

Md. Ashiqur Rahman

Travel Grant Abstract

“Governance Matters: Power, Development, and Climate Change in Coastal Bangladesh”

Adverse effects of climate change touch every sphere of lives both in the developed and developing countries. But people from the global south are more vulnerable than the global north, because of their scarce resources, socioeconomic, political, and weak governance systems. Ashiqur Rahman’s paper at the 2014 AIBS Pre-conference “Extreme Weather, Disasters, and Indigenous Practices in South Asia” addresses whether unequal power relations, under the umbrella of governance, plays any role shaping peoples' livelihood resilience to the impact of climate change. Based on six months of intensive field work in the coastal Bangladesh, this study claims that uneven power relations enhance local peoples' resilience to the adverse effect of climate change for the short period of time in a micro level, but it decreases livelihood resilience to climate change in the long run. Moreover, development institutions do not deal with this uneven power issue in a way that helps local marginalized people to adapt to the environmental stressor.