

A SEMINAR PAPER ON  
**Problems and Prospects of Indigenous People of Chittagang Hill Tracts  
Areas in Bangladesh**

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**A SEMINAR PAPER  
ON  
Problems and Prospects of Indigenous People of Chittagang Hill Tracts  
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**By  
Md. Touhidun Nur Shimul<sup>2</sup>**

**ABSTRACT**

Bangladesh is a densely populated country of South East Asia that has a rich tribal presence. There are about 58 tribes living in different parts of the country. Bangladesh has 1.2 million tribal people, which is just above 1 percent of the total population. Whatever the population they differ in their social organizations, marital customs, rites and rituals, food and other customs from the people of the rest of the country. Most of the tribal people speak in Tibeto-Burman tongues. This paper presents a brief description of the socio-economic characteristics of the Tribal people of Chittagong hill tracts (CHT) and their social, economic and cultural problems alongside with their problems and prospects. There are so many problems like food security problem, illiteracy, communal killing etc. Hence there are some prospective side like tourism, agriculture and forestry. Tourism has great possibilities as country's most tourist attractive spots are situated in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

**Keywords:** Tribal people, Chittagong hill tracts (CHT), Illiteracy, Communal killing etc

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Humankind originates from a unique root. The United Nations as well has approved this very truth (Team, 1992). The terms "tribal group," also means ethnic minorities and indigenous people, namely a social and cultural identity that is distinct from dominant groups in society. United Nations human rights bodies, ILO (International Labor Organization), the World Bank and international law apply four criteria to distinguish indigenous people.

Indigenous peoples usually live within (or maintain attachments to) geographically distinct ancestral territories. They tend to maintain distinct social, economic, and political institutions within their territories. They typically aspire to remain distinct culturally, geographically and institutionally, rather than assimilate fully into a national society. They self-identify as indigenous or tribal. (Gregory, 2003 and Ferguson, 2011, Sanders, 1999).

Bangladesh is inhabited by 129 million peoples, of them at least two and a half million belong to indigenous nationalities who principally live in clusters at different parts of the country. These ethnic minorities are commonly called "Adivasi" and most of them also identify themselves as Adivasi. There are about 45 distinctly recognizable indigenous nationalities in Bangladesh. For hundreds of years indigenous peoples have been facing serious violation of human rights and this trend has accelerated since independence. Land grabbing, theft, evictions and killings have marginalized them to such an extent that their existence in Bangladesh is currently at stake. They do not have access to decision making bodies and do not get justice. Thus they have become one of the poorest and the most vulnerable section of the population. The indigenous peoples now become day-laborers in their own lands. A report published by RDC shows that almost 92 percent Adivasis (indigenous peoples). The indigenous peoples, are not allowed to have any say about what kind of 'development' they do not ensure any meaningful participation in the programs undertaken. There is a significant lack of understanding among both the government officials and the NGO's about the needs of the indigenous peoples, as a nationality and as a community. The major issues are thus unidentified, ignored and left finally, unheard by the 'development' agencies led by representatives of majority Bengali population. It is not just a case of ignorance; a basic change of attitude is required.

The indigenous peoples do not have cognizable access to education and income generation activities. They have a very long history of engaging in farming, but at present overwhelming majority of them do not have their own land. Some of them work as internally migrant laborers and often face harassment and discrimination. Promoting education among the indigenous peoples is very important, but providing livelihood based on traditional skill such as agriculture is similarly required. The dropout rate in the primary school is very high underlining the need for education using mother tongue which is absent for Adivasis in the official discourse.

### **Terminology of Indigenous:**

Different terms are used by sections of the population throughout Bangladesh to refer to its indigenous peoples. These differences have sometimes led to sharp disagreements, particularly between government officials and members of the indigenous peoples.

In referring to the peoples concerned, some officials of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) prefer the term “upajati” (literally “subnation” and akin to the words “tribe” or “tribal” in English) and reject the use of the words “Adibashi” (equivalent to indigenous or aboriginal) and “indigenous”.

Vocal members of the indigenous peoples, in contrast, prefer the term “indigenous” in English, and “Adibashi” in Bengali. They reject the term “upajati” (subnation) and, to a lesser extent, the English term “tribe”, both of which seem disparaging because of associated connotations of “backwardness” and “primitiveness”.

