

## **CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Significance of the study**

A few researches have been undertaken in Bangladesh on issues related to coastal fishermen communities and tourism development. Kuakata is a tourist spot as well as a settlement for fishing community. This research incorporated tourism development seeking to formulate strategies for the sustenance of the fishermen communities at Kuakata.

### **1.2 Objectives of the study**

The purpose of the research is to study the status of subsistence fishermen community of Kuakata (a remote coastal village and an important tourist spot of Bangladesh) and to develop strategies for increasing their benefits from tourism.

The objectives of this research are:

1. To identify the socio-economic status of the fishermen community, particularly income generation, social structure and settlement patterns. To study the fish catching practices of these people and the catch pattern in different seasons.
2. To identify the current status of tourism activities as well as likely future trends and plans.
3. To assess the impact of tourism development on these fishermen communities and identify the changes in income generation and social structure.
4. To explore ways and means how the government agencies and non-governmental organizations can assist in upgrading the present status of fishermen community and help continue this age-old profession.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The research started with an extensive review of literature. Field visits and reconnaissance surveys were conducted at Kuakata in the beginning. Case studies and interviews of the tourists, fishermen and various stakeholders were taken. PROs (Participatory Research Observations) and PRAs (Participatory Research Appraisal) were done (with the fishermen) in the study villages. Field investigators have collected various information of the fishermen community and tourism development in Kuakata. 500 households have been surveyed from Kuakata, Melapara, Nabinpur, Keranipara, Panjupara, Hossainpara, Musalliabad, Mombipara, Alipur, Naioripara, Farshipara and Khajura villages. These villages are mostly dominated by fishermen communities. The villages are mainly located along the sea-shore. 30 tourists were also surveyed through a questionnaire. Photographs were collected on fisheries and tourism related activities in the study area. The collected data were analysed applying Excel and SPSS. Maps showing tourism development and settlement pattern of fishermen communities were prepared applying ARC VIEW and GIS software.

A seminar was organised by the study team at Kuakata on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2002 on tourism and fishermen community of Kuakata. Findings of the study were disseminated to the fishermen communities, tourism promoters and other stakeholders through a seminar paper presented by a research assistant. Ideas and views were also exchanged among the stakeholders, who attended the seminar. After the seminar, the final report of the research is prepared.

### **1.4 Literature Review**

A literature review is conducted on tourism and fishermen community in Bangladesh and other parts of the world.

#### **Fishermen Community**

Alam conducted his Doctoral research and subsequent studies (Alam, 1996, 1998) on two fishing villages of Bangladesh in the coastal areas of the country. He studied Kumira Village of Sita-Kunda Thana under Chittagong District and Dhakua Village of Galachipa Thana under Patuakhali District. He investigated how the fishermen communities of these two villages are affected by changes in condition in and outside the village; the responses of people while coping with these changes, and any structural differences existing between these two communities located in two different regions. Hasan's (Hasan, 2001) publication "Coastal fishermen communities of Bangladesh: some facts and observations" discusses some facts and observations of the coastal fishermen communities of Bangladesh. He discusses the key features of these communities, their emerging habitat pattern, some fishing practices, industrial versus artisanal fishing in the Bay of Bengal and the constraints and problems faced by the fishermen community. Azam and Hasan (Azam and Hasan, 2001) in their paper "Present status of post harvest fishery activities in the south western region of Bangladesh" talked about the status of fisheries activities in Greater Khulna Region, the fishing activities in the Sunderban Mangrove forest, marketing channels and infrastructure, landing facilities and the middlemen and wholesalers involved in this trade.

The "Bay of Bengal" Program conducted an extensive study incorporating the countries adjoining the Bay of Bengal. The study in 1980 (Bay of Bengal, 1980) investigated the role of women in small-scale fisheries of the Bay of Bengal. The studies in 1985 and 1987 (Bay of Bengal, 1985, 1987) looked into the hilsha fishing in the Bay of Bengal. The study in 1992 inquired into the estuarine set Bag-net fisheries of the Bay of Bengal. Kurt Mork Jensen in his study "By the River Meghna" (Jensen, 1985) investigated the fishermen community of the Meghna River in the estuarine zone. He studied the

