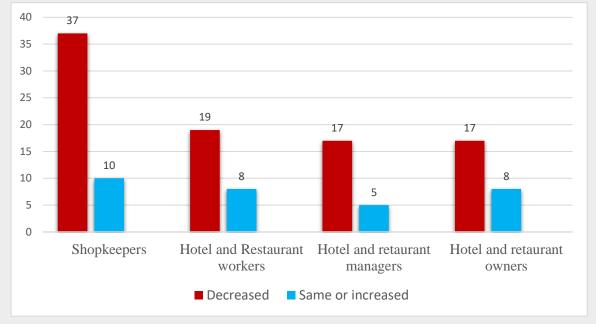


Figure 4.3: Occupation wise income fluctuations

Figure 4.4: Occupation wise economic loss

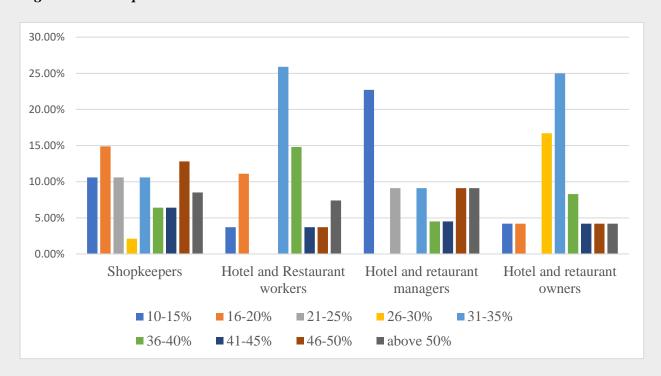


Figure 4.3 showed that most of the tourism stakeholders in the Cox's Bazar area faced economic losses due to the Rohingya influx. Among the shopkeepers, 37 of them faced income reduction, while only 10 had no income issue. Shopkeepers had a very hard time as most of them faced economic loss. With this, if one looks at graph 4.4, it can be observed that most shopkeepers faced 16-20% economic losses. 8% of the shopkeepers reported that they faced

above 50% economic loss, which is huge. 50% reduction means a colossal reduction of half income of those people.

Hotel and restaurant workers also faced big income reductions. Nineteen of them reported that they faced income reduction during this face, while only 8 said they had no income issues. Now graph 4.4 shows that 26% faced 31-35% of economic loss, and 14% faced 36-40% income reduction. In addition, workers might face decreased wages and responsibility as there were limited tourists.

Hotel and restaurant managers also faced income reductions. 17 of them reported income reduction, and only 5 said that the Rohingya issue does not affect their overall income. Graph 4.4 presents that most of them (23%) faced 10-15% economic loss, which is considered a minor impact on their income. Tough they have an economic impact due to the influx but in a minimum fashion.

Hotel and restaurant owners faced big economic losses 17 of them claimed that they faced economic losses, while 8 claimed no impact due to this phenomenon. Most of them faced 31-36% economic loss regarding the income loss. The overall income of hotel owners is more than other categories, so the overall loss is greater. While a hotel and restaurant owner faces an income reduction of 26-35%, total hotel restaurant staff might face those same losses.

### Location-based economic loss analysis

This study mainly includes three different places in Cox's Bazar. Those are mainly selected because they hold the maximum number of tourists who visit Cox's Bazar. Most of the respondents are from Cox's Bazar main city as a tourist is more intense in that place. In this section, the researcher tends to see the overall economic loss in those places differently so that it gets easier to predict where the effect is more significant. This is important for the final result so that researcher can estimate those places separately.

