



ECOLOGICAL MIGRATION: AN ECOCRITICAL STUDY OF *PADMA NADIR MAJHI*

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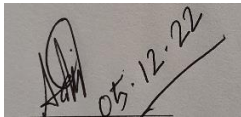
The thesis is submitted to the Department of English, Daffodil International University, during Fall 2022 for the partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Art (Hons) in English.

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that Nure Saba Tahura, bearing student ID number: 191-10-390 of the 13th Batch of the Department of English, has successfully completed this thesis paper as part of her academic course ENG 431- Project Paper with Internship with special focus on academic thesis under my supervision during Fall 2022. As far as I am concerned, this is a genuine work and she has solely contributed to it with consultations from different sources, which she gladly cites in her work. It could not have been possible without her courage, consistence, and coherence.

I cannot thank her enough for this wonderful work that contributes to a considerably new epoch in Bangladesh, environmental humanities and the study of the Anthropocene. I really appreciate the fact that she is the only student to have completed such an academic thesis from her batch. It was wonderful to work with her. She would go a long way with such courage, skills, and ambitions.

I wish her all the best.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature and the date '05.12.22' with an arrow pointing to the signature.

Date and Place: Dhaka, December 05, 2022

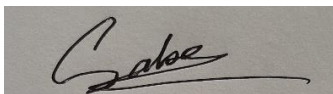
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Declaration

I, Nure Saba Tahura, hereby declare that I have read the guidelines for project paper submission of the Department of English, Daffodil International University and that I accept all the mentioned terms and conditions. My thesis titled “Ecological Migration: An Ecocritical Study of *Padma Nadir Majhi*,” is my intellectual contribution to the field of environmental humanities and the study of the Anthropocene. While completing this study, I consulted with necessary and relevant sources, which are properly cited in the paper.

This project is completed during the Fall 2022 semester under the supervision of Mohammad Zahidul Islam, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, as requirements for the partial fulfillment of my Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in English. This paper or any part of it has yet not been submitted anywhere else for degree, scholarship or publication of any kind.

I take all the responsibilities for this work.



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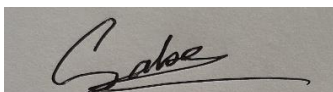
Acknowledgement

I am grateful to almighty Allah for giving me this life and guiding me in every step of my journey.

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Ecological Migration: An Ecocritical Study of *Padma Nadir Majhi*¹

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ABSTRACT:

Manik Bandyopadhyay² in the *Padma Nadir Majhi* depicted the struggling lives of the inhabitants of the fictional village Ketupur and nearby villages on the banks of the Padma. The objective of this study is to explore how the lives of the characters in this novel are impacted by natural disasters such as river erosion, storms, and floods. Moreover, due to climate change, many people from the fishing community of Ketupur want to leave their village and some of the residents have already left Ketupur and migrated to Hossain Mian's fictional island Moyna Dweep. Therefore, the study also attempts to discover how natural disasters are to blame for this migration. Through the lens of ecocriticism, this paper will try to answer how climate change is responsible for the characters' misfortune and why they are forcefully displaced from their motherland.

Keywords: *Padma Nadir Majhi*, Ecological Migration, Ecocriticism, Climate Change, Anthropocene.

¹The English translation of *Padma Nadir Majhi* is *The Boatman of the Padma* by Ratan K. Chattopadhyay, published by Orient Black Swan in January 1, 2012.

² Both Bandopadhyay and Bandyopadhyay are acceptable spellings for the author's surname. Md. Amir Hossain used the spelling Bandopadhyay in *Social Picture and Livelihood of the Boatmen* in Manik Bandopadhyay's *Padma Nadir Majhi: An Ecocritical Study*. Manik Bandyopadhyay is also known as Manik Banerjee.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

The novel *Padma Nadir Majhi* (1936) by Manik Bandyopadhyay is one of the most acclaimed novels in Bengali literature. This novel maintains its charm among the English readers till now as a few translators translated this into English. For example, Ratan K. Chattopadhyay translated this as *The Boatman of the Padma* (2012) seemingly considering its wide readership. In addition, an eponymous Indo-Bangladesh feature film was also produced by Goutom Ghosh based on this novel back in 1993 that earned many accolades, including the National Film Award for Second Best Feature Film in 1994 (Das).