### **1.1 Objectives**

There are specific objectives of this study they are given below

1. To know the socioeconomic characteristics of the indigenous people
2. To know the problems faced by the indigenous people
3. To highlight the prospective side of the indigenous people

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This seminar paper is utterly a review paper so all of the information has been collected from the secondary sources. During preparation of this paper, I went through various comprehensive studies of relevant books, journals, proceedings, reports, publications etc. Different published reports of different journals mainly supported in providing data for this paper. Findings related to my topic have been reviewed with the help of the library facilities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU). Information has also collected from Department of Agricultural Extension and rural development, BSMRAU. I have also searched related internet web sites to collect information. All the latest information regarding total population in Bangladesh have been collected from some published research papers and especially from BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics). Besides I acquired constructive suggestions and valuable information from my major professor and course instructors for the improvement of the paper. After accumulating all the available information, I myself compiled and prepared this seminar paper.



## **CHAPTER 3**

### **REVIEW OF FINDINGS**

#### **3.1 Chittagong Hill Tracts**

The Chittagong Hill Tracts, the only extensive hills in the southeast, cover about 13,184 square kilometers, approximately one-tenth of the country's total area. The British colonial administration annexed the area in 1860 and named after it the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In 1900, the British passed the so-called 1900 Regulation, which gave the area special status, restricting settlement of non-"tribals" in the hills and separating the administration. Although the British had their own interests in mind, the indigenous people still regard this 1900 Regulation as a recognition and protection of their land rights, separate identity, and culture. When British India gained independence in 1947, the country was split into Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-dominated Pakistan. The hill people hoisted the Indian flag in the CHT on 15 August, as they had been assured repeatedly that the CHT, with a 93 percent non-Muslim population, would be included in India. Only on 17 August, two days after independence, it was announced that the Chittagong Hill Tracts had been included in East Pakistan, together with East Bengal. The Pakistani government amended the 1900 Regulation several times, slowly eroding the special status of the 'Chittagong Hill Tracts comprising the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari, and Bandarban, is geographically an isolated region of Bangladesh. It is surrounded by the Indian state of Tripura in the North, Mizoram and Lushai a hill in the East, Chittagong district in the West and Myanmar in the south. The area (CHT) comprises the seven main valleys formed by the Feni, Karnafuli, Chengi, Myani, Kassalong, Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers and their tributaries. Full of hills ravines and cliffs covered with dense vegetation (trees, bushes, creepers), the area is in sharp contrast to the rest of the country, which is mostly a plain of alluvial soil' (Haque, 2001:47). The Chittagong Hill Tracts are situated between 21'' 45' and 92''50' east longitude. (Shelly, 1992).

Table 1: Ethnic Group in Chittagong Hill Tracts

SL	Ethnic Group	1871	1901	1951	1981	1991
1	Chakma	28,097	44,392	133,075	230,273	239,417
2	Tanchangya	-	-	-	-	19,211
3	Marma	22,060	30,706	65,889	122,734	142,334
4	Tripura	8,100	23,341	37,246	54,375	61,129
5	Mro	2,378	10,540	16,121	17,811	22,161
6	Bawn	305	696	977	5,733	6,978
7	Khyang	306	1,427	1,300	5,453	1,950
8	Pangkhaw	177	241	627	2,278	3,227
9	Khumi	534	1,053	1,941	1,188	1,241
10	Lushai	-	678	3,341	1,041	662
11	Chak	-	-	-	910	2,000
12	Other	-	-	-	-	828
Total		61,957	113,074	260,517	441,796	501,144

**Source:** An Evaluation of Integrated Community Development Programme for the CHT

### 3.2 Socio-economic characteristics of the indigenous people

#### 3.2.1 Caste/Race of Household Population

Caste/Race is one of the fundamental issues of one's identity in any territory. The distribution of the tribal household and household population covered in this survey is shown in Table-2 by caste/race, according to rural-urban residence.

Table 2: Tribal household and population by race

Race	Percentage	
	Household	Population
Chakma	81.0	79.8
Tanchanga	4.5	4.5
Tripura	12.0	12.8
Others	2.5	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0
Number	200.0	1055.0

Source: Mullah et al. 2007

Out of 200 selected households covering a population of 1055, about 81 percent are Chakma, 13 percent are Tripura, 5 percent are Tanchonga and the remaining 3 percent are from different races.

