

Public Engagement Activity Example: The Lived Experience of Climate Change

Context

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to global climate change. Around 60% of its urban population live in slum areas which often suffer most from the effects of flooding because of the poorly-located housing, a lack of government investment and being located in low lying areas. Climate experts suggest that a resilient community can better withstand disturbances, self-organise and learn to adapt to change when required.

Our aims and objectives

- to use creative mixed method approaches to examine the everyday realities and impact of climate change on the lives of slum dwellers, specifically in Dhaka in Bangladesh
- to communicate the findings to a diverse audience in an innovative manner that's accessible, engaging, and challenges pre-existing notions.

What our activity will look like

Researchers will spend several months talking to over 600 people living in Dhaka in their homes, workplaces, teashops and on street corners to understand how climate change is linked to many other problems experienced in their everyday life.

The findings will be explored in collaboration with students from the University of Dhaka through a 'Pot Gan', a traditional interactive folk performance featuring melody, drama, pictures and dancing which actively engages with the audience.

Three live Pot Gan performances will take place in Dhaka for slum dwellers, policy makers, practitioners and academics to reflect on the day-to-day realities of living with climate change.

To bring the stories of the Dhaka informal dwellers to a larger international and national audience, the Pot Gan performances will be filmed to produce a documentary with an accompanying mini-film series allowing the informal dwellers of Dhaka to tell their own stories and experiences.

