Impact of Rising Sea Levels and Sand Extraction: Insights from Coastal Research in Bangladesh

In an article published by *Sonali Sandwip* in October 2024, a research team visited Sandwip, Bangladesh, to investigate the impact of rising sea levels and the extraction of sand from coastal areas. The article, titled *"Research team in Sandwip to study the impact of increasing sea levels and the extraction of sand from the coasts of Bangladesh,"* highlights a pressing issue that has garnered attention from both environmentalists and local communities.



Original article on the Research on Rising Sea Levels and Sand Extraction in Sandwip, published in Sonali Sandwip (October 2024)

The research focuses on the environmental and social effects of these phenomena, with a particular concern for how the fragile ecosystem of Sandwip is being affected. Coastal erosion, compounded by illegal sand extraction, has become a severe threat to the region. The article reports that large-scale illegal sand mining has led to significant environmental degradation, prompting authorities to file multiple cases against those responsible for the illegal activities.

Despite efforts to curb sand mining, the local administration continues to face challenges in enforcing regulations. Environmental experts and the research team have warned that if illegal sand extraction persists, it could lead to irreparable damage, including further erosion, loss of land, and disruption of livelihoods for local communities, especially fishermen who rely on coastal waters.

The article draws attention to the broader implications of these issues. As sea levels rise due to climate change, coastal regions like Sandwip are increasingly vulnerable. The combination of natural and man-made factors is exacerbating the vulnerability of these areas. The researchers emphasize that without immediate intervention and the development of sustainable coastal management practices, the region will face even greater risks.

The *Sonali Sandwip* article further underscores the need for collaboration between local authorities, environmental organizations, and the communities themselves to address these challenges. The researchers stress that balanced approaches are required to protect the environment while also considering the needs of the local population. Sustainable management of resources, stricter enforcement of regulations, and continuous scientific research are vital to preserving the coastal areas of Bangladesh, including Sandwip.

This important study serves as a reminder of the delicate balance required to maintain both environmental sustainability and the livelihoods of those dependent on the natural resources of coastal areas.

The research team in Sandwip (a coastal Sub-district in Bangladesh) studies the adverse effects of rising sea surface temperatures in Bangladesh and sand extraction from the coast.

Enam, Saifeen Ali, Kashefia Awal Mim, and Mohammad Moyazzem are conducting research on the adverse effects of sand extraction on the coastal fishermen, considering opinions from different sectors and hostels, which they believe is even more significant than other pressing issues. As a result, fisheries, infrastructure, and areas adjacent to the coast are experiencing adverse reactions and long-term damage. Through field observations, they have found that sand extraction is directly impacting the quality of life of the coastal fishermen.

Speaking with the local residents, it has been revealed that many are losing their means of income. According to them, the water depth in areas near Bangladesh's coast is gradually decreasing, and marine biodiversity is being destroyed. The researchers mentioned that the next phase of the study is ongoing, based on consultations with experts from various universities in the country. They believe sand extraction must be halted, and the government should strictly monitor the situation. Otherwise, the environment and people in coastal regions will face severe consequences.