

Livelihood strategies

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What are the livelihood strategies?

- Livelihood strategies are composed of activities that generate the means of household survival” (Ellis, 2000).
- These activities can be categorized into the following:
 1. Natural Resource based
 2. Non-natural resource based

Natural resource based activities include:

- Collection or gathering (e.g. PL collection, catching wild fish, firewood from woodlands and forest)
- Cultivation (fish, food)
- Cultivation (non-food)
- Livestock keeping and pastoralism,
- Non-farm activities such as brick making, weaving, thatching and so on.

Non-NR-based activities include:

- Rural trade (dry fish selling, fish seed selling, marketing of farm outputs, inputs, and consumer goods)
- Other services (e.g. net repair, vehicle repair)
- Rural manufacture (boat and net making)
- Remittances (urban and international) and
- Other transfers pensions deriving from past formal sector employment.

In another way Scoones (1998) identifies three strategy types, with respect to which different configurations of assets-mediating processes-activities apply. These types are:

Agricultural intensification or extensification:

This type correspond to continued or increasing reliance on agriculture as a strategy, either by intensifying resource use in combination with a given land area, or by bringing new land into cultivation or grazing.

Livelihood diversification:

Rural livelihood diversification is defined as the process by which rural households construct an increasingly diverse portfolio of activates and assets in order to survive and improve their standard of living (Ellis, 2000:15). It directs, as restricted definition, attention to non-farm rural employment and remittances as a particular strategy adopted by members of rural households.

Migration:

Migration means that one or more family members leave the resident household for varying periods of time, and in so doing are able to make new and different contributions to its welfare. Different types of migrations are: seasonal migration (temporary migration that occurs in correspondence to the agricultural seasons), circular migration (temporary migration that is not necessarily tied to seasonal factors in agriculture), permanent migration (the family member makes a long duration move to a different location, typically an urban area or a capital city), international migration (the family member moves either temporarily or permanent abroad).

Context affects livelihood:

- Livelihood strategies are dynamic, HHs respond to changing pressures and opportunities and they adapt accordingly.
- In case of shocks, households adopt coping strategies

Coping strategies

- When 'HOUSE-HOLDS' are in 'SHOCK', they start a process called 'COPING STRATEGY'
- Sequence of household responses to shocks in food access
- Sequences of responses to crisis are usually referred to as coping strategies (Corbett 1988, Davies 1993)

Typical coping sequences in Bangladesh

- Diet Change
- Other income generating activities
- Sell labor
- Credit/ loans
- Selling assets
- Migrations

Differences between coping strategies and adaptive strategies

- Coping strategies are short term responses to unplanned crisis, peoples are more vulnerable here
- Adaptive strategies are long term strategies to crisis, peoples are less vulnerable in the successful strategies