The novel focuses on Marxist aspects like class distinctions, economic differences, and the treatment of people based on their socioeconomic background. It also highlights the suffering of the fishing community in Ketupur and nearby villages on the banks of the Padma River and how they struggle every day to maintain a decent lifestyle. The narrative begins with the birth of Mala's newborn daughter. However, Kuber is unhappy since he is worried about having to feed another mouth. This incident demonstrates the characters' unstable living conditions and low socioeconomic status. Many researchers have explored the Marxist perspective of this novel. However, the novelist also shows how the characters are having a hard time because of the climate crisis. Unfortunately, this issue has not been widely discussed. Some researchers began to pay attention to this issue. But this area needs more attention since climate change plays a significant role in human life.

Ecocriticism is a vital topic to address in this contemporary era. United nation in a press conference regarding Climate Action defines climate change and stated that "Climate

change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. (Nations)” In this post-modern era, humans are facing severe difficulties and are leaving a bleak future for the upcoming generations. This issue will not just distress one particular individual; rather, it will have an impact on the entire mankind. Intense droughts, rising sea levels, flooding, water scarcity, catastrophic storms, destructive fires, melting polar ice, a decline in biodiversity, poverty, and displacement are just a few of the effects of climate change. Therefore, this paper wants to scrutinize how the novel deals with the climate crisis and ecological migration.

Climate change is caused by two major entities; nature and humans. However, humans are damaging nature in such a way that the world is getting polluted every day. As a result, the climate is rapidly changing. Adam Trexler, in *Anthropocene Fictions: The Novel in a Time of Climate Change*, commented that “the principal impact is the anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases, increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide by 30 percent and methane by 100 percent, triggering significant changes in global temperature and climate. (Trexler, 1)” Nowadays, anthropogenic activities like the burning of fossil fuels and the conversion of land for agricultural purposes are the main contributors to climate change. Anthropogenic impacts have had a cumulative warming effect that is principally caused by the emission of carbon dioxide and increased by the release of other greenhouse gases. To build big infrastructures or industries, humans are cutting down trees. Besides, cars and factories produce poisonous gases for the environment. Unfortunately, humans do not show enough concern about climate change and labeled all these as “development.” Similarly, in the novel, due to the background and lack of knowledge in climate change, the characters

do not show their concern regarding sudden storm or river erosion. Rather, they have accepted the fact that these all are part of their lives and Almighty is testing them. Besides, natural disasters like cyclones, floods, or tornadoes destroy numerous lives and many people lose their homes and family members. The novel also illustrates that many characters suffered greatly due to the sudden storm in Ketupur. In that storm, Aminuddin has lost his entire family except his daughter. Gopi has severely injured her leg and many people has lost their home. Consequently, the characters in the novel also want to migrate, hoping for a better life. At the end of the novel, Kuber, the main character, also decides to move from Ketupur to Moyna Dweep. The novel focuses on climate change and its unparalleled impact on both the environment and the lives of characters. Kuber and his fellow fishermen struggle every day to survive and often get a hard time due to natural crises like floods, river erosion, and storms. Not only Kuber but also the entire village suffers the same fate. Many has lost their loved ones and homes. In order to leave behind this traumatic experience, some villagers want to leave the village and migrate to Moyna Dweep. At first, Moyna Dweep is portrayed as a utopian place where everyone will be treated equally and no disaster can harm them. Eventually, this misconception is also broken when Rasu flew from Moyna Dweep. Rasu is a fisherman like Kuber, who left Ketupur to live a better life. However, Moyna Dweep took away his entire family. It seems like Rasu is shuffling between Moyna Dweep and Ketupur. Like Rasu, the ecological migrators also abandon their birthplace in the hope of a safer place. But the question arises if there is any safe place in this world. This in turn leads to some more questions. The paper will try to answer what impact climate change has on the lives of the characters in the novel. The paper will also try to explore why the villagers went to Moyna Dweep, and if they

simply left Ketupur because of the economic and political reason, or, if the climate change crisis was partially accountable for it.

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY, RATIONALE, LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Methodology:

The thesis will initially be guided by a qualitative analysis of literary texts. It will also investigate books, articles, and newspaper articles that are related to climate change. The study will also seek information from websites that provide reliable data to move the thesis forward. Thus, it will be conducted with a hermeneutic approach. It is believed that this method will help the study lead in the right direction.