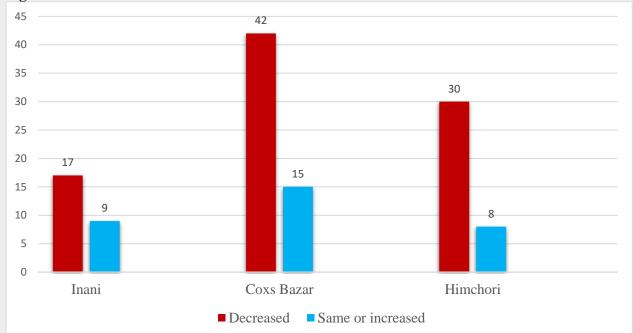


Figure 4.5: Location-based income fluctuations

Figure 4.6: Location-based income reduction

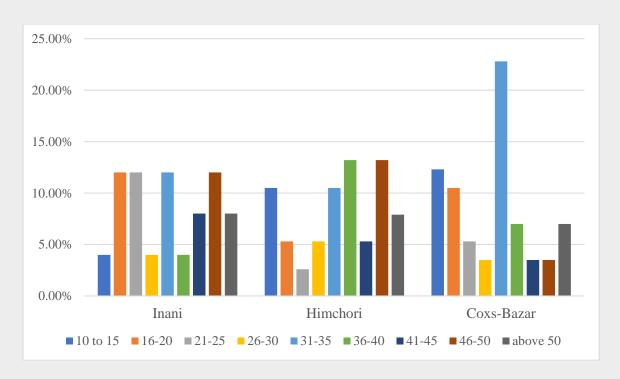


Figure 4.5 depicts overall income fluctuations among the stakeholders from different places. Most of those people reported that they faced some sort of income reduction. In Inani, 17 respondents reported that they aced income reduction, while only 9 claimed that there was no effect on their income. Figure 4.6 showed that 12% of the respondents faced 16-20%, 21-

25%, 31-35% and 46-50% income reduction. 8% reported they have massive income reduction, which is above 50%.

In Himchori, 30 respondents reported that they faced income reduction, while only 8 had no impact on their overall income. In Himchori, 13% of the respondents faced 36-40 and 46-50% of economic loss. This is huge because they almost have half their income after the reduction. Cox's Bazar has the greatest number of respondents. 42 respondents from this area claimed to have income reduction due to the Rohingya influx, while only 15 reported that they do not affect their overall income. Most people (23%) faced 31-35% economic loss, while only 7% faced loss above 50%.

## Most vulnerable group of the tourism industry to this Rohingya influx

A series of questions were asked to respondents with pre-structured answers. Different sectors of the tourism industry might have different experiences with these problems. That is why respondents were asked to select the most vulnerable group from the predefined options. This is crucial for identifying the perception of effects on different groups of stakeholders of the tourism industry. One person might be part of multiple stakeholder groups. Most vulnerable stakeholder groups from different dimensions might be helpful to predict the hardest effect of this influx.

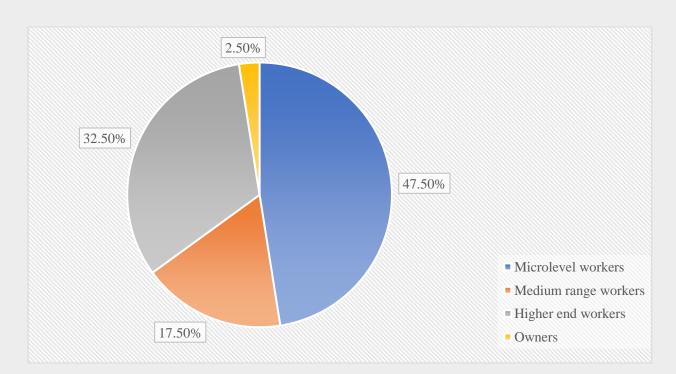


Figure 4.7: Most vulnerable Stakeholders, according to their working position

In graph 4.7, respondents identified that the microlevel workers class (Day labour, shopkeepers, helping hand in hotels, Rickshaw or easy bike drivers, etc.) are the most vulnerable to this problem. Almost 48% of the respondents identified this tourism industry group as the most economically vulnerable to this Rohingya influx. Higher-end workers (Hotel Managers, Big shop cashiers, chief chefs of the restaurants, etc.) are the second most vulnerable group to this problem in the Cox's Bazar area. Only 2% think that owners are the most vulnerable group. However, owners might have some other business to go into other areas.

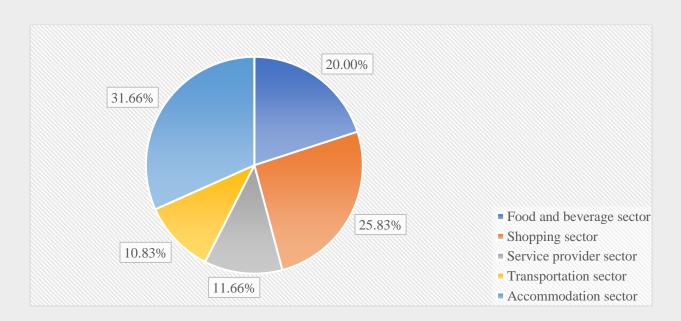


Figure 4.8: Most vulnerable Stakeholders, according to their sector of work.

