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Perceptions on the effect of climate change on child marriage : a qualitative exploration based on social ecological model

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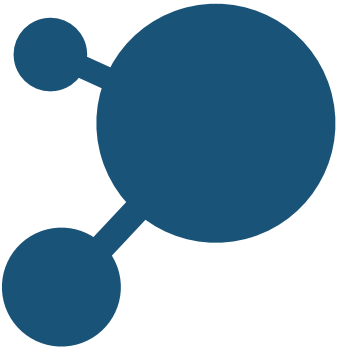
Background

- ❖ Bangladesh ranks in top 10 in child marriage
- ❖ 38 million child brides in Bangladesh
- ❖ 51% get married before 18
- ❖ 60.3% child marriage in Bhola
- ❖ Bangladesh is vulnerable to the effect of climate change
- ❖ UNICEF identified child marriage as a major impact of climate change on adolescents.



Source: Google image search
(mnabd.com)





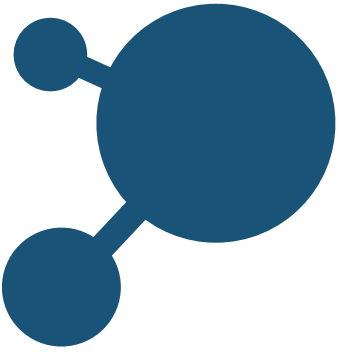
Objectives

General objective: To explore the perceptions on the effect of climate change on child marriage in disaster-prone area.

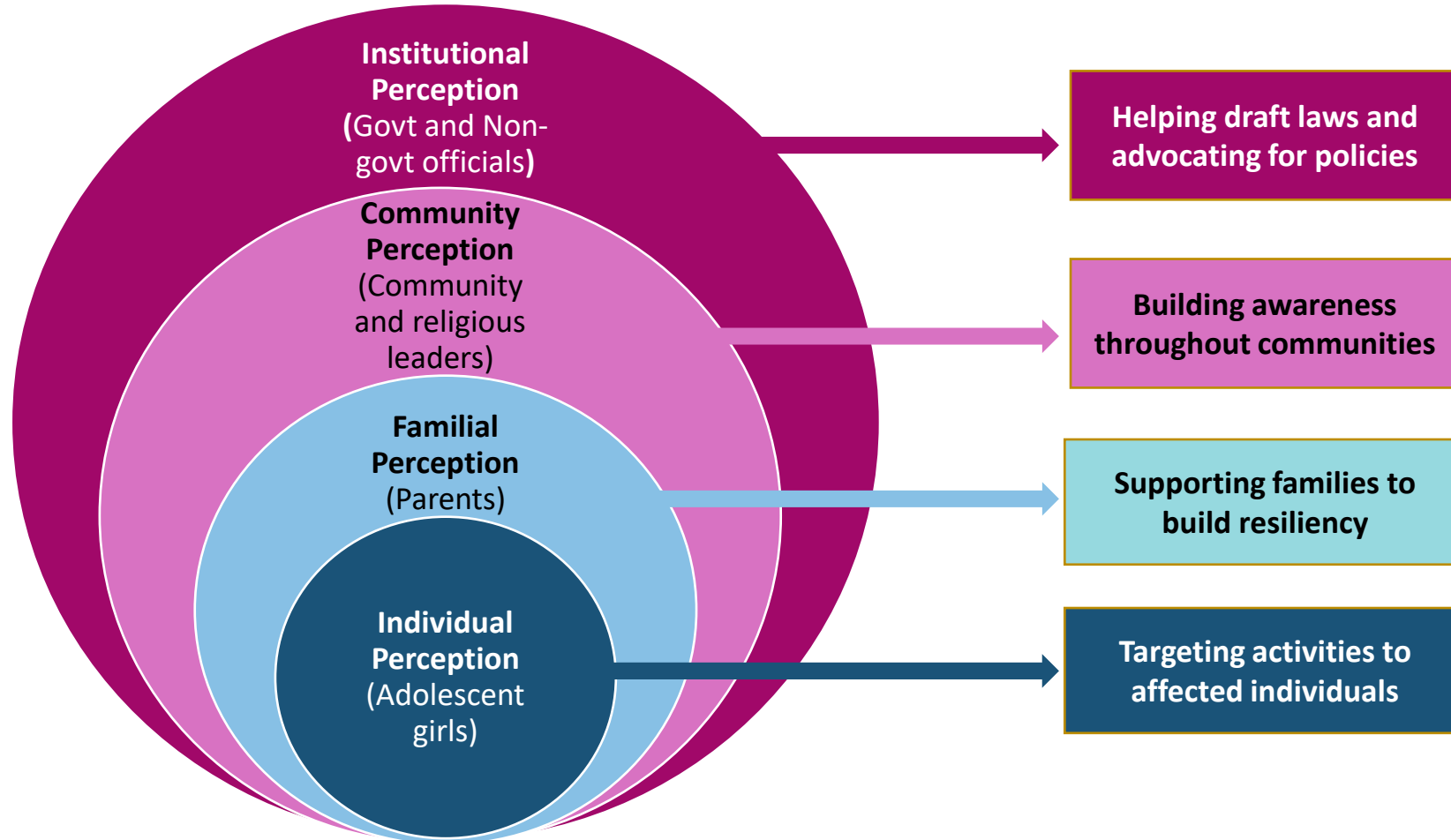
Specific objectives:

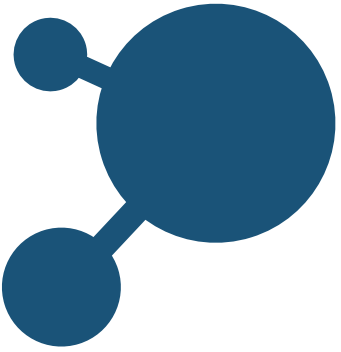
- ❖ To explore the connection between climate change and child marriage.
- ❖ To understand the factors determining child marriage in a disaster-prone area at an individual, familial, community, and societal level.
- ❖ To understand the dimension varies across different levels in the society.





Conceptual Framework of the Study





Materials and Method

- ❖ **Study type:** Qualitative
- ❖ **Study area:** Bhola district
- ❖ **Sample size:** 12 FGD, and 9 KII
- ❖ **Sampling:** Purposive
- ❖ **Data analysis:** Neuman three-phase coding
- ❖ **Ethical Approval:** IRB + written consent

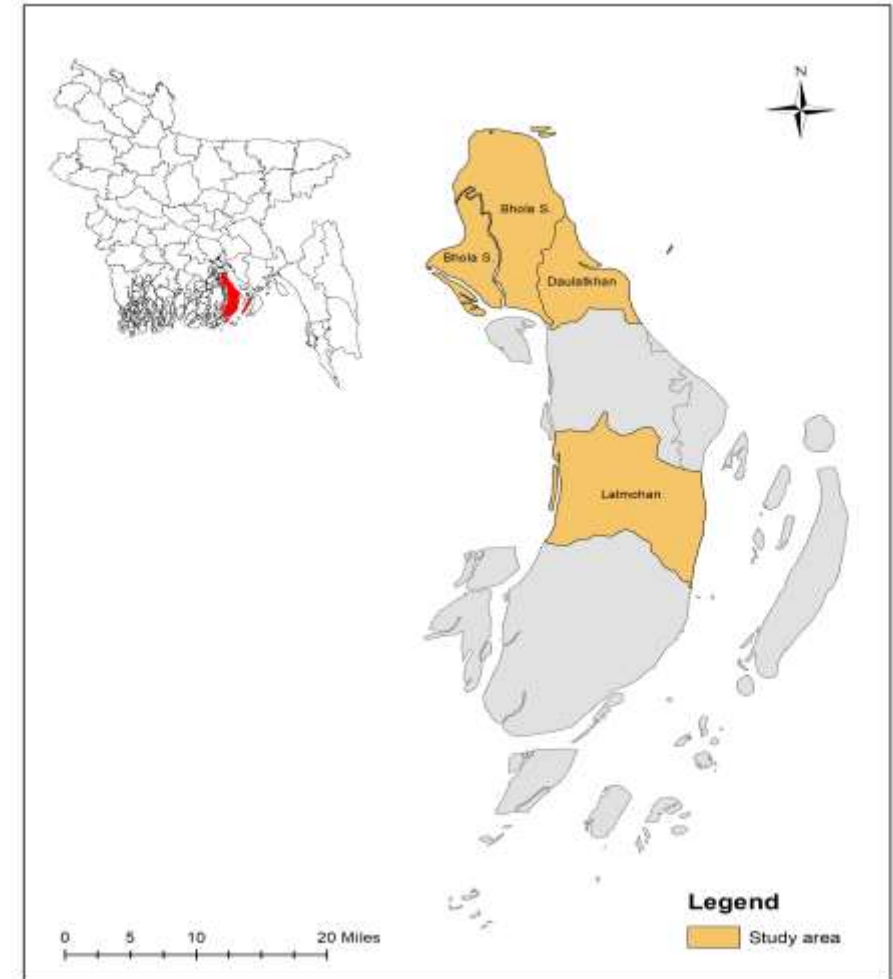
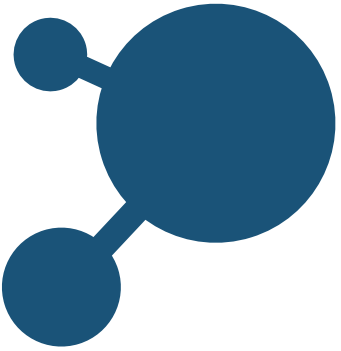


