

Impacts of Saline Water on Reproductive Health in Coastal Bangladesh: Women's Perspective

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Presentation Outline

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Study Design
- ❖ Findings
- ❖ Conclusion and Recommendations

Background

- Salinity in the drinking water is a major concern for the people of coastal areas of Bangladesh
- Hugely affecting the quality of drinking water in the surface water sources like ponds and rivers; also the ground water salinity level
- An ultimate drinking water scarcity, especially during the dry season

Background

- Increased level of salinity in the drinking water sources may cause some health problems
 - diarrhoeal diseases,
 - cardiovascular diseases like heart failure, hypertension;
 - skin problems and
 - respiratory infections
- Seasonal variation in the water salinity level coincides with the seasonal pattern of maternal hypertension and related problems

Background

- Higher rate of mortality due to ischemic heart diseases and acute myocardial infarction was observed in those communities where there was a higher concentration of soluble solids and salts in drinking water
- The salt consumption from drinking water alone was in the range of 5-16 g/day during the dry season, which was way above the recommended level (5 g/day)

Objective

To explore the knowledge, perception and practices of women of child-bearing age, regarding the health impacts of water salinity

Study Design

Study Design: Exploratory study.

Target population: Women of reproductive age

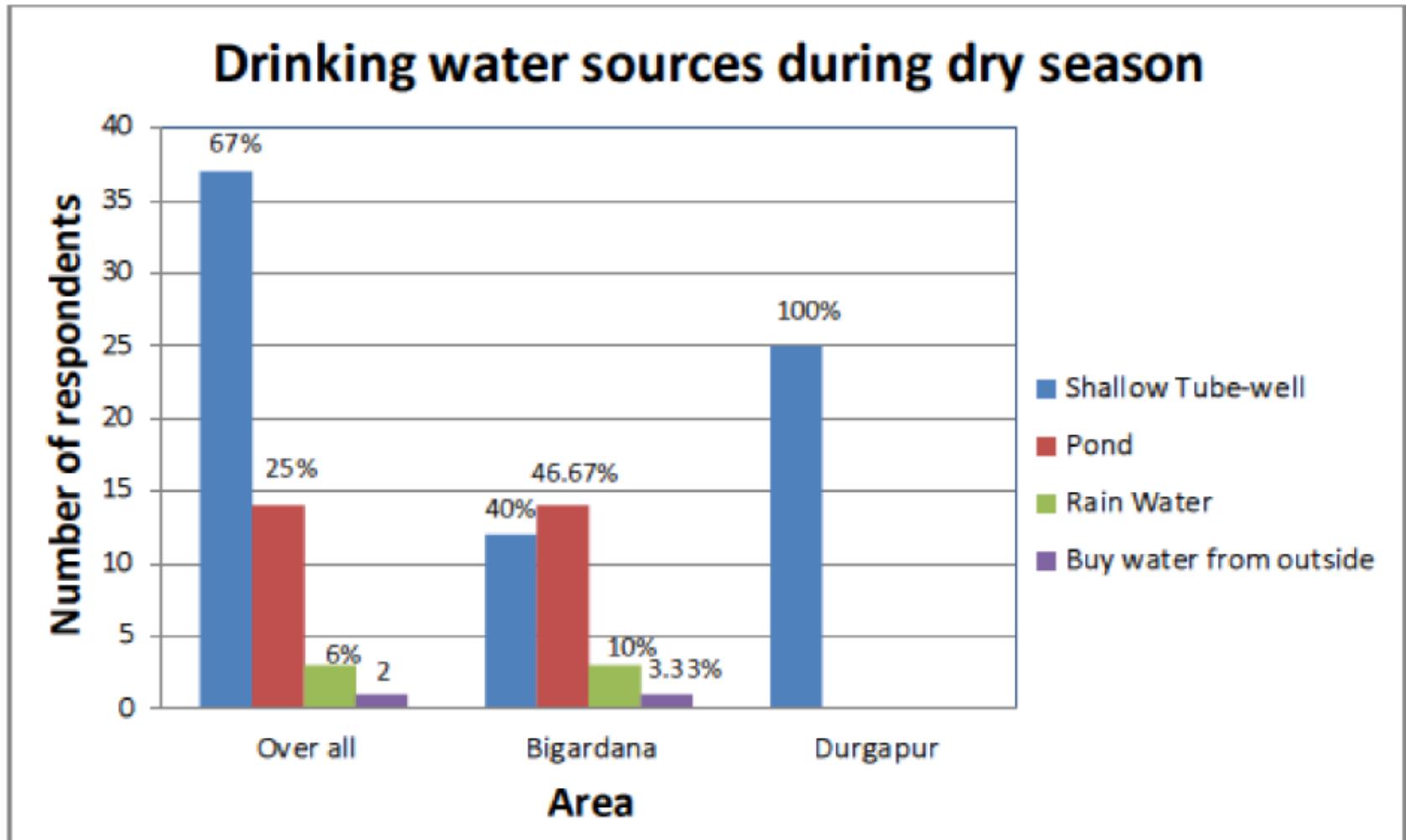
Study Site: Two villages of Paikgacha union of
Khulna district

Findings

Socio-demographics characteristics

Characteristics	Number of Observation	Mean	SD
Age of the respondents	55	28.95	7.258
Years of education	55	6.45	3.47
Religion		Hindu – 52 Muslim - 3	

Findings



Findings



Use of water and salt for cooking

- All of the respondents use pond water for cooking
 - *food cooked in tube-well water is not suitable for consumption because of its salt and iron content*
- They use salt during food preparation or cooking
 - *The salinity in the cooking water is not a fact; the use of salt is same as elsewhere*
- Almost all the respondents consume raw salt during food consumption

Perception of salinity & related problems

- The most prominent problem is drinking water scarcity
- The taste of the drinking water is another concern
- Pond water vs. tube well water
 - pond water is better than tube-well water in all aspects
 - tube-well water is better than pond water as pond water is not hygienic and may cause many diseases

Knowledge and perception related to diseases caused from intake of salt water

- Respondents reported
 - Abdominal gas and burning pain in the stomach
 - Indigestion
 - Diarrhoea
 - Dysentery
 - Skin disease
 - fever
 - appendicitis and
 - even cancer

Maternal and reproductive health related issues

- Respondents reported
 - Under nutrition
 - Vomiting during pregnancy
 - Itching, ulcers and pain around the genitalia and
 - Vaginal discharges
 - Increase number of C/S deliveries

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study findings revealed that there is an obvious gap in the knowledge and perception of the respondents regarding the health impacts of water salinity. There is a clear lack of awareness. Some of the practices are also concern as these may increase the risk to health caused by consumption and use of saline water. Interventions should be considered to modify knowledge, awareness level and also practices. Some approaches should be taken to reduce the extent of the salinity problem.

THANK YOU