Figure 4.8 shows that the accommodation sector is the most vulnerable to this problem. 31.66% of respondents think that the accommodation sector will have the biggest loss in the ensuing future due to this problem. In the second spot, the shopping sector is identified as the most vulnerable sector as they are facing a major decline in sales after the influx. Finally, 20% of the respondents think that the food and beverage sector will hit the hardest. In contrast, the minimum number of people think it is the most vulnerable transportation sector. It can be because transports can be operated onto another if the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar shrinks.

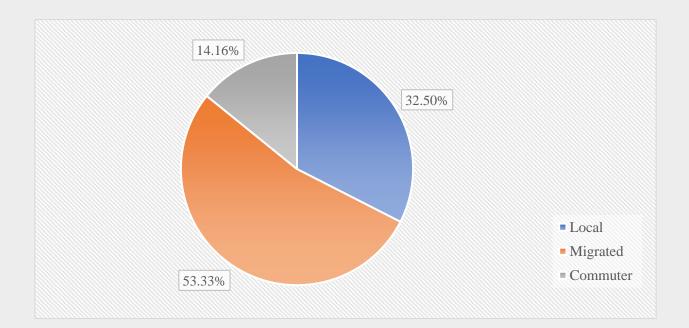
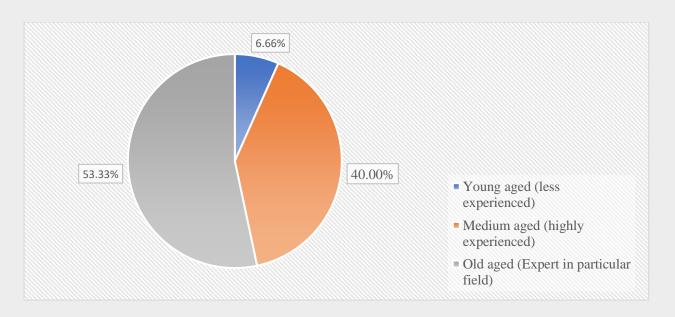


Figure 4.9: Most vulnerable Stakeholders according to their residential area.

Figure 4.9 presents that most of the respondents think that those workers who migrated into Cox's Bazar for their job are the most vulnerable to this Rohingya influx. 53.33% of people marked them as the most vulnerable. It can be because they left their old palace for this job and they have no other option than that particular job. 32.50% of people think local people engaged in the tourism industry are the most vulnerable to this problem. Local heavily depends on the tourism industry their livelihood eventually got dependent on the tourists so moving to other option might be very difficult for them. The least number of people think commuters who live in other places and come to Cox's Bazar for their job are the most vulnerable.

Figure 4.10: Most vulnerable Stakeholders according to their age and experience.



One can observe in graph 4.10 that most of the respondents selected old aged people who are considered experts in particular fields as the most vulnerable group. More than half of the people have the same opinion because old aged people who have expertise in that particular field may find it difficult to shift to another sector for work extremely difficult. 40% of people who have high experience working in the tourism industry are identified as the most vulnerable group 40% of the respondents. Middle-aged people also dedicated so much time to this field that they might not have any other quality except working in that field. The least number of respondents, only 6.66%, think young and less experienced people are the most vulnerable.

Figure 4.11: Most vulnerable Stakeholders according to their education level.

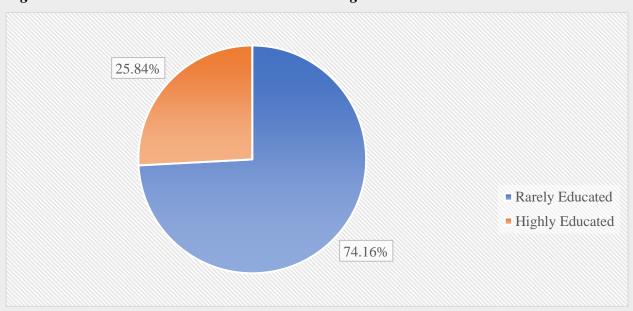


Figure 4.11 depicts that most respondents, almost three-fourths identified as rarely educated persons, are more vulnerable than those highly educated. This is because education does a great job in the livelihood of people. People can easily switch to another job using their qualifications and certificates. But those who do not have certificates but a lot of experience find it more difficult to switch to another job. That can be a prime reason being selecting rarely educated people as the most vulnerable stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar due to the Rohingya influx.

