

Climate-Induced Displacement in Bangladesh: Legal Gaps and Institutional Reform in Environmental Governance

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Abstract

Bangladesh faces ongoing climate-related displacement problems because its existing legal and institutional systems fail to provide official recognition and protection for displaced people. The research investigates environmental governance deficiencies through doctrinal legal analysis, policy assessment and field study of 35 participants including displaced individuals and relevant officials. The findings reveal three critical gaps which include the absence of statutory recognition for climate-displaced people and fragmented institutional coordination and the absence of enforceable rights related to relocation and rehabilitation. Interview data show that women and children and landless people experience more exclusion from both compensation and decision-making than others. The study compares Bangladesh with India, Vietnam and the Philippines to establish that legal recognition and coordinated governance result in better protection outcomes. The findings indicate that Bangladesh needs to change its disaster management practices by implementing a rights-based governance system through the revision of essential laws and the creation of inter-ministerial coordination systems and the establishment of participatory and gender-sensitive safeguards.

Keywords: Climate-Induced Displacement, Environmental Governance, Institutional Reform, Human Rights-Based Approach, Deltaic Governance

1. Introduction

Bangladesh faces serious climate hazards because its geographic position creates multiple problems for its cities that stand in a low-lying Delta area. The coastal plains and riverbanks of Bangladesh serve as permanent locations that face ongoing threats from floods, cyclones, erosion and salinity intrusion. The coastal areas of the country sustain a population base that includes one-third of the total residents who rely on agricultural, fisheries, and informal sector works for their economic survival.

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The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2023) reports that from 2000 until 2022, Bangladesh experienced over 15 million climate-related internal displacements. The cyclones Sidr (2007), Aila (2009), and Amphan (2020) caused extensive evacuations.

Climate displacement keeps happening in Bangladesh, but the country lacks official recognition of climate-displaced persons according to its existing legal system. The Disaster Management Act (2012) and National Adaptation Plan (2022) provide basic emergency response methods that governments use for disaster relief and recovery operations. The regulations establish no rights that people can claim. They leave the relocation duties unclear, and they prevent community participation in decision-making.

The paper proposes that climate displacement solutions need to replace existing disaster methods with focus on protecting human rights. The research investigates whether Bangladesh can effectively realign its environmental and policy frameworks to implement a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) while improving institutional coordination and supporting climate justice.

2. Background of the Study

To really get the broader picture of climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh, it is necessary to look past the immediate events and into the legal and institutional hurdles. This part sketches out how the country's geography and socio-economic realities work together, it also highlights what laws are already in place, how institutions are actually arranged, and which vulnerabilities keep framing the displacement experiences.

2.1 Geographic and Socio-Economic Context

Bangladesh occupies the biggest delta in the world because it shares this territory with both India and Myanmar. Climate shocks cause coastal districts to suffer repeated displacement events. The growing strength of cyclones leads to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of individuals. Cyclone Amphan in 2020 temporarily displaced around 500000 people while it caused extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Riverbank erosion forces about 68000 people to move every year along the Jamuna, Padma, and Meghna rivers.

2.2 Comparative Deltaic Countries

Bangladesh can use other deltaic region insights to create its future development path. The Sundarbans (West Bengal, India) region experiences the displacement of approximately 40,000 people each year. The region has temporary shelters that protect displaced people from harm; however, the system lacks adequate

enforcement of their rights. The Mekong Delta in Vietnam operates relocation programs that provide financial compensation to residents who face relocation while offering them limited rights-based protections. The Pampanga River Basin of the Philippines follow community-based disaster risk reduction activities; up to this moment, there has been minimal legal recognition of the rights belonging to displaced persons.