### 3.2.2 Household Cultivable Land

The cultivable land ownership patterns of the tribal households are not that encouraging. Table-3 shows the percent distribution of the tribal household surveyed by the amount of cultivable land ownership according to urban-rural residence.

Table 3: Household cultivable land ownership

Cultivable Land In decimal	Residence		Total	Number
	Urban	Rural		
No land	48.3	57.9	55.1	110
01-17	3.3	20.0	15.0	30
18-34	25.0	12.1	16.0	32
35-50	16.7	4.3	8.0	16
51-66	1.7	1.4	1.5	3
67-82	0.0	1.4	1.0	2.0
83+	5.0	2.9	3.5	7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Mean: 13.8

Minimum: 0.0

Maximum: 125.0

Source: Mullah et al. 2007

Overall a large proportion of households (55 percent) have no cultivable land and this proportion varies between urban (48%) and rural (58%) areas. In this study, the average amount of cultivable land per household is 13.8 decimal.

### 3.3 Education

Education is the key determinant of the lifestyle and status an individual enjoys in a society.

Educational attainment has strong effects on reproductive behavior, family planning and AIDS knowledge, occupation, income, sanitation system and issues related to family health and hygiene. Table-4 provides data on educational attainment of household population listed in the survey. Education has become more widespread over time in the study area. This is apparent from the differences in the levels of educational attainment by age groups. A steadily decreasing percentage of both males and females have never attended school in each younger age group. Conversely, the proportions of men and women with some secondary and higher education are almost 8 times and 4 times as high respectively in urban areas as in rural areas.

Table 4: Educational level of the household population (Male)

Residence	Level of education					Total	Number
	No	Primary	Primary	Secondary	HSC+		
	Education	Incomplete	Complete				
Urban	50.2	6.9	6.8	21.4	14.7	100	135
Rural	71.1	19.8	3.9	2.9	2.8	100	291
Total	54.3	18.0	7.4	15.2	5.1	100	426

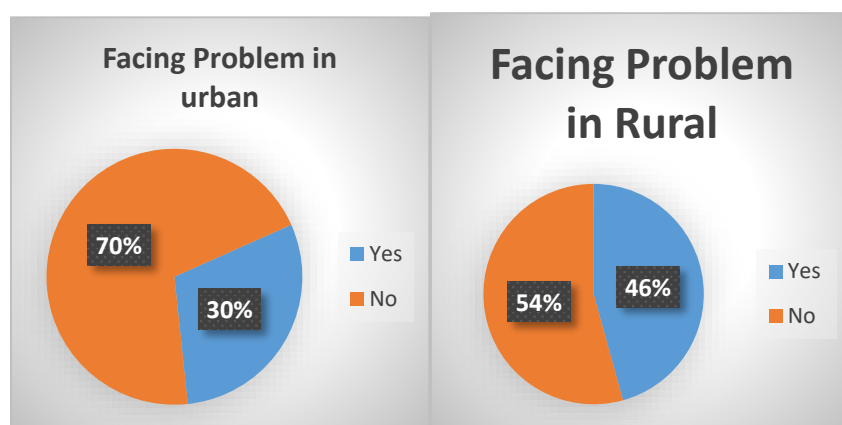
Source: Parveen et al. 2005

Table 5: Educational level of the household population (Female)

Residence	Level of education					Total	Number
	No	Primary	Primary	Secondary	HSC+		
	Education	Incomplete	Complete				
Urban	62.0	11.8	8.3	7.2	10.5	100	145
Rural	76.3	19.4	2.8	1.5	0.0	100	325
Total	62.6	19.0	5.5	12.7	2.2	100	470

Source: Parveen et al. 2005

### 3.3.1 Facing language problem in education according to the residence



**Fig1:** Facing Problem in urban

**Fig2:** Facing Problem in rural

Source: Parveen et al. 2005

From the above figure1 & 2 we found that facing language problem is higher in case of rural areas (46%) and comparatively less in urban areas (30%).