2.2 Rationale of the Study:

Climate change has emerged as an area of interest in all circles around the world as the entire world is facing the threat of climate change. Recently, on October 25th, 2022, cyclone “Sitrang” attacked Bangladesh, and people who lived near coastline areas suffered greatly. The Times of India reported that “the authorities rushed to move hundreds of thousands out of the system’s path. (“Cyclone Sitrang Slammed into Densely-populated, Low-lying Bangladesh Late Monday, killing at Least Five People, Authorities Said - the Times of India”)” These victims of the cyclone have lost their belongings and, in order to survive, some may leave their land and migrate to another place. Refugees are also known as ecological migrators, who abandon their birthplace because of the climate change crisis. The Asian Development Bank in “Climate Change in South Asia” stated that “the region’s long and heavily settled coastlines are seriously threatened by sea-level rise. In Bangladesh

alone, the sea level is predicted to rise 45 centimeters by 2050, affecting 10%–15% of the land area and an estimated 35 million people. (“Climate Change in South Asia: Strong Responses for Building a Sustainable Future”)⁹ It indicates that these 35 million people have to migrate to survive in this world.

Moreover, Climate change has also an impact on the micro level, in the day-to-day life. For example, global warming has gone to such a level that the heat waves can be physically felt in cities like Dhaka. Moreover, the usual timing of the seasons in Bangladesh has also changed a lot, such as, winter used to come just after mid-November, and now it comes even after mid-December. These situations can create a huge impact on the psychographics of the human mind, from creating concerns to getting stressed out. Like the rest of the world, I am also a victim of climate change. Due to the heat waves, I often feel dehydrated and often get sun burns. In 2009, cyclonic storm Aila had attacked Bangladesh and many lost their family and home. Back then, I was only 9 years old and I witnessed the horror of Aila. The roads were flooded and broken trees blocked roads. This event has created a negative impact in my mind. Furthermore, the news wildfire in 2021 at California sadden the entire mankind.

Nonetheless, people share less concern about this situation, and it is reflected in the literature as well. The Contemporary literature still overlooks the topic of climate change. Thus, this issue has not received the attention it deserves. In *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, the eco-critic, Amitav Ghosh, noted that “when the subject of climate change appears in these publications, it is almost always in relation to non-fiction; novels and short stories are very rarely to be glimpsed within this horizon. (Ghosh, 9)” He also argues that when it comes to this subject, the authors do not bother to write fiction about it due to the lack of imagination. Furthermore, in *The Guardian*, Ghosh’s

article mentioned that “The climate crisis casts a much smaller shadow on literary fiction than it does on the world. We are living through a crisis of culture – and the imagination. (“Amitav Ghosh: Where Is the Fiction about Climate Change? | Books | The Guardian”).” People cannot blind their eyes anymore. Shortly, people will understand the impact of climate change. To reveal the harsh truth, Prayaag Akbar, in his cli-fi novel, *Laila*, illustrated the dark future where mankind suffers greatly due to the climate change crisis. In an interview, Prayaag Akbar said, “... our callousness towards nature has taken people we loved, destroyed everything we hold normal. (Creative)” It is high time for people to study more about climate change and to analyze this crucial situation.

Thus, the author felt motivated to work on this issue. This paper acknowledges the importance to inform the readers about the horror of climate change and wishes to contribute in this sector.

2.3 Literature Review:

Numerous scholarly articles and research papers have been written about *Padma Nadir Majhi*, but most of them focus on class differences, the treatment of female characters, social connections, dishonesty, love, infidelity, and lack of compassion. Nonetheless, researchers are also concentrating on ecological analysis of the novel. For instance, Md. Amir Hossain’s paper on “Social Picture and Livelihood of the Boatmen in Manik Bandopadhyay’s *Padma Nadir Majhi: An Ecocritical Study*” discusses about social picture and relation between environmental crisis and complexities of human life in the novel. In that study he commented that, “*Padma Nadir Majhi*, gives us a perfect image of environmental crisis, the grim truth of the poor people and their indescribable miserable

existence as well. (Hossain, 10)” Additionally, Md. Amir Hossain attempts to investigate Manik Bandopadhyay as a social and environmental novelist. He stated that, “Manik’s ideology concerning environment is perfect and practical. He may be regarded as a social as well as environmental critic of his times; he very subtly has presented the question of life and livelihood in front of the postmodern readers.”

In another study, Madhumita Roy explored an ecofeminist perspective in her paper, “*Padma Nadir Majhi- An Ecofeminist Reading.*” Through the lens of ecofeminism, Madhumita Roy tried to locate ecofeminism in *Padma Nadir Majhi* and discussed the interconnection between the treatment of women and the river, Padma in the novel.