2.3 Existing Legal and Policy Frameworks

Bangladesh's current legal instruments address climate risks primarily through emergency response and adaptation planning, but gaps remain in statutory protection. For instance:

Table 1: Overview of Legal and Policy Frameworks on Climate-Induced Displacement in Bangladesh

Law / Policy	Purpose	Key Gap
Disaster Management Act 2012	Emergency relief	No legal recognition of climate-displaced persons
BCCSAP 2009–2021	Climate mitigation and adaptation	Lacks enforceable protections
National Adaptation Plan 2022	Adaptation strategy	No entitlements or rights for displaced populations

Table 1 indicates that even though Bangladesh has put in place various legal and policy instruments meant to deal with climate change, plus disaster management, these setups mostly lean toward emergency reaction and adaptation planning, more or less. But none of them clearly accept climate-displaced persons, nor do they create binding rights for their protection and eventual rehabilitation. These gaps indicate that while the policy architecture acknowledges climate challenges, it fails to secure durable rights or structured protection mechanisms for affected populations.

2.4 Critical Legal Analysis of National Frameworks

The Disaster Management Act 2012 focuses on disaster response operations as its main functional approach. The law defines disaster management duties but fails to recognize displacement as a legal term while not providing any rights which people could use for enforcement. The sections about relief and rehabilitation give authorities the power to choose their actions because the

sections do not create mandatory obligations about resettlement or compensation. The National Adaptation Plan 2022 recognizes displacement as a climate risk but fails to provide operational legal mechanisms. The document fails to define who qualifies for relocation assistance while it does not create systems that hold people accountable for their duties. Displaced people lack judicial pathways to claim their rights for housing, land and livelihood restoration because no legal framework exists to support their claims. The UN Guiding Principles establish international frameworks that protect people and enable their active involvement while creating permanent solutions that show how domestic laws differ from international standards.

2.5 Institutional Coordination

The responsibility for relocation and rehabilitation tasks throughout institutions spreads across different government ministries, which include the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and the Ministry of Social Welfare. The overlapping governmental responsibilities create coordination problems, which result in operational delays and reduced efficiency that damage climate-displaced protection systems.

2.6 Social Vulnerabilities and Gendered Impacts

Vulnerable groups directly experience climate-induced displacement. Women experience increased danger because they lack secure land rights and employment opportunities. Children who face educational interruptions must deal with both educational challenges and psychological distress. Landless laborers and low-income fishers belong to marginalized communities who face exclusion from compensation and social protection programs.

3. Problem Statement

The legal and policy frameworks of Bangladesh provide inadequate protection to climate-displaced individuals who must move from their homes because of climate hazards. The lack of formal recognition for climate-displaced people, combined with weak coordination among key ministries, undermines the effectiveness of relocation, rehabilitation, and compensation initiatives. Affected communities frequently remain excluded from decision-making, and the absence of gender-sensitive measures intensifies vulnerabilities for women and children. The structural deficiencies of these systems maintain social inequalities while weakening protective strategies.

4. Rationale of the Study

It is argued that the disaster management systems cannot solve climate-induced displacement problems that occur throughout Bangladesh. National policies recognize climate vulnerability, yet they stop short of creating enforceable rights and institutional accountability mechanisms to protect displaced people. The inclusion of human rights principles into environmental law systems would change the status of displacement from an administrative matter into a legal obligation that requires justice to be served. The research investigates how Bangladesh can develop its legal and institutional framework to deliver better and fairer climate displacement protection.

5. Research Objectives

This research tries to look at the legal and institutional side of climate-related displacement in Bangladesh. The next aims kind of set the path for how to study the current governance gaps and to spot what reforms might be workable. The objectives are

- a. To identify and critically analyze gaps in national laws and policies governing climate-induced displacement.
- b. To evaluate whether the existing legal and policy frameworks align with international instruments.
- c. To propose context-specific, evidence-based legal and governance reforms aimed at strengthening institutional coordination, participatory mechanisms, and equitable protection for climate-displaced populations.