Table 6 showing that the problem by race in education is highest in Tanchanga people. Table-6 shows that, 41 percent of the household heads opine that their children face problem for providing education in Bengali language and 59 percent deny this. The proportion of household head is much higher (46 percent) in rural areas, compared to 30 percent of urban areas giving opinion that their children are facing problem for not getting education in their own language. However race differential is also slightly significant regarding this issue. About 67 percent of the Tanchanga household head says that begetting education in Bengali language create a problem whereas the percentage of the household head from other races do not vary significantly on this issue. Many of them consider Bengali in primary education is an impediment to learning. Some however, differ with this view. They state that although it is right that everybody has his own language but no one has the in-depth conception when they do not know how to write in the alphabetical order. So, some people (specially village residents) who have the intention to take their education in their own mother tongue undergo the problem that because they don't know very well how to read and write in their own language, and because the secondary education is to be taken in Bengali, so they are to develop their education in both the language which steps up the burden on learners. Since the tribes can communicate well in Bengali, so it does not cause a significant problem for them to continue their education in Bengali.

Table 6: Facing language problem in education by race

Race/Caste	Facing Problem		Total
	Yes	No	
Chakma	38.9	61.1	100
Tanchanga	66.7	33.3	100
Tripura	45.8	54.2	100
Others	40.0	60.0	100
Total	41.0	59.0	100

Source: Ahshanullah et al. 2006

### 3.4 Employment and Occupation

The employed comprises all persons, including family workers, who worked during the time of the reference period established for data on economic characteristics or who has a job in which they had already worked but from which they were temporarily absent because of illness or injury, industrial dispute, vacation or other leave of absence, absence without leave, or temporary disorganization of work due to such reasons as bad weather or mechanical breakdowns. It is interesting to see that men and women are equally to be employed and in fact, a slightly higher proportion of women than men are employed. Overall, 71 percent of men are employed, compared to 72 percent of women without any existent variation between urban and rural areas. The percentage of total employee is 71 percent whereas only 29 percent are unemployed.

Table 7: Employment Status

Employment	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employee	64.7	66.7	65.7	73.3	73.6	73.5	70.8	71.6	71.2
Not	35.3	33.3	34.3	26.7	26.4	26.5	29.2	28.4	28.8
employee	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total									
Number	356	390	746	150	159	309	506	549	1055

Source: Ahshanullah et al. 2006

Table 8: Occupation types of the employee

Occupation	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture Worker	10.3	29.2	20.2	40.6	53.3	47.3	32.4	46.8	40.0
Fishing	29.9	0.9	14.8	11.5	4.9	8.0	16.5	3.8	9.8
Business	23.7	1.9	12.3	11.9	0.7	6.0	15.1	1.0	7.7
Service	30.9	18.9	24.6	6.5	3.5	5.0	13.1	7.6	10.3
Day Labor	3.1	0.0	1.5	19.9	5.2	12.2	15.4	3.8	9.3
Handloom	2.0	13.2	7.9	0.8	14.6	8.0	1.1	14.2	8.0
Wood cutter	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.7	4.6	6.4	0.5	3.3
Housewife	0.0	35.8	18.7	0.0	17.0	9.0	0.0	22.1	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	97	106	203	261	287	548	358	393	751

Source: Ahshanullah et al. 2006

Table-8 reveals that among the total employee population about 47 percent women and 32 percent of men are agricultural workers. Women are much more present than men in agricultural work in both urban and rural areas. About 10 percent of the employed population lives on fishing and this proportion is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Mainly men are engaged in this job as compared to women. Eight percent of the employed population is engaged with their traditional handloom.

### 3.4.1 Household Income

Income is an important indicator of socio-economic condition of a community. A community with higher income level can meet their basic needs and enjoy their livelihoods. As a poor country Bangladesh has a low level of monthly income. Most of her people live under poverty line. The tribal undergoes a worse case. Table-9 shows that the monthly income of most of the families (about 55 percent) is less than or equal to Tk. 1000. The proportion of households having this income is much higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. On the other hand

overall one fifth of the household's monthly income is in the range Tk. 1001-2000. About 19 percent of the households monthly income is more than Tk. 3000 and as expected the percentage of urban households belonging to this income range is about six times higher than rural households. The average monthly income of the households is Tk. 2279.