Ecocriticism is a vast topic to investigate, many researchers have explored few areas of it. There has been some research on ecocriticism in Manik Bandopadhyay’s *Padma Nadir Majhi*, but none of it looks at it in the way that this paper aims to demonstrate. The purpose of this study is to shed light on ecological migration and the consequences of the climate crisis on human life in the novel. Nonetheless, this research is not an end in itself. Instead, this is a doorway to investigate for future research.

2.4 Contribution to the Field:

Climate change will be the greatest challenge for the future generations. Poverty and displacement have been side effects of it. Recent natural disasters and the effects of climate change have been made worse by anomalous monsoon patterns and also frequent but unannounced storms. Unfortunately, South Asia is greatly affected by climate crisis. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on their article, “Climate Change in South Asia: Strong

Responses for Building a Sustainable Future”, stated that “with changes in the global climate system likely to span into the next century, geography, high population density, and immense poverty will continue to make South Asia especially vulnerable. (“Climate Change in South Asia: Strong Responses for Building a Sustainable Future”)” However, literature has a very little contribution in the field of climate change. Additionally, South Asian literature has a long way to go, despite the importance of the topic. This issue has not received the attention it deserves. Climate change is affecting the society in every sector. All the living beings are suffering the consequences of it. It is high time to raise this issue and research on this area. Amitav Ghosh in his non-fiction *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* mentions the urgency of focusing on climate change in literature and addresses to work more on this topic. Additionally, many critics started to shed light on the climate change and contributed to the society. The study will scrutinize how migration is also related to climate change disasters by analyzing Manik Bandyopadhyay’s *Padma Nadir Majhi*. The paper hopes to bring attention to climate change through its research. Climate change is becoming a popular topic to discuss. People started to witness the impact of climate change. In Chicago review “Autonomous,” Annalee Newitz claimed that “any story about the future that’s at least a century out has to include a dramatic picture of climate change. (Goyal)” Therefore, this thesis will attempt to contribute to the climate change issue. Apart from that, this paper will benefit me greatly in my future academic career as well. Furthermore, this thesis will be benefitted for the other researchers who would like to contribute in this area.

CHAPTER THREE

CLIMATE CHANGE IN *PADMA NADIR MAJHI*

Climate change is now so imminent that it can no longer be ignored. This is also evident in contemporary literature, as an increasing number of authors express their concerns through their writings. Although Marxist philosophy had a great impact on Manik Bandopadhyay's writing, he had also showed his concern in climate crisis through his writings and *Padma Nadir Majhi* is a great example of this. In *Padma Nadir Majhi*, the author shows how the Padma riverbank residents are divided by class and socio-economic background. He also illustrates how the local fishing community makes a living from a typical Bengali point of view. In the novel, Manik Bandopadhyay also showed how the climate crisis and people are interlinked in a complicated way.

The author portrays the river Padma as a mysterious entity and shows how the villagers are adapting to its adversities. In the novel, natural disasters and the effects of climate change have been made worse by anomalous monsoon patterns and frequent but unannounced storms. The wrath of nature forces the characters into a life-or-death struggle. According to the narrator, “as time passes, the earth settles on the bank of the Padma, and new chars³ may be seen there. However, the chars again submerge in the waters of the Padma.” (Nure Saba Tahura, 2022, p. 55) [My Translation] Padma alternates between being the divinity of kindness and taking on a monster avatar that engulfs the lives and livelihoods of the residents. In the novel, the fictional village, Chordanga, Mala's father's village, is the victim of Padma's wrath. Chordanga's villagers have been uprooted as a result of the flooding. The most tragic incident occurs when a mother is sleeping with her one-month-

³ lands surrounded by the waters of an ocean, sea, river, or stream; generally, any extension in a river channel or estuary.

old newborn during the flood, and the child falls and drowns in the water unexpectedly. The mother failed to realize that her child fell into the water and died that night. Both parents are in shock after that incident. When Kuber arrives at Chordanga, he discovers that he is unable to see any dry land. In all his years, Kuber has never before seen anything on this scale. Similarly, the narrator also describes the flood in Ketupur that happened in the rainy season. The harvests were damaged, and the water never rose high enough to reach Pritam Majhi's backyard, which is located on higher land in the village. The water suddenly surged to an extent that for a week, the tree in the backyard was about a foot underwater. In this context, Md. Amir Hossain, in his paper, "Social Picture and Livelihood of the Boatmen in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *Padma Nadir Majhi: An Ecocritical Study*" comments that "all boatmen have to rely upon the mercy of the Padma; sometimes the mighty river grasps and devours the lives of the poor communities when the tidal waves blow during the rainy season. (Hossain, 1)"