6. Research Questions

- a. Primary Question:
How can Bangladesh develop a human rights-based environmental governance framework to protect climate-displaced populations?
- b. Secondary Questions:
 - i. What gaps exist in current legislation?
 - ii. How do governance structures affect displaced communities?
 - iii. What are the gendered and social vulnerabilities?
 - iv. Which international principles can inform national reform?

7. Literature Review

The existing literature gives pretty solid insights about climate-induced displacement, the way environmental and human rights issues are governed. By going through those studies, it is necessary to see what we already know, which theoretical perspectives are being used, and where the holes are. That's basically how this study figures out what it should try to address, even if the picture is a bit fragmented in places.

7.1 Global and Regional Perspectives

The IPCC (2022) designates deltaic regions as climate "hotspots", because rising sea levels and intensified cyclones and erratic rainfall patterns combine to increase displacement rates. The Global South reports rising instances of climate-induced mobility yet maintains insufficient legal safeguards that exist in an inconsistent and underdeveloped state. International systems recognize displacement as a climate change effect, yet national laws currently fail to match actual displacement cases.

Regional experiences show different patterns that demonstrate this existing gap. India's Sundarbans (West Bengal) handles displacement through temporary shelters and short-term rehabilitation programs. Current system lack sufficient legal protection, which prevents the implementation of long-lasting solutions. Vietnam's Mekong Delta operates a formal relocation framework that includes land compensation, financial support, and rights-based planning elements. The Pampanga River Basin in the Philippines includes community participation in disaster risk reduction measures, but existing legal systems provide minimal rights recognition for climate-displaced individuals.

Scholarship shows that effective displacement governance depends more on clear laws, institutional collaboration, and protective enforcement. The regional variations serve as essential evaluation criteria that assess Bangladesh's existing framework.

7.2 Environmental Law and Human Rights

Climate governance research increasingly focuses on the connection between environmental law and human rights protection. The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) establishes climate-induced displacement as a right that people can legally claim instead of treating it as a humanitarian matter. HRBA defines displaced people as rights-holders who need participation and accountability and transparency and non-discrimination from the state as duty-bearers who must fulfill these obligations.

Scholars argue that human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, serve as better frameworks for climate response because they establish stronger state responsibility and maintain international standards (Kälin & Schrepfer, 2012). The World Bank (2018) shows that secondary displacement and chronic poverty become more likely without recognized housing rights. The right to adequate living standards faces harm from agricultural and fishery disruptions, while access restrictions to education and legal remedies create lifelong exclusion from society. The literature shows that HRBA integration into environmental law becomes necessary to create an actual climate justice outcome.

7.3 Bangladesh's Policy Landscape

Bangladesh operates two primary national climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs, which include the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The frameworks establish vulnerability as a basis for resilience development, which will protect water management and agricultural operations and disaster response activities (MoEFCC, 2009; Government of Bangladesh, 2022). Scholarly assessments consistently observe that these instruments remain programmatic rather than rights-enforceable (Ahmed et al., 2019). The adaptation measures require climate-displaced people to have legal recognition, yet the system currently lacks this recognition.

Literature establishes institutional fragmentation as a recurrent research theme. The coordination problems that arise from overlapping mandates between ministries responsible for environment, disaster management, land administration, and social welfare create gaps in accountability. This study found that weak inter-ministerial coordination creates multiple problems, which include delayed emergency response, land allocation difficulties for resettlement, and reduced social protection access for displaced families (Sultana, 2021).

7.4 Gendered and Social Vulnerabilities

This research indicates that climate-related displacement affects different social groups in different ways. The existing social hierarchy in Bangladesh determines how people will experience displacement because it divides land ownership rights and decision-making power and resource availability between different social classes. Women experience their most vulnerable state through insecure property rights, their inability to build diverse income sources, and their exclusion from formal relocation planning (Neumayer & Plümper, 2007).