Figure: Map of the study area





Data Collection Procedure

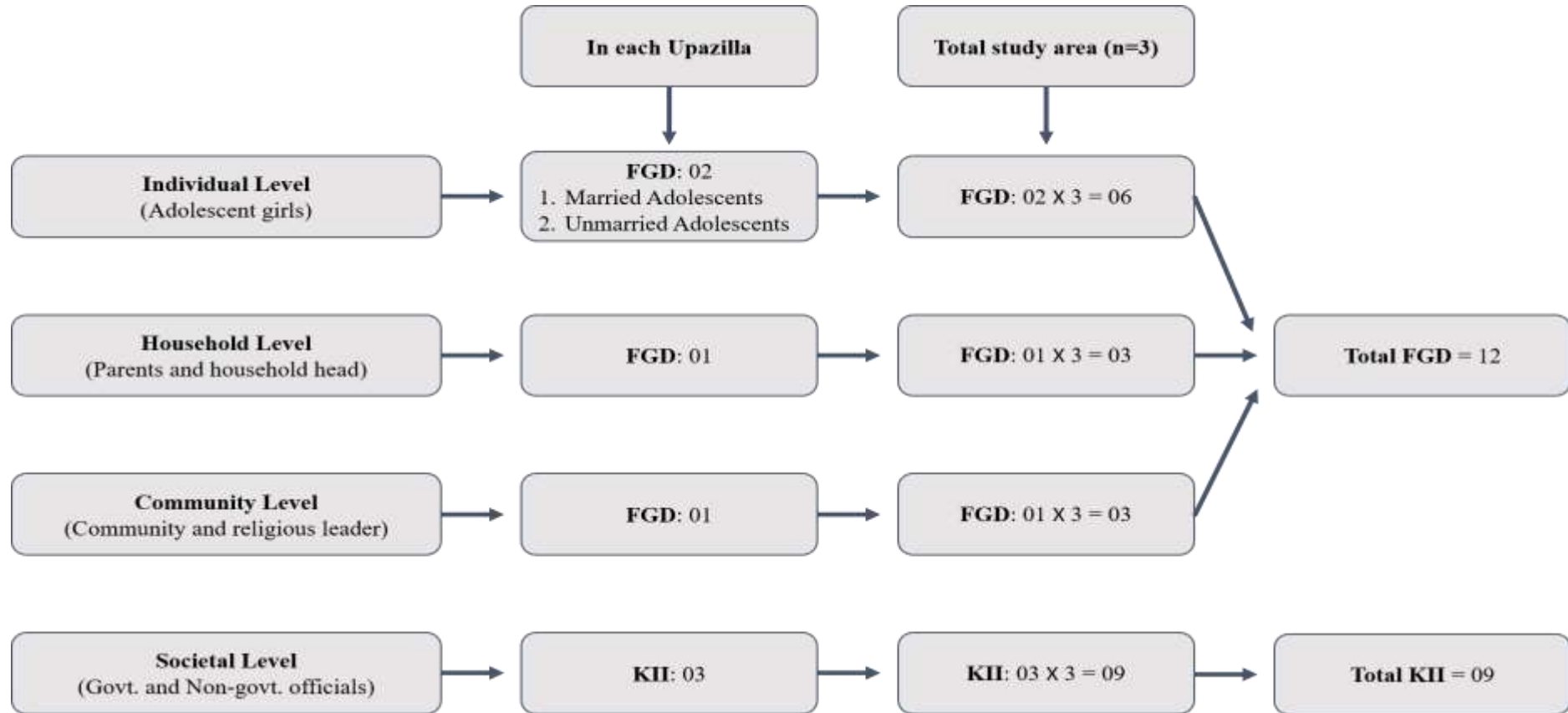
