

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Asian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Research</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJFAR_127090
Title of the Manuscript:	Present Worker Status and the Way Forward of Constraints Associated with Dry Fish Processing in Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

#### General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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#### PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b>	This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it provides an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic and operational challenges in the dry fish processing industry in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The study highlights the critical issues faced by workers, including wage disparities, inadequate working conditions, and health risks, which have implications for policy makers aiming to improve labor standards and support sustainable fisheries. By shedding light on the role of marginalized groups, such as women and Rohingya refugees, this research addresses both social and economic dimensions, contributing to a better understanding of labor dynamics in small-scale fishery processing. Additionally, its findings suggest actionable recommendations that could enhance both productivity and worker welfare, making it a valuable resource for advancing socio-economic research and policy interventions in the fish processing sector.	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	Yes, the title " <b>Present Worker Status and the Way Forward of Constraints Associated with Dry Fish Processing in Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh</b> " is suitable, as it clearly conveys the study's focus on assessing worker conditions and identifying challenges in the dry fish processing sector in Cox's Bazar.  However, to enhance clarity, a slightly revised title could be: <b>"Assessing Worker Conditions and Addressing Challenges in Dry Fish Processing: A Case Study from Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh"</b>	

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<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>The abstract of the article is largely comprehensive, covering the study aim, data collection methods, key findings, and recommendations. However, a few adjustments could improve its clarity and effectiveness:</p> <p><b>Add Specific Findings:</b> Include key quantitative data, such as the percentages of male, female, child, and refugee workers in the workforce. This will give readers a clearer snapshot of the workforce composition and highlight the socio-economic aspects under study.</p> <p><b>Clarify Main Recommendations:</b> The abstract mentions limitations but could briefly summarize specific recommendations for policy-makers. For instance, it could note the need for better infrastructure, wage improvements, or health and safety measures, making the practical implications of the study more apparent.</p> <p><b>Language Refinement:</b> Minor edits to streamline sentences and avoid repetition would improve readability. For instance, rephrasing "The study suggests that the socio-economic situation... should be rectified through government and relevant policy bodies" to "The study suggests government and policy interventions to improve socio-economic conditions and infrastructure" would make the abstract more concise.</p> <p>Overall, the abstract is solid, but these enhancements would make it more informative and engaging.</p>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>Yes, the subsections and structure of the manuscript are appropriate and well-organized for an original research article. It follows a logical flow from the introduction, which sets the context of the study, to the methodology, which details data collection and analysis methods, and finally to the results and discussion, where findings are presented and interpreted. Each section covers specific aspects of the research, making it easy for readers to understand the study's purpose, methods, findings, and implications.</p> <p>The inclusion of subsections such as <i>Worker's Condition</i> and <i>Constraints Way Forward</i> under the results and discussion section helps in organizing the findings, focusing on different aspects of worker status, socio-economic challenges, and suggested solutions. Additionally, the tables summarizing constraints and recommendations add value to the structure by condensing complex data for easy reference.</p>	
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound, as it employs a comprehensive data collection approach, including semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the dry fish processing sector. The study's use of both qualitative and quantitative data enhances the reliability of its findings by capturing the diverse perspectives of workers, suppliers, and processors. The methodology, particularly the random sampling and statistical analysis, is appropriate for examining the socio-economic and infrastructural issues faced in this industry, adding credibility to the results. Furthermore, the manuscript references recent literature, supporting its findings within the broader research context and making it a valuable contribution to studies on labor and socio-economic conditions in fisheries.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b> =</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript are largely sufficient and include both recent and foundational sources relevant to the socio-economic and labor issues within the dry fish processing industry. The manuscript references a combination of recent studies (such as those from 2020-2024) and essential older works, which provides a comprehensive background and supports the findings effectively.</p> <p>However, if there is room for improvement, the manuscript could benefit from the inclusion of more recent global studies on labor conditions and worker rights in small-scale fisheries, as these could further contextualize the study's findings within global labor trends. Adding references on sustainable labor practices in similar industries could also enhance the manuscript's recommendations section.</p> <p>Overall, the existing references are relevant and recent, supporting the manuscript well.</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communication, as the manuscript is mostly clear, structured, and accessible. The technical terms and industry-specific language are used appropriately, which suits an academic audience.</p> <p>However, there are areas where minor improvements could enhance readability and professionalism. Some sentences in the abstract and body are lengthy or slightly repetitive, which could be streamlined for clarity. Additionally, attention to capitalization (e.g., avoiding excessive capitalization in section headings or keywords) and minor grammatical adjustments, such as consistent verb tense, would improve the article's flow and polish.</p> <p>Overall, while the language is suitable, a light edit for clarity and consistency would strengthen the manuscript further.</p>	
<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p>The manuscript addresses an important socio-economic issue within the dry fish processing sector in Cox's Bazar, offering valuable insights into worker conditions and industry challenges. The research is timely and relevant, especially given the role of small-scale fisheries in supporting livelihoods in Bangladesh. The data-driven approach, coupled with practical recommendations, strengthens its potential impact for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to improve the sector's sustainability and labor conditions.</p> <p>However, refining certain sections for clarity and enhancing the language would improve its overall readability. A stronger emphasis on global context or comparison with similar international studies could further increase its relevance. Overall, this study is a well-conceived and meaningful contribution to fisheries research, particularly for stakeholders invested in labor rights, socio-economic development, and sustainable fishery practices.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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