Children experience displacement through distinct but equally consequential pathways. Educational disruption, together with psychosocial stress and increased child labor risk and early marriage risk, creates long-term dangers that hinder human capital growth. Landless laborers and small-scale fishers get systematically excluded from compensation programs that depend on formal land ownership documentation (Black et al., 2013). The literature establishes that the implementation of social justice principles in environmental legislation functions as a core need for effective management of displacement situations.

7.5 Theoretical Divide and Research Gap in Climate Displacement Governance

The first research direction defines displacement as a humanitarian crisis together with an adaptation challenge which requires people to use resilience and mobility for their adaptation needs (Black et al., 2013; World Bank, 2018). The second research direction defines displacement as a legal rights issue which requires state accountability through formal status recognition and enforceable protection measures (Kälin & Schrepfer, 2012; McAdam, 2019). The research gaps between the two study areas exist because researchers have not studied how national legal systems handle their conflicting legal frameworks which result from their studies of delta regions especially in Bangladesh. This research uses doctrinal legal analysis together with empirical research to show how governance structures create actual experiences which people encounter in their daily lives.

8. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

This study is driven by conceptual and theoretical perspectives that kind of spell out how climate-induced displacement, governance, and human rights relate to each other. In that sense, these frameworks are the base for looking more closely into legal and institutional reactions in Bangladesh and how they're shaped over time too.

8.1 Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) establishes human dignity together with legal rights as the fundamental elements of environmental governance. The HRBA framework establishes climate-induced displacement as a human right. The process of relocation and rehabilitation requires affected communities to include all members, especially women, children, and socially marginalized groups, as decision-making partners. The process of participation functions as an essential protection measure because stakeholders need to participate in decision-making. Governmental institutions must provide public explanations about their decisions concerning relocation, compensation, and their plans for permanent rehabilitation. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) establish rights for displaced people which permit them to access protection and

shelter and means of supporting themselves and to take part in processes that determine their future.

8.2 Climate Justice Theory

Climate Justice Theory establishes a second normative lens that assists in analyzing environmental justice issues. The distribution of risks requires governance organizations to establish their respective obligations. The development of adaptation policies requires priority allocation to individuals who face maximum risk because of their structural disadvantages. The adaptation process needs to establish human rights protections through existing legal and institutional systems instead of depending on temporary relief solutions. The HRBA, together with Climate Justice Theory, delivers the analytical framework needed to assess how Bangladesh handles its displacement governance operations.

8.3 Operational Definitions

This study uses a set of operational definitions for the key concepts involved in looking at climate-induced displacement and environmental governance. These definitions sort of set the analytical limits of the study and also give a shared sense of what the terms mean that are used later on in the discussion.

Table 2: Operational Definitions of Key Concepts Used in This Study

Concept	Definition	Source
Climate-Induced Displacement	Forced movement due to climate hazards such as floods, cyclones, riverbank erosion, and salinity intrusion	IDMC (2023)
Climate Governance	The legal, policy, and institutional arrangements shaping climate adaptation and response	MoEFCC (2022)
Climate Justice	The equitable protection of rights and resources for populations disproportionately affected by climate impacts	Schlosberg (2019)
Relocation Sites	Temporary or permanent shelters or settlements for displaced persons	UN (1998)
Disaster Resilience	The capacity of communities to anticipate, absorb, and recover from climate hazards	World Bank (2021)

Table 2 shows the key concepts used throughout the whole study and their operational definitions. These definitions provide a structured conceptual basis for assessing Bangladesh's legal and governance mechanisms in relation to climate-induced displacement. They also clarify the normative benchmarks against which institutional performance is evaluated.

9. Methodology

This part talks about the research design, how the data was collected, what sampling strategy was used, the analytical approach we took, and the ethical considerations applied during the study. The methodology was chosen so it could cover, more or less, a full look at both the legal frameworks and the day-to-day governance realities.