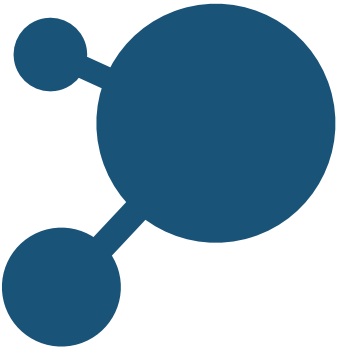
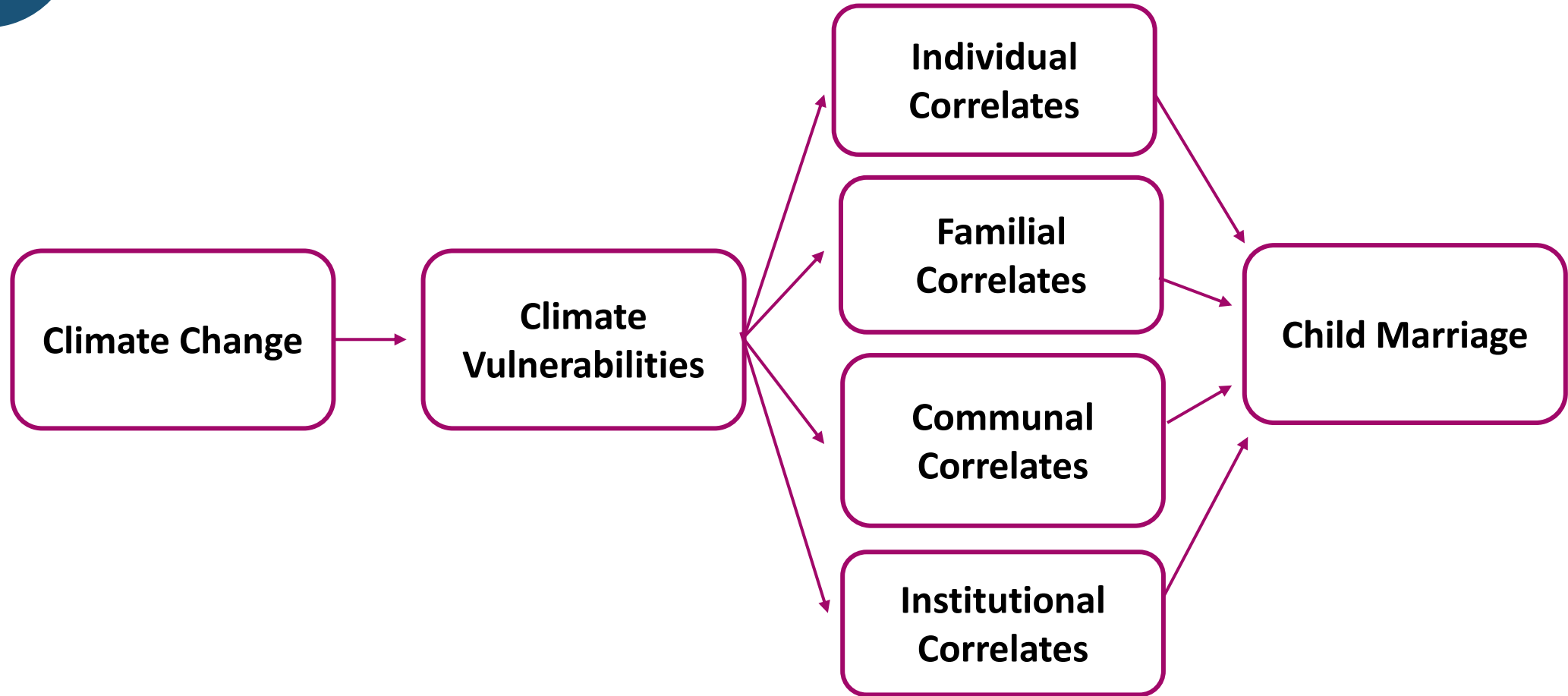