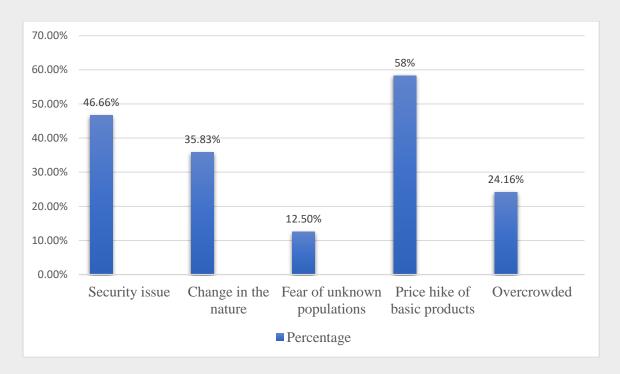
Overall, respondents selected those categories as most vulnerable, which have less dedication to the tourism industry but a lot of other opportunities. Those who cannot switch to another field for their livelihood are selected as the most vulnerable. On the other hand, people who have a limited income are also selected as the most vulnerable because they might lack savings that can support them in a recession period.

# Problem analysis (observed by the respondents)

For this part researcher used open-ended questions where the respondents were asked regarding the problems they observed faced by the tourists due to the influx. There were also questions about what problems are posing those Rohingyas to the tourism industry. Respondents were free to answer these questions; they were requested to indicate at least one of the problems. In answer to this question, most respondents indicate security issues the tourists face. Due to the huge population influx in Cox's Bazar, people faced a lot of unexpected situations, and the rate of crime also increased. Problems faced by the respondents are relay important as they directly affect the overall tourism industry. More problems faced by the tourists; the more they will be discouraged to visit Cox's Bazar. Rohingya people also can pose a direct threat to the tourism industry, and identifying the viewing point of respondents is much more important because they can give unique viewpoints.

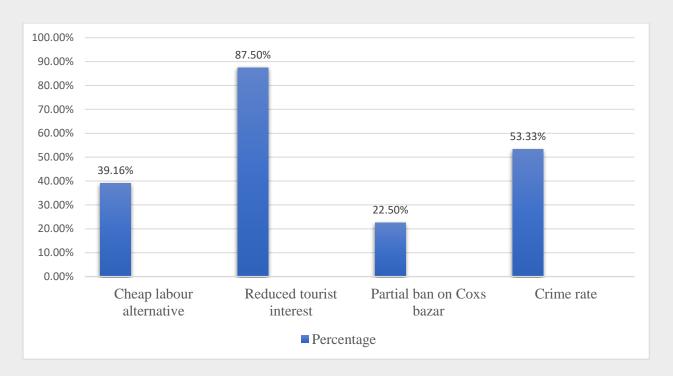
Regarding both questions, the respondents indicated some common points in different styles. Those common points are presented graphically to understand their viewpoint better.

### Graph 4.12: Common problem faced by the tourists (Observed by the respondents)



Graph 4.12 presents common problems faced by tourists. The respondents indicated some other problems without those, but those were not repetitive. That is why the researcher excluded those problems from the analysis. According to graph 4.12, 58% of the respondents indicated price hikes as a major problem tourist face after the influx. The price of daily products goes higher as the demand increases after the influx because the existing market of Cox's Bazar needs to feed a lot more people suddenly. 46.66% of the respondents reported that tourists faced security issues as the crime rate increased. The daily crime rate goes to an alarming rate after the influx indicated by the respondents, which poses a direct threat to the security of the tourists. More than 35.83% of the respondents claimed that tourists faced a change in the natural senary of Cox's Bazar, which is the prime attraction of that place. So, when nature turns into other things, tourists might lose interest in visiting Cox's Bazar. Fear of unknown population and overcrowding are also major problems tourists face, which is obvious as the number of agencies working in those areas increased overnight.