Table 9: Household Monthly Income

Monthly income (in Tk.)	Residence		Total	No.
	Urban	Rural		
<=1000	26.7	66.4	54.5	109
1001-2000	6.7	25.7	20.0	40
2001-3000	21.7	0.7	7.0	14
3001+	45.0	7.1	18.5	37
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	200

Mean: 2279.0    Min: 800.00    Max: 16000.00

Source: Parveen et al. 2005

### 3.4.2 Main Source of household income

Information on the main source of household income is shown in Table-10. Table-10 shows that the main source of household's income is agriculture and service accounting for 23 percent of both. 30 percent of households depend on agriculture in rural areas while this proportion is less (5 percent) in urban areas. Consequently, about 47 percent of households depend on services in urban areas as compared to 12 percent in rural areas. A significant number of household's main source of income is day labor.



Table 10: Main Source of Household Income

Source of Income	Residence		Total	Number
	Urban	Rural		
Day Labor	3.3	24.3	18.0	36
Handloom	1.7	2.1	2.0	4
Agriculture Worker	5.0	30.0	22.5	45
Fishing	23.3	11.4	15.0	30
Business	20.0	11.4	14.0	28
Service	46.7	12.1	22.5	45
Woodcutter	0.0	8.6	6.0	12
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	200

Source: Mullah et al. 2007

### 3.5 Social and political problems

Social stability and understanding amongst the people are very important for any locality. Information on the social or political problem faced by sampled households is shown in Table 11. It is found that overall 39 percent of the households face Social or political problems whereas 61 percent do not. Household facing social problems are higher in rural areas (48%) in comparison to urban areas (18%) and these proportions are indistinguishable for different races.

Table 11: Facing Social or Political Problem

Characteristics	Facing Social Problem		Total
	Yes	No	
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	18.3	81.7	100.0
Rural	47.9	52.1	100.0
<b>Race/Caste</b>			
Chakma	39.5	60.5	100.0
Tanchanga	44.4	55.6	100.0
Tripura	37.5	62.5	100.0
Others	20.0	80.0	100.0
Total	39.0	61.0	100.0

Source: Ahsanullah et al. 2007

**Types of Social or Political Problem Face by Tribal People :** Types of social or political problems faced by tribal households have shown in table-12. Most of them face robbery/thief then followed by communal violence then land spout.

Table 12: Types of social or political problem face by tribal people

Types of Problem	Count	% of responses	% of cases
Land Spout	14	16.1	18.2
Robbery/Theft	39	43.7	49.4
Threat	2	10.3	11.7
Extortions		2.3	2.6
Divorce/ Separation	2	2.3	2.6
Communal violence	21	24.1	27.3
Others	1	1.1	1.3
Total	81		
Responses		100.0	113.0

Source: Rahaman et al. 2008

### 3.6 The Comparative Situation between Tribal and General People

The comparison of the socio-economic characteristics between the tribal people of the study area and general people has given in the Table-14 to realize at a glance. This comparison clearly demonstrates that, almost in every aspect of their lives concerning the socioeconomic characteristics the tribal peoples are lagging behind the common peoples of Bangladesh. Especially in the average cultivable land owned per household, educational level of the population, school attendance of the population age 6-15, safe drinking water, safe water for household work, sanitary latrine, food consumption etc they are suffering more.

**Table 13:** The Comparison between study result and national result

Sl No.	Indicator	Figure of the study population	National figure	Ratio= Study figure National figure	Comparative situation of the study population
1	Average land owned per household (decimal)	13.8	100.0	0.14	More Lower
2	Education level of the population				
	No education	58.5	33.0	1.77	Lower
	Primary complete	6.4	7.4	0.86	Slightly smaller
	Secondary +	16.1	30.0	0.53	Lower
3	School Enrolment age 6-15 (percent)				
	Total	51.5	73.5	0.70	Lower
	Male	61.0	72.6	0.84	Lower
	Female	41.5	74.5	0.55	Lower
4	School drop out age 6-15 (percent)				
	Total	29.1	Data is not available		
	Male	20.8			
	Female	37.2			
5	Household access to (percent)				
	Safe drinking water	66.5	96.3	0.69	Lower

	Safe water for household work	30.0	39.3	0.76	Lower
	Sanitary latrine	14.5	35.8	0.40	Lower
	Housing Characteristics (percent)				
6	Bamboo/straw as Roof	63.0	20.5	3.10	More higher
	Bamboo/straw as Wall	56.0	61.3	0.91	Slightly smaller
	Soil as Floor	77.5	84.2	0.92	Slightly smaller
	Food Consumption (percent)				
	Deficit in whole year	39.0	17.7	2.20	More higher
7	Sometimes deficit	34.0	41.8	0.81	Lower
	Neither deficit nor surplus	14.0	30.1	0.46	Lower
	Surplus	13.0	10.1	1.28	Higher
	Employment (percentage)				
8	Employee	71.2	Data is not		
	Not employee	28.8	available		

Source: Mullah et al. 2007

### Sources of National Data:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics: Bangladesh Health and Demographic Survey, 1995-1996.