9.1 Research Design

This research uses a qualitative research approach that combines doctrinal legal analysis with field study methods. The doctrinal analysis investigates essential national legal documents through the lens of international standards. The study employs semi-structured interviews together with focused group discussions to gather legal analysis data from displaced people and relevant stakeholders. The research combines normative legal review together with field-based perspectives to a triangulated approach that connects formal legal frameworks with administrative practices and lived experiences. The research uses an integrated approach to evaluate both the legal provisions that exist in written documents and the actual functioning of governance systems in real-world situations.

9.2 Data Collection

The research involved interviewing 25 displaced people (12 men and 13 women) who currently live in climate-affected areas of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, and Bhola to obtain primary data for this study. The study involved interviewing five local government officials and disaster management officials, together with five legal experts who specialize in environmental and human rights law.

The secondary sources include national legislation, policy documents, and government reports, as well as international legal instruments and comparative case studies on climate-induced displacement and social vulnerability.

9.3 Sampling Strategy

The interview participants were selected through purposive sampling to ensure inclusion of individuals directly experiencing displacement, representatives of relevant government institutions, and legal practitioners engaged in climate-related governance. This strategy prioritizes depth over statistical representation, enabling the study to capture diverse institutional and community perspectives. Attention was given to including women and socially vulnerable groups to reflect gendered and socio-economic dimensions of displacement.

9.4 Analytical Framework

The analysis proceeds through three interrelated components. Thematic analysis of interview data reveals recurring patterns that show how legal recognition, institutional coordination, and gendered vulnerability are connected. The second step of the research uses comparative legal analysis to assess national laws according to international standards and specific deltaic practices from India, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The third step of the process uses a structured policy gap assessment to evaluate how existing laws work in practice, who can participate in enforcement activities, and how laws treat different social groups. The research used multiple rounds of comparison to develop themes from their initial categories. The doctrinal analysis started by comparing statutory provisions with international legal standards which included the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to identify normative gaps. The combined method establishes a relationship between empirical evidence and the legal assessment process.

9.5 Ethical Considerations

The research was conducted in accordance with established ethical standards. Informed consent was obtained from all participants before data collection, and they were advised of the study's purpose and their right to withdraw at any stage. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained throughout the research process, with identifying information excluded from analysis and reporting. These measures were designed to minimize risk and safeguard participant privacy.

10. Results and Discussion

In this section, this research lays out the main findings of the study based on the research goals and the analytical framework. The results bring together empirical evidence with legal analysis to assess the strong points and the weak spots of Bangladesh's present way of dealing with climate-induced displacement.

10.1 Legal Recognition and Policy Gaps

The interview findings demonstrate that climate-displaced individuals in Bangladesh still lack official legal recognition. A substantial majority of legal practitioners and policy experts emphasized that the term “climate-displaced persons” does not appear in statutory law, leaving affected individuals without a clearly defined legal status. A total of 18 displaced respondents out of 25 reported that they had experienced at least one relocation which occurred without any official documents or legal proof of their status. A female respondent from Satkhira noted that “we were moved after the cyclone, but no one told us if this land is permanent or temporary.” The local officials admitted that they make relocation decisions according to specific situations because they lack established rules for this process. The absence of legal recognition creates direct effects on displacement management practices because it prevents both accountability measures and territorial rights from being accessed.

The relief and adaptation initiatives received were described as temporary solutions implemented through established programs rather than as mechanisms for providing rights-based entitlements. Emergency responses deliver temporary shelter and assistance during disasters, but they do not provide long-term housing solutions, land ownership rights, or employment security. The problem is further exacerbated by the institutional fragmentation within the system. Officials identified the three ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Disaster Management and Relief, and Social Welfare as having overlapping responsibilities, which delayed the process of relocation and compensation.

Bangladesh establishes its policy framework through references to international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Paris Agreement, but the country has partially adopted these principles.

