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**A LIVELIHOOD ANALYSIS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD  
APPROACH IN COASTAL SUNDERBAN, SOUTH 24 PARGANA, WEST BENGAL**

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**Abstract**

A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. This paper deals with the sustainable livelihoods condition of Indian part of coastal Sunderbans by analysing the different assets, vulnerability context and coping capacity and strategy adopted by the people of this area. All the livelihoods groups are more or less vulnerable in this fragile islands ecosystem. People dependent on agriculture are vulnerable due to saline water and frequent cyclones, fishing communities are also affected by cyclones, tidal waters and different policies of government. The study area comprises of coastal part of Sunderbans which is under thirteen blocks of South 24 Parganas. The Blocks which have good infrastructure, education and health centres have less vulnerable livelihoods. Apart from the various trends, this paper examines the impact of seasonality and shocks upon the nature-based livelihoods and the importance and the influence of various policies, institutions and processes in addressing the people's need to cope with their vulnerability context in a meaningful manner. It summarizes the various factors having an impact upon the livelihoods of the people and develops them into simple indicators relevant in assessing the changing patterns of poverty. Indicators like landless households, distribution of BPL population, availability of medical and educational facilities etc have been developed to analyse the Sustainable livelihoods framework.

**Key Words:** Sustainable Livelihoods, coping strategy, diversification