### 3.7 Problem faced by the Indigeneous people

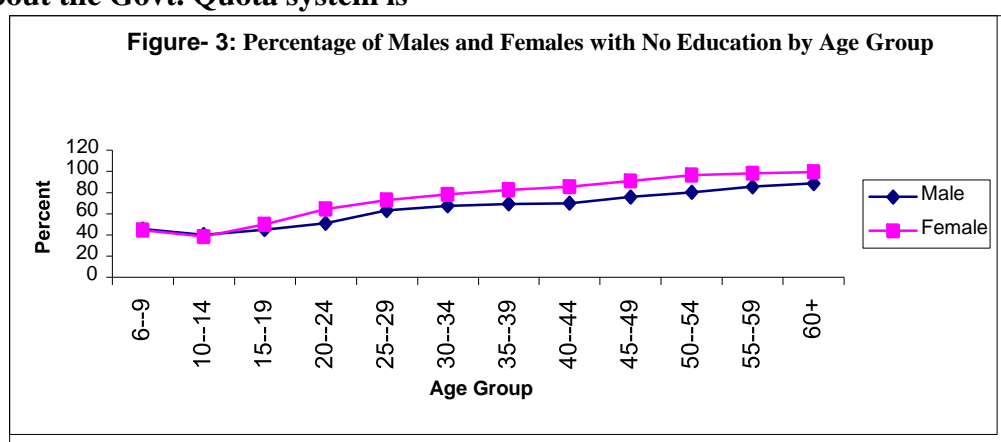
#### 3.7.1 Problem regarding education

#### 3.7.2 About the educational institution, they opine that-

Although the number of primary schools is adequate, they are not well managed. They really suffer from the lack in number of teachers, let alone good teachers. The school facilities are shanty and the communications to the schools are not good. The presence of teachers in their respective schools depends upon their willingness since they may draw their salaries without being there. For the schools are often far from their homes, teachers usually do not go to school except for the day when they have to draw their salaries.

Although many seminars have demonstrated now and then, it contributed little to the actual improvement to their conditions. A lot of money is wasted in conducting surveys and commissioning projects. But in lieu of appropriating the money in the name of projects and seminars, were it utilized for the institutions, it would have ensured better results. Finally, since the one who develops the lay out of the overall development of the area do not come from that area of interest, the policy made by him becomes useless.

### 3.7.3 For the development of the education of the tribe, the opinion of many people about the Govt. Quota system is-



Those students, who are being provided with the least facilities sit for the competitive tests, and are considered to have utilized the Quota. As a result the students having less potential cannot avail the Quota. Besides, corruption is another factor to worsen the case. For instance, some sort of lobby on the part of Bengali employee in the hill tracts for any employment opportunity also deprives the tribes. Even if they get a chance by the Quota system, they find themselves that they have missed half of the semester whereas the admission procedure is yet to be finished. The unemployed consist of all persons who, during the reference period, were not working but who were seeking work for pay or profit, including those who never worked before and students. Table-8 shows the percentage distribution of male and female household population by employment status and urban-rural residence.

### 3.8 Food Poverty

Figure 4 shows the degree of hard core food poverty across the 490 upazilas in Bangladesh. While the levels of food poverty vary significantly across upazilas, ranging from below 10 percent to above 30 percent, the CHT seem to be the most homogenous and also the least food poor area. According to the map, hard core food poverty is below 10 percent for each of the 25 CHT upazilas. However, this most recent official data is not consistent with some previous

poverty estimates. For example, Kam, Hossain, Bose and Villano (2005) provide some estimates on the incidence of extreme rural poverty in Bangladesh, including for seven CHT upazilas (Bagaichhari, Dighinala, Lama, Langadu, Manikchhari, Matiranga, and Panchhari), see Figure 3. All seven CHT upazilas exhibit the highest level of extreme poverty (which is supposed to be closely related to hard core food poverty).