The aftermath of climate crisis also plays a significant role in human lives. For example, in the novel, the villagers face miserable conditions after the flood. Without shelter, both people and animals contracted a variety of illnesses, while others suffered severe injuries. Moreover, most crops have been ruined by the flood, and the narrator fears that "the impending famine brought on by the destruction of Aush⁴'s crops are already beginning to show signs." (Nure Saba Tahura, 2022, p. 90) [My Translation] Moreover, the aftermath of the storm in Ketupur is a surprising turn in the novel. The storm brings out the vicious side of nature and creates a great shift in the characters' lives. Gopi's life turns upside down because of the storm. Kuber and Mala had planned to arrange her marriage with Jugal, but

⁴ Aush is the name of a season of rice, which is mainly produced in Bangladesh. It is generally cultivated in July- August cropping season.

she is severely injured in her right leg during the storm, and Jugal later refuses to marry her. Besides, both Kuber's personal and work life has taken a new turn. Kuber has lost his previous job and began working for Hossain Miya. His entire family goes through mental and economic pressure. The climate crisis influences one's psychological aspect as well. For instance, because of the storm, within a span of two days, Aminuddin, the Muslim fisherman, lost his entire family except for his daughter. This event leaves a scar on Aminuddin's mind. He wanted to leave the village to forget that traumatic night. Gopi's mental health has also been affected by her external injury and the distressing nights she spent in the hospital.

Climate change have been a great impact on the villagers. All villagers lead complex lives through "living in the darkness of ecology. (Hossain, 1)" Throughout the novel, the author describes the catastrophe of climate change and how all living beings are suffering the consequences. Floods, river erosion, or sudden storms are the outcomes of climate change.

CHAPTER FOUR

ECOLOGICAL MIGRATION IN *PADMA NADIR MAJHI*

In *Padma Nadir Majhi*, Manik Bandyopadhyay writes about the fisherman community, who lives from hand to mouth and is in a constant struggle with nature. The village is located near the mighty Padma, which is infamous for bank erosion and the constant shifting of streams. The river dominates the lives of the characters. Padma is the primary source of income for the villagers, but it also takes a great deal from them. Throughout the novel, the author demonstrates the characters' unwillingly escape their birthplace to avoid financial difficulties and natural disasters. It appears that characters like Rasu, Aminuddin, and Kuber are migrating from one location to another as refugees because it is nearly impossible for them to make a decent livelihood in their current location.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines the term refugee and state that, "Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict, or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)" Although in the novel, characters like Rasu and Aminuddin did not cross an international border, they did leave their birthplace for natural conflict and migrated to Moyna Dweep to lead a better life. They can be labeled as "climate refugees". The Danish Refugee Council defines the term "climate refugee" and states that "the term "climate refugee" is not a legally recognised term. It is, however, used in popular language to describe people who have been forcibly displaced due to environmental factors that result from climate change and natural disasters, such as earthquakes or floods. (Refugee Council)" Climate change increases challenges, and its impacts continually make pre-existing social, economic, ecological, political, or demographic issues worse. As a result,

displacement could rise, and it might become more difficult to find a sustainable solution. According to Adam Trexler “flooding, drought, and water shortages will lead to mass migration and regional conflicts. (Trexler, 2)” Similarly, in the novel, the characters frequently face natural disasters that create unbearable difficulties in their lives. Climate crisis not only affects their economic lives but also has a huge impact on their mental health. The “Climate Refugees” also leave the place to forget the traumatized past. In the novel, Hossain Mian tries several times to pursue Aminuddin to move to Moyna Dweep. However, Aminuddin has always declined the proposal but the sudden storm in Ketupur changed the decision. The storm takes his wife, son, and home away from him. Luckily, his daughter survives the horror. But Aminuddin’s pain is greater than his daughter’s life. He desperately wants to forget the traumatic event and finally decided to leave Ketupur, and move to Moyna Dweep. This event indicates that the “Climate Refugees” also migrate to leave their past behind. However, Aminuddin was not sure about settling in Moyna Dweep. Rasul, who is also a refugee like Aminuddin, unwillingly decides to move from his birthplace, Malur Char. Padma has taken away his home and now he is also migrating in Moyna Dweep in the hope of a better life. These incidents shows that climate change generates a huge impact on migration. In the near future, it will be one of the major concerns for the world. According to National Geographic “over the last decade, nearly 700,000 Bangladeshis were displaced on average each year by natural disasters, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. (“Climate Change Creates a New Migration Crisis for Bangladesh”)