Figure: Data collection procedure at different population level.





Results





Results (cont.)

1. Individual correlates of child marriage

- Age of the girl
- Physical growth
- Need extra care

“My elder sister got married at 15 years old when I was around 12. Our house was repaired, painted, new tins were installed and the border of the house was paved. My parents were very worried that if we fall into the flood, all will go away. Sometimes cyclone blows away the shed of the house. Again, doing all of the things will take time and money as well. In the meantime, my sister’s age will be more. As that time the house was prepared, my parents decided to marry her off. On the day of marriage, I was very sad because I was very close to my sister.”

- An unmarried girl during FGD





Results (cont.)

2. Household correlates of child marriage



Number of
unmarried girls



Financial
difficulties



Homelessness



The concept of
honor



Presence of elderly





Results (cont.)

3. Communal correlates of child marriage

“In evacuation centers, many families stay together. In that time if there is a mature beautiful girl with good physical growth, other families talk about her or propose her parents to marry off their daughter with their boy or choose her for their close one. Except that if the growth of a girl is great, then people whispered about her, look at her negatively and tease her. Sometimes girl’s parents discuss looking for a suitable groom for their girl in such gathering. Then if find some good combination, they marry their girl off.”

- A teacher, FGD

- Geographical composition
- Religiosity
- Social gathering at the evacuation centre
- School closure





Results (cont.)

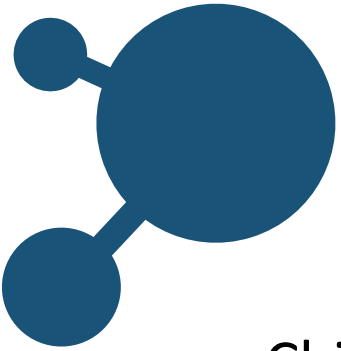
4. Institutional correlates of child marriage

- Lack of disaster management
- Lack of security in the evacuation center.

“There is cyclone center in every union. People tend not to go there ignoring the rules and regulations of government. There occur unwanted incidents sometimes. Red Crescent only works there voluntarily. Besides that, we cannot see that much prompt action from the local representative and administration. They only do mike throughout the area. There is a scarcity of toilets and people are sometimes harassed there as there remains no security guard. Sometimes teachers periodically monitor there. They lack proper security, pure water and exist negligence of the local government.”

- A ward counselor, FGD



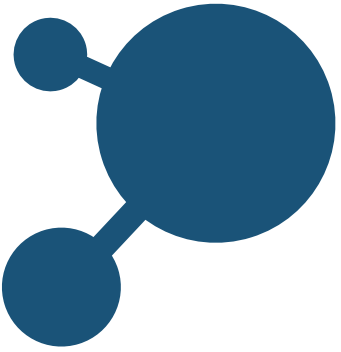


Conclusion and Recommendations

Child marriage as an adaptation mechanism adopted by households in the face of shared vulnerability to climate change. This study suggests-

- Introduce policies addressing the environmental risk factors of child marriage in vulnerable regions.
- Policies should address women's vulnerability to child marriage in disaster-prone areas to enhance climate change resilience.





References

- UNICEF. (2019). *Children in Bangladesh*. UNICEF Bangladesh.
- UNICEF. (2020). *Ending child marriage: A profile of progress in Bangladesh: Vol. October 20*.





THANK YOU

Question?