Figure 4.13: Common problem posed by Rohingya to the tourism industry



This question was open-ended, and most repeated problems were taken into account. Respondents talked about a lot of single problems. Still, most of those come under those categories. Some problems were indicated by a very small number of people, which is why those were also eradicated from the analysis list. Graph 4.13 presents that most of the respondents (87.50%) marked reduced tourist interest due to the Rohingya influx as the most significant problem for the tourist industry of Cox's Bazar. Where 53.33% indicated that an increased crime rate would be devastating to the tourism industry, cheap labour alternatives from Rohingya can be very depressing for the poor working class of our country. 39.16% of the respondents think this is a major problem in the tourism industry. Some respondents think there will be a ban on Cox's Bazar, too, as Saint Martin (Khatun and Kamruzzaman, 2018) faced from the government if the situation got out of control.

# **Discussion**

The tourism industry in Bangladesh is one of the major employment sectors. Bangladesh is an overpopulated country, and there is huge unemployment. Therefore, the tourism industry creates employment for every type of person with or without education. That is why the tourism industry has huge benefits to this country's overall economy. Moreover, tourism creates employment in remote places in this country, which cannot be replaced with any other sector because every job is more capital centric in Bangladesh.

Rohingya first started to move to Bangladesh on 25 August 2017; after that, many Rohingya people started to take shelter in Bangladesh as the Myanmar military hunted them. According to UNHCR, in 2017, around 723,000 Rohingya people came to this country for shelter, which is huge, especially for one of the most overpopulated countries (Abdul, 2020). Rohingya people pose many problems to this country, especially in the economic and environmental sectors. The tourism industry is suffering a lot from this problem as those Rohingya people take shelter in Cox's Bazar, one of the most important areas for tourism in this country. Scholars identified that those Rohingya people pose a multidimensional threat to the tourism industry because they are huge in quantity and have no proper education (Khatun and Kamruzzaman, 2018) and (Ahmad and Naeem, 2020).

According to table 4.1, most respondents are male, aged between 21 and 40 and married. Most people have secondary or higher secondary education from Cox's Bazar main city. There is enough diversity in the respondent's works, and the researcher tries to have respondents from every working group. So that an overall picture can be acquired, as is predicted by the existing literature, the Rohingya problem might affect the overall income status of people related to the tourism industry. That is why the researcher first tried to identify the economic impact faced by the tourism industry stakeholders. Graph 4.1 showed that most people (75%) had income reductions after 2017. Those people identified that when Bangladesh provided a place for those Rohingya people, their income reduced, so there might be a connection because 75% of the respondents experienced the same, which can not be a coincidence unless there is a strong influence like the Rohingya influx. This is supported by the findings of (Ahmad and Naeem, 2020), who also found a huge downfall in the daily wages of the labour in the Cox's Bazar area. They claimed that the downfall affected the tourism industry and the workers of other industries such as agriculture. Islam (2020) also claimed that Rohingya people harm this country's overall economy, and the tourism industry's contribution showed a continuous

decrease in the contribution to GDP after 2017. So, the overall income of this industry was decreasing so does the income of stakeholders of this industry.

In graph 4.2, it is quite clear that stakeholders of the tourism industry in the Cox's Bazar area faced a big economic loss after the influx. Most people faced 31-35% economic loss, which is massive. Because people who have low income are more likely not to have any savings (Shell et al., 1969), they suffer more from economic fluctuations, and a decrease of 31-35% must be very disturbing for them. Dey (2018) reported a major price hike in the Cox's Bazar area after the influx; moreover, there was wage reduction as those Rohingya people offer cheap labour. Due to the influx, many workers might not be able to maintain their regular work, reducing their income. After spreading the news of the huge migration, local and international people became confused to visit Cox's Bazar, which reduced the number of tourists, which might affect the overall income of those people.

This study found that most shopkeepers and hotel managers have income reductions. Other occupation workers also faced income reduction but less proportionately. Overall income was reduced in the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar, where those stakeholders faced massive losses. While figure 4.4 shows that most shopkeepers faced 16-20% economic losses. 8% of the shopkeepers reported that they faced above 50% economic loss and most of the hotel and restaurant managers faced 10-15% economic loss. This presents that shopkeepers had more intense economic losses due to the influx.