By realizing the gravity of this topic, Manik Bandyopadhyay intended to aware the readers through his writing. In *Padma Nadir Majhi*, the author mentioned Channar Char, which was heavily flooded a few years ago. Out of fear, a majority of the residents left the land. In the novel, the narrator comments that “the char Padma birthed a long time ago, who

knows when she may consume it again.” (Nure Saba Tahura, 2022, p. 86) [My Translation]

The uncertainty of Padma makes it difficult for the inhabitants to survive there. Therefore, many people shuffle here and there to save their lives. Besides, the characters, Rasul and Aminuddin may have different reasons for their migration, but both of them are victims of the climate change crisis. After reaching there, Aminuddin and Rasul immediately want to return to their village. Unfortunately, they do not have the courage to speak up against Hossain Mian. Ironically, the idea and reality of Moyna Dweep are not the same. The place is nothing like Hossain Mian described. Moyna Dweep has no facilities, rather, the inhabitants of Moyna Dweep are barely surviving.

Furthermore, the narrator also draws a parallel scenario between Rasu and Aminuddin. Rasu leaves Ketupur to free himself from poverty. But after reaching Moyna Dweep, he has lost his entire family. Rasu’s family has lost the battle with malaria in Moyna Dweep. As a consequence, Rasu comes back to Ketupur to avoid his traumatic experience. On the contrary, Aminuddin has lost his family in Ketupur. The storm leaves nothing for him. Both of them moves to places because of climate change, but it seems that none of the places can give any assurance of a secure life.

At the end of the novel, Kuber is also determined to move from Ketupur. In Kuber’s case, his reasons for the migration might be seen as economic and political, but climate change plays a significant role in it. Hossain Mian tricks Kuber and lures him with money to trap him. Out of greediness, Kuber also starts to work with Hossain Mian. Kuber helps Hossain Mian to supply drugs in Calcutta. When Kuber realizes that Hossain Mian deceives him, Kuber cannot find any room to escape. Moreover, Rasu also takes revenge on Kuber and blames him for a false accusation of stealing. Kuber knows if he goes back to Ketupur, the police will arrest him. Hossain Mian will also put him in jail to punish him. Therefore,

when Kapila suggests moving Moyna Dweep, Kuber agree with Kapila and decides to migrate there. However, these reasons are only the surface area of Kuber's migration. The climate crisis is a major cause of Kuber's migration. In that storm, Kuber also faces the same fate as the other villagers. He has lost his house, and his daughter was severely injured. Eventually, he had no job and money to feed his family. Jugal also declines to marry his daughter after the accident. In that dark time, Hossain Mian helps him financially. He gives Kuber a job as a boatman. Slowly, Kuber got involved in this darkness. It is quite noticeable that this catastrophe changes Kuber's life upside down. In short, all the characters' lives were changed after the storm. Some of them chose to stay and some decided to go.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this postmodern era, people from many places are migrating from their birthplace as an outcome of the climate change crisis. The ecological imbalance in the environment is affecting the social, economic, and political lives of people. Ahead of his time, Manik Bandyopadhyay, a modern Bengali novelist, describes the bitter relationship between climate change disasters and the residents of Ketupur in his novel *Padma Nadir Majhi*. He has subtly illustrated the horror of climate change for post-modern readers. The novel also examines how the climate crisis is affecting society on a micro level, as well as why the characters have no choice but to leave their hometown. Gopi's injury, the migration of the characters, floods, and storms are the burning examples of climate change. The author also demonstrates how a sudden storm can drastically alter an entire community. All the villagers witness the wrath of nature and suffer its consequences. The psychological challenges faced by the characters in determining whether to leave or stay are also evident in the novel. It is quite evident that the characters do not wish to leave their home, but due to natural disasters, they are forced to migrate. However, no matter where they go, they cannot escape the grasp of climate change. It appears that no land is safe from natural disasters, and humans are bound to suffer the consequences. In *Padma Nadir Majhi*, Manik Bandopadhyay raises this issue and gives an image of how climate crisis and human sufferings are interlinked.

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