10.2 Gendered and Social Vulnerabilities

People who lost their homes through displacement experienced intensified existing social inequalities. Women respondents frequently stated that they had been excluded from planning processes for their new homes and faced restrictions on their ability to make housing choices. Children face parallel risks as well. Displaced families experienced frequent school interruptions, which created enduring challenges for their children to continue their education and improve their economic status. Marginalized occupational groups, including landless laborers and fishers, faced challenges when they tried to obtain both compensation and access to programs that offered them alternative work opportunities. The climate governance system needs specific inclusion methods

to prevent it from creating more social inequalities, which already exist in society.

10.3 Comparative Deltaic Country Perspectives

The analysis shows that deltaic regions face common problems while developing different solutions through their policy choices. The Sundarbans region of West Bengal in India has established partial legal recognition for displacement cases, although people lack proper involvement in this process. The Mekong Delta in Vietnam provides an organized resettlement system that combines land tenure changes with financial payments and community participation. The Pampanga River basin in the Philippines uses community-based disaster risk reduction projects to improve local disaster management skills, even though the government lacks complete legal requirements for such activities. Bangladesh faces higher displacement demands than these areas, yet the country needs a complete legal system to provide fundamental protective rights and establish standardized relocation methods. The assessment reveals a legislative shortcoming together with an institutional power gap, which maintains existing policy knowledge but hinders proper institutional framework development.

10.4 Alignment with International Standards

The evaluation against international standards reveals that the assessment results show both partial similarity and complete operational dissimilarity. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement establish three main requirements for protecting displaced people, which include official recognition of their status, safeguarding their property and livelihoods, and allowing them to take part in decision-making processes. The Paris Agreement requires both gender-responsive approaches and rights-based methods for climate adaptation solutions.

The national climate strategies of Bangladesh recognize the need for climate risk management and adaptation measures, but they do not include binding regulations for protecting displaced people's rights or creating uniform systems for compensation and grievance resolution. The lack of binding obligations leads to ongoing implementation deficiencies, which affect both gender-sensitive participation efforts and long-term rehabilitation programs. The problem arises because countries fail to create national laws that enforce their international treaty obligations.

10.5 Policy Implications

The Disaster Management Act 2012 needs an amendment to recognize climate-induced displacement, which will provide legal protection for affected people. The establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism through a

clearly defined authority would help decrease bureaucratic fragmentation. Climate policy implementation requires a human rights-based approach, principles through community consultation, institutionalization, a compensation framework, and gender-sensitive participation requirements. The systematic data collection of displacement pathways will help organizations to improve their anticipatory governance capabilities rather than their capacity for emergency responses. The proposed reforms will transform Bangladesh's emergency management system into a rights-based climate governance framework.

10.6 Limitations

The study uses qualitative data, which was collected from five coastal districts along with a selected group of participants who were intentionally chosen for the study. The research design delivers comprehensive insights into the study area, but the design restricts its ability to make general statistical findings. The study results from interviews reflect personal perceptions that developed through each person's unique life experiences. The future studies should use wider geographic sampling together with extended research periods to improve their ability to track displacement patterns and evaluate policy effects.

10.7 Synthesis of Findings

The research results show that three factors lead to a continuous cycle of interrelated effects. The legal system fails to recognize rights which creates a situation where people cannot be held accountable for their actions and system coordination problems lead to protection delays while social inequalities establish the criteria for protection eligibility. The combination of these factors shows that displacement functions as both an environmental problem and a failure of governance systems.

10.8 Strengthening Institutional Governance for Climate-Induced Displacement

Climate-induced displacement is not just some temporary emergency problem for response teams and humanitarian support; it becomes a governance issue that keeps showing up. The rising frequency of floods, cyclones, riverbank erosion, and salinity intrusion pushes public institutions to shift from reactive disaster management towards long-term governance that can protect rights, sort out who is responsible, and back up sustainable rehabilitation. Even if Bangladesh has already shaped several climate adaptation policies, in practice implementation is still stuck, mostly because institutional mandates are scattered, and there is no overarching legal structure that really focuses on climate-induced displacement.