On the other hand, among hotel and restaurant workers and owners, most face 31-35% economic loss, which is more intense than the other two categories. There is no specific pattern of income reduction among different groups of respondents, but it seems like hotel and restaurant workers and owners faced higher-income reduction. Regarding the reasons for this recession, Alam (2018) identified that a smaller number of tourists and a greater number of agency workers imbalances the regular activities of Cox's Bazar. Of course, there can be other reasons, but this sudden imbalance might have a huge effect on overall income.

Figures 4.5 and 4.6 show the income reduction of these people in different areas. Tourism industry stakeholders who are Himchori reported income reduction in a large proportion than other two places. Moreover, people from this place also identified that they have greater income reduction than other places. On average, stakeholders from Himchori faced an income reduction of 36-40%, whereas others placed that rate at 31-35% on average. It can be because Himchori is the closest to Ukhia, where mainly the influx happens. Islam and Ahmed (2017)

also identified the peripheral area of Ukhia as the most vulnerable area, and they predicted that there would be high-income fluctuations among those places. Therefore, Himchori was also pointed out as one of the danger zones. In Cox's Bazar, most people faced income reduction of 31-35%; this can also be defined as the number of tourists significantly reduced due to various effects of Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. In this regard, Mia (2020) argued that people got influenced by the news reports and media. When they saw those illiterate people from other regions come into Cox's Bazar in huge quantities, they preferred to avoid Cox's Bazar from their list.

For identifying the most vulnerable group, the researcher asked respondents various questions where the respondents had to identify the most vulnerable group in each question. As discussed before, the Rohingya influx is posing several threats to the tourism industry of Bangladesh. That is why several sectors faced this influx's heat and adverse effects. To identify the most vulnerable group of people involved in the tourism sector researcher asked five different questions. Where one particular person can be part of at least one of the categories of those five questions, that is why the vulnerability increases when a person finds him identified as vulnerable by multiple angels. The first researcher finds that microlevel workers who work in the baseline of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar are the most vulnerable group. The marginal workers in all sectors, such as rickshaw pullers, shopkeepers, hotel cleaners, etc., are the most vulnerable to this influx as there can be cheap labour alternatives. Porimol (2021) reported to Dailystar that UNHCR is mobilizing funds so that they can help Rohingya to have access to livelihood. But they influence the host country from the initial stage to arrange some livelihood for those people. In his report, he also argued that sometimes Rohingyas are promoted to have access to livelihood like local Bangladeshi people, which is very depressing for the people of Bangladesh. Due to those pushes, the microlevel workers of the tourism industry are more vulnerable. Moreover, when the number of tourists is reduced, those micro-level workers immediately reduce their total income because workers at that level work on a daily contract or very flexible contracts.

Accommodation, food and shopping sector stakeholders are also identified as the most vulnerable group by many people. People attached to those sectors face huge economic losses, and they might face further income reductions. Micro-level workers in those sectors are more vulnerable and probably have the hardest time. People who migrate from a distance to Cox's Bazar to find livelihood are more vulnerable to this problem than local and commuter stakeholders. It can be because those who migrated to that area leave everything behind, and

they have to live with that targeted job. Ahmad and Naeem (2020) reported an overall 10-20% income reduction in different sectors after the influx. This can very negatively affect the livelihood of people who migrated to Cox's Bazar involved in the tourism industry.

Older people considered experts in particular tourism industry sectors are marked as the most vulnerable group because those experts spend their lives doing in that field, and they can not switch their jobs so easily. If they want to switch their job to a different location, there are already experts appointed because there is high competition regarding the job in Bangladesh. Therefore, if the tourism industry faces drastic losses, those experts will suffer the most. On the other hand, young people can easily go to another place and be involved in other sectors. This is inlined with Whelan and Maitre's (2010) findings, claiming that older people are more vulnerable to any economic crisis as they do not have enough opportunities to try a new way of earning. Lastly, respondents were asked to choose the most vulnerable group between highly educated and rarely educated stakeholders. Most of them (74.16%) identified that persons with limited education are most vulnerable to this Rohingya influx and economic loss of the tourism industry. An educated person at least has qualities and certificates through which they can manage other jobs if they lose the previous one. But those who do not have proper education but experience doing certain things need to find that same job to operate.

Overall, people who belong to the microlevel working class, work in the accommodation or shopping sector, migrate from other places and do not have proper education are most vulnerable. Furthermore, the vulnerability status increases as one finds themselves in multiple categories mentioned earlier.

The researcher used a qualitative method to identify the problem where respondents asked several questions. This study found that serious security issues are going on in the Cox's Bazar area. The crime rate goes higher in several areas. This is also claimed by Mia (2020); he added that the Rohingya people are supplying drugs to the youth of Bangladesh, and a huge quantity of drugs comes through them. As the drug intrusion increased dramatically in Cox's Bazar, the drug addict also increased. With this increasing rate, the crime rate also goes higher. Written (2020) reported this influx as a health and crime threat to overall Bangladesh. In his study, Written argued that the crime rate of any area goes up when that area goes highly populated, and the price of regular commodities goes up. After the Rohingya influx, the crime rate in Cox's Bazar jumps dramatically. Reports of snatching, threatening, and hijacking increased in the past few years. Evidence from Mogire (2011) presents that, historically, crime in the refuge

hosting area goes high due to huge population migration in a crowded place. In Bangladesh, the scenario matches the evidence. Most of the respondents reported that tourists often faced issues with their security. They also indicated that tourist generalizes things, and if one Rohingya commit any crime, they think that all of the Rohingya community commits crimes, and a misconception emerges. Those misconceptions spread rapidly, and the number of tourists further went down because they feared visiting Cox's Bazar, but in general, the situation was not that bad.

Respondents also identified the rising price of commodities as a burden on tourists. In general, any tourist destination is costly. But when Rohingya people started to come to Cox's Bazar, the situation started to change rapidly. Khatun and Kamruzzaman (2018) also reported that the price of the daily commodity in Cox's Bazar got increased by a quarter in general; inlined with this, Ahmad and Naeem (2020) claimed that the price of rice, flour, potato, beef, meat, etc. goes from 0.38 to 0.45\$, 0.33 to 0.41\$, 26 to 35\$ and 5.18 to 5.88\$ respectively. It was quite evident that the price of daily commodities increased a lot, and that is why there was a sudden increase in the cost of visiting Cox's Bazar, which might discourage tourists from visiting that place.

Changes in the scenario and overcrowded were also indicated by many respondents. They said that tourist always loses interest in visiting different places of Cox's Bazar once they find those places overpopulated or the natural beauty of that place lost. After the influx, the scenario of Cox's Bazar changes. Hoque et al. (2021) claimed a colossal increase in the aid workers in the Cox's Bazar area. The number of flights increases from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar. Overnight, NGO workers from different corners and countries arrived at Cox's Bazar, which increased the population. This thing can negatively influence the tourists from visiting those places. Most of the respondents also have negative attitudes towards this sudden increase. They think that this phenomenon is disturbing their regular activity, and they are not well equipped to meet the diverse needs of those aid workers. Some told that if they customize their services according to the need of those workers, that can be beneficial for now, but they are also concerned that those workers will not be here for the long term. Tsartas et al. (2020) also considered aid workers as short-term visitors who will contribute to the local economy. Still, in the long term, it can negatively affect the overall condition of that place. If tourists lose interest in Cox's Bazar, it might be a disaster for the stakeholders of the tourism industry of that area because, in the long term, tourists will be the only way of income for them.

On the other hand, Rohingya people directly affect the nature of Cox Bazar. Khatun and Kamruzzaman (2018), Yousuf (2017), Hossen et al. (2019) and Hassan et al. (2018) claimed that there was significant forest loss in the Cox Bazar and peripheral area due to the Rohingya influx. After those people came to Bangladesh, they started to build temporary shelters, and along with the camps, it required a lot of forest in Bangladesh. Dampha et al. (2022) and Mukul et al. (2019) argued that Rohingya people cause deforestation for several purposes, from shelter building to livelihood of those people everything is dependent on the forests of Bangladesh. Dampha et al. (2022) added that there were around 16,607 hectares of landcover lost after the influx of 20017 to till now. This might negatively affect the overall tourism industry because respondents observed that tourists find those places boring and are unwilling to visit those places that face a change in their landcover.

This study finds that most respondents feared that tourists would lose interest in visiting Cox's Bazar, which is not good. If tourists face continuous negative experiences eventually, they might lose interest. Cheap labour alternatives and an increased crime rate are also important problems. If Rohingya people are allowed to work, there might be a big problem for the subsistence level tourism industry workers. Because in the capitalist world, everyone will maximize their profit, so when Rohingya people offer cheap labour, alternative owners might employ them. Without this, if the crime rate increases, the tourism industry can face massive losses.