(Percentage of population with calorie intake lower than 1850 kcal/capita/day)

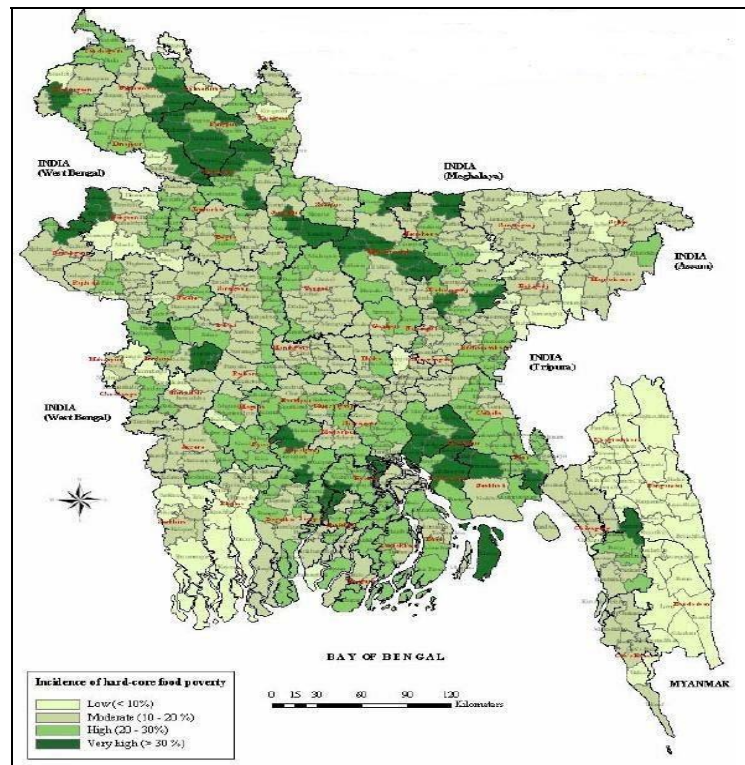


Figure 4: Hard Core Food Poverty

Source: Ministry of Environment and Forest (2005)

### 3.9 Landlessness

We use the corrected data on total households and landless households of 1997 (as provided in Appendix III of RDRS Bangladesh (2005)) for calculating the percentages of landless households in total households at the upazila level, which then combined with the proportions of CHT tribal population at the upazila level [as provided in LGED and ICIMOD (2006), see

table 14] and the corrected 2001 census data for each upazila allow to estimate the percentages of landlessness for the two groups, see Table 2

Table 14: Landlessness, 1997

Average landlessness of tribal		Average landlessness of all non-tribal	
Population		Population	
20.36%		34.20%	
Memorandum items: Average landlessness of			
Total national population	Total national population without all CHT population	Total CHT population	Non-tribal illiteracy of tribal population
34.16%	34.28%	23.93%	25.11%

Source: BBS-2001

For further comparisons (which also serve as consistency checks), the last row of Table 14 also shows the average landlessness rates for (a) the total national population, (b) the total national without all CHT population, (c) the total CHT population, and (d) the non-tribal population of CHT. Hence, as was the case at the national level, the tribal population is estimated to be less landless (by about 5 percent) than the non-tribal population living in the CHT. The numbers for (a) the percentage of average landlessness of all non-tribal population (34.20%) and (b) the average landlessness of the total national population (34.16%) are very close to each other as the CHT tribal population constitutes less than one percent of the total population of Bangladesh.

### 3.10 Illiteracy

We use the corrected literacy and population data from the 2001 census combined with the proportions of CHT tribal population at the upazila level [as provided in LGED and ICIMOD (2006), see Figure 15 below], to calculate the average illiteracy rates for the tribal and non-tribal populations. As Table 3 shows, the average illiteracy of the tribal population is significantly higher than for the average non-tribal population.

Table 15: Illiteracy Rates, 2001

<u>Average illiteracy of tribal</u>		<u>Average illiteracy of all non-tribal</u>	
<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>	
<u>62.53%</u>		53.78%	
<i>Memorandum items: Average illiteracy of</i>			
Total national population	Total national population without all CHT population	Total CHT population	Non-tribal illiteracy of tribal population
53.80%	53.74%	59.60%	58.68%

Source: BBS 2001

Like for Table 2, the last row of Table 3 shows the average illiteracy rates for (a) the total national population, (b) the total national without all CHT population, (c) the total CHT population, and (d) the non-tribal population of CHT. We can see that while the average illiteracy rate of the total CHT population is significantly higher than the national average, the tribal population is still more illiterate than the non-tribal CHT population.