A key governance concern is the absence of a single clearly designated institution to coordinate relocation, rehabilitation, land administration, livelihood rebuilding, and social protection. Right now, duties are split across different ministries and local authorities, and each group works under its own legal setting. This fragmentation tends to cause administrative delays, overlapping responsibilities, and uneven service delivery for displaced communities. If Bangladesh set up a standing inter-ministerial coordination arrangement, with clearly defined statutory duties, policy coherence would improve, and duplication across institutions could drop. Similar coordination logic has also been pushed in international climate governance spaces, because it helps adaptation planning and actually supports follow-through.

Another priority is to improve how climate displacement gets included in local government planning. District administrations and local government institutions usually become the first public face when displacement happens, yet they often lack enough legal direction for planned relocation, land allocation, or long-term rehabilitation. Introducing standard operational guidance, and backing it through national legislation, could help local authorities make more transparent decisions and reduce discretionary improvisation. This type of guidance should cover procedures for community consultation, grievance pathways, and monitoring of whether rehabilitation efforts deliver real outcomes or not.

International evidence further implies that climate governance works better when data is dependable. Bangladesh currently holds disaster-related information across multiple agencies, but there is no single unified database devoted to climate-induced displacement, including relocation history, livelihood conditions, and recovery over time. A centralized information system would let policymakers spot vulnerable groups earlier, channel resources more efficiently, and check whether rehabilitation programmes lead to durable results. Stronger evidence would also help meet national reporting duties under international climate commitments.

And finally, governance reform must recognize that climate-induced displacement is not only environmental but also tied to sustainable development and human security. Institutional arrangements should therefore thread disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, housing policy, land administration, social protection, and livelihood development into one coordinated governance framework. Instead of relying only on emergency relief, future policy should aim for durable solutions that restore economic opportunities, reinforce social inclusion, and provide legal certainty for displaced people. Strengthening institutional governance in this way would improve Bangladesh's ability to deal

with upcoming climate risks, while making sure adaptation policies stay consistent with broader ideas of environmental justice and human rights.

11. Conclusion

Climate-induced displacement in Bangladesh represents a structural governance challenge at the intersection of environmental risk and human rights protection. Women, children, and low-income groups face greater disadvantages during their relocation and rehabilitation period and face more serious negative effects from the situation. The experiences of other deltaic regions prove that establishing rights through institutional cooperation and defined compensation systems leads to better protection results. Bangladesh has developed numerous climate adaptation policies, which remain incoherent because the country lacks legal protection for climate-displaced people and the required systems to hold all stakeholders accountable. The study findings expose that Bangladesh requires legal recognition for displacement, participatory governance, and gender safeguards to achieve climate justice. This current system needs to establish legal frameworks that recognize climate-related displacement, create participatory governance processes, and protect women's rights throughout environmental governance. The establishment of these elements enables Bangladesh to shift from handling disasters to a rights-based approach, which will enable it to manage current displacement issues while preparing for climate-related threats in the upcoming years.

12. Future Works

It seems that future research might go for more comparative and empirical ways to look at how well legal and institutional responses work for climate induced displacement in different jurisdictions. Further studies could also dig into how Bangladesh might put in place a dedicated legal framework for protecting people who are displaced by climate change, which would include not only planned relocation, but also access to justice, gender responsive protection and then long-term livelihood restoration. At the same time, interdisciplinary work that blends legal thinking with environmental realities and socio-economic perspectives could help craft policy solutions that are more complete, and more evidence based, for climate induced displacement.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The author states that there are no known financial, professional, or personal competing interests that could have, in some way, influenced the research, authorship, or the publication of this manuscript.

Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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AI Declaration

The author used AI-assisted tools (e.g., ChatGPT) to perform language editing and grammar correction and to enhance the clarity of his writing. The author developed all the main content, which includes legal analysis, his personal interpretation, and conclusions. The author takes full responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the manuscript.

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