fishermen villages of Ramgati of Noakhali and a number of *charland* settlements like Char Ramiz, Char Gazi, Char Falcon, and Char Barakhari. Murtaza (2001) in his forthcoming study “socio-economic condition of the impact zone people of the Sunderban” explored the fishermen communities on the edge of the Sunderban and their dependency on the fishery resources of the forest. Associated Services, Dhaka (Associated Services, 1979) conducted a study in 1979 on the coastal fisheries sector which investigated the performance of DANIDA (Danish Agency for International Development) and Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation towards modernisation of the coastal fishermen communities. John Kurien (Kurien, 1991) conducted a study on coastal over-fishing in the sea and the fishermen’s perception, responses and action in Kerala, India. The first census of the fishermen community of the coastal areas of Bangladesh was conducted by Food and Agricultural Organisation in 1972 (FAO, 1972). Another study conducted by FAO on coastal fishery is “Bangladesh Fisheries Sector Project Preparation Report (FAO, 1989). Community Development Centre (CODEC) a Bangladeshi NGO conducted a few studies on the coastal fishermen communities. The CODEC Study in 1989 (CODEC, 1989) was on the support program to coastal and river based fishing communities of Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola. CODEC conducted two studies in 1991: one was on the experience of CODEC on the changes of the fishermen’s lives of the coastal villages of Chittagong (CODEC, 1991a), the other was a fishermen community survey conducted in the coastal areas (CODEC, 1991b). In 1993, CODEC conducted a study on social awareness training for CODEC beneficiaries (CODEC, 1993). Danish Agency for International Development conducted a few studies on the coastal fishermen communities. The study conducted by DANIDA in 1988 (DANIDA, 1988) was on the performance of Community Development Centre (CODEC), and the other was on the environmental issues in fisheries development in Bangladesh (DANIDA, 1989). Siddique (2000) in his book “Life Struggle of marine fishermen” highlighted the life struggle of the coastal fishermen communities of Bangladesh. He discussed in details the process of fish extraction from the coastal region of Bangladesh, the fishermen involved in this trade and their professional details including the economic condition, fishing boats and gears during fishing used and the fishing season.



### **Tourism**

Regarding tourism, the United Nations (1995) publication “Guidelines on environmentally sound development of coastal tourism” stressed on tourism growth and sustainability, environmental impact on coastal tourism, measures for protection and enhancement of the environment, and technical guidelines for environmental management and managing socio-cultural impacts.

Clare A Gunn (1988) in his book “*Tourism Planning*” discussed mainly about the nature and scope of tourism planning. He further talked about tourism planning in progress, planning approaches, markets, attractions, services, transportation, promotion and the regional potential planning for tourism.

Clark, J. R. (1992) in his book “*Integrated management of coastal zones*” identified governmental actions that can lead to effective management of coastal resources and strengthening the national capacity for effective coastal resources management through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). This is a system for controlling development and other human activities that affect the condition of economic resources and the quality of environment in coastal zones. ICZM incorporates modern principles of planning of resources management, and take an intensive to incorporate information bases in to an inter-disciplinary process. A major objective is to facilitate the interactions of different economic sectors towards optimal socio-economic outcomes, including resolution of conflicts between sectors. ICZM may be initiated in response to a planning mandate but more often because of a crisis – a use conflict, a severe security in a resource, or a devastating experience with natural hazards.

Ravi Bhushan Kumar (1995) in his book “*Coastal tourism and environment*” talked mainly about tourism in the developing world with special reference to India. He discussed the geographical features of Western Coastal part of India, Coastal tourism in Kerala, tourism products of Goa, Beach tourism and ecological aspects of coastal tourism.

S S Sidhu (1996) in his book “*New Horizons in Travel and Tourism: Asian Approach*” discussed about the current state of tourism and civil aviation in the Asia-Pacific Region, emerging capabilities, specific growth models, the new requirement for product development and its implications for the travel and tourism industry. Four issues were identified in this book. These were macro-economic outlooks for tourism and aviation, managing airline growth in Asia, airports of tomorrow, marketing and delivery of the tourism product. The theme was central to shared perspectives and problems of tourism and civil aviation sectors in their variegated stage of growth.

Pitamber Sharma (ed.) (2000) in his book “*Tourism and development: case studies from the Himalaya*” discussed mainly about mountains, tourism and development. In this book, he further talked about conservation for tourism and local development; problems of tourism and common property resources; high value tourism with local development; tourism and problems of urban management; managing pilgrimage tourism in a unique environment; and finally, common issues in mountain tourism for local development.