Table 16: Illiteracy Rates, 1991

<u>Average illiteracy of tribal</u>		<u>Average illiteracy of all non-tribal</u>	
<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>	
<u>67.57%</u>		67.60%	
<i>Memorandum items: Average illiteracy of</i>			
Total national population	Total national population without all CHT population	Total CHT population	Non-tribal illiteracy of tribal population
67.60%	67.59%	68.54%	68.85%

Source: BBS 1991

### 3.11 Climate Change-Induced Increases in Droughts

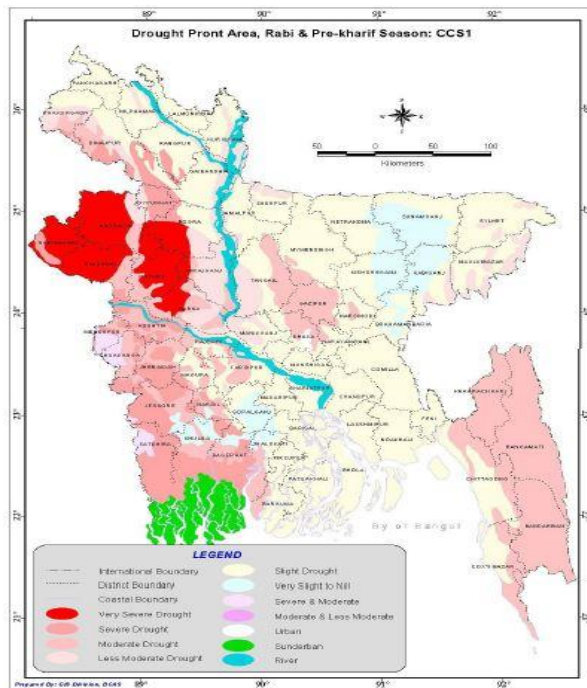
As the climate change literature has pointed out, climate change will diminish already low rainfall in the dry season and will increase winter and pre-monsoon temperatures significantly, causing more frequent and more severe droughts in Bangladesh. The likely most affected areas of Bangladesh can be identified based on (a) historical drought hazard maps (see Figure 6) and (b) projections on climate change-induced drought maps (see Figure 5). We provide both hazard maps as they differ significantly in terms of affected area and some and some readers



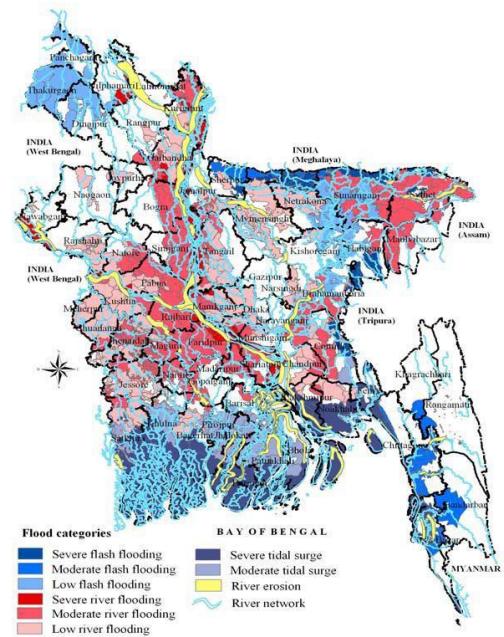
may prefer historical facts over more uncertain<sup>8</sup> projections. Based on historical data, the CHT have not been vulnerable to droughts, with exception of Mahalchhari and Lama upazilas (experiencing moderate droughts), and Bandarban upazila, Rajasthali upazila and the southern part of Kaptei upazila (experiencing slight droughts). However, based on climate change projections, the whole area of the CHT (except a small part of Lama upazila) is expected to experience moderate droughts during the Rabi & Pre-Kharif season (typically November to February) by 2030.

### **3.12 Climate Change-Induced Increases in Floods**

Like for droughts, the Climate Change Cell's (2006) fact sheet and the Ministry of Environment and Forest's (2005) National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) provide useful hazard maps based on current flood regimes and projected impact of water resources on arable land. Figure 6 shows