Overall, the Rohingya influx has a lot of negative effects on the stakeholders of the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. International tourists also show a declining trend in visiting Cox's Bazar with national tourists. It can be due to the warning of the respective embassy to stay cautious while visiting Cox's Bazar (Islam, 2020). Therefore, the economic, social, cultural and environmental effects of the Rohingya influx negatively cumulatively affect the tourism industry.

## **Recommendations**

Government should immediately take some measures like laws and warrants to protect the coast and tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. There is no alternative to pragmatic and long-term actions of government.

The Rohingya crisis can have long consequences on tourism and the entire economy of Bangladesh, which is why the foreign ministry needs to be proactive to send them back at any cost.

News media and social media can play a vital role in breaking the misconceptions regarding the Rohingya influx and attracting tourists to Cox's Bazar again. Because if tourist thinks Cox's Bazar is a dangerous place, they might never come to this place for visiting.

To support the massive number of aid workers government and owners of the tourism industry should make an allocation system for them far from the main tourism spots. This can open a new window of opportunities because in the future, when this problem is solved, it can also accommodate tourists and make new tourists spots, making this industry more diverse and sustainable.

Evident problems such as security, change in land cover and overcrowding should be managed systematically with both governmental and local support so that tourists identify those initiatives and generate interest to visit Cox's Bazar again.

Government should provide subsidies to marginal workers in the tourism industry to make them capable of taking the heat and surviving with the industry.

This country needs to uphold the problems different sectors face, such as tourism, the environment, and the local community and seek international donations to give breathing space to those industries.

The government of Bangladesh should take benefit of active platforms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address this situation and take effective measures to send Rohingya back.

These fluctuations also provide the stakeholders and government to redesign the destination towards more sustainability. Eco and green tourism can be promoted by redesigning the land covers destroyed by the influx.

# **Conclusion**

The tourism industry is one of the major economic sectors in Bangladesh, not because it contributes a lot to the national GDP but because it employs many workers. That thing is much needed for a country like Bangladesh. According to Halder and Sarker (2022) tourism industry is currently providing jobs to 8.07% of total workers in Bangladesh. So, any negative effect on this industry can cause a major challenge for the entire economy of Bangladesh. The Rohingya crisis started to be massive after 2017; many Rohingya people came to this country to find shelter after that year. Most of them took shelter in Ukhia near Cox's Bazar city. After this incident, overnight, the population of that area increases at an alarming rate.

Aid workers, volunteers, aid providers all types of people started to visit that place, and as a result, one of the biggest tourism industries of Bangladesh came into danger. The tourism industry's contribution to the overall economy started to fall after 2017 and continues till now (Islam, 2020). Throughout this study, the researcher tries to find the impact of this influx on the stakeholders of the tourism industry. From the micro-level stakeholders to big owners, everyone comes into the scope of this study. The researcher tries to extract information about the socioeconomic impact of this influx because the tourism industry mainly provides income to those people. Because of that, if there are major fluctuations in the income, that will be a major negative impact. Overall, this influx has caused many problems in this industry till now. The stakeholders claimed to have a major income reduction after the influx. They noticed that the number of actual tourists reduced after the influx. There were major misconceptions that the Cox's Bazar is not secure anymore for visiting. People overestimate the negative nature of Rohingya people and skip visiting Cox's Bazar. Zahid (2017) also reported that this misconception further reduces the number of tourists.

Security issues, overcrowding, change in the land cover, major price hikes, etc., are the major problems the tourists face. Cheap labour alternatives, increased crime rate, partial ban, etc., are the direct threat posed by this Rohingya influx to the stakeholder of the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar. Most of the tourism industry stakeholders are not taking this situation as a positive thing. They think there can be major consequences in the ensuing period if the government does not take appropriate actions. The findings of this study can be extremely helpful for different aid agencies or governmental agencies in making strategic plans to revive the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar and make it sustainable. In addition, this study can be a baseline for conducting explanatory research on the solution to this Rohingya influx. Without those, the

tourism industry stakeholders can also take insights from this study and understand the situation better. Overall, the tourism industry stakeholders in Cox's Bazar face several negative effects due to this Rohingya influx. This study tried to portray those effects from different dimensions that are major threats to this industry's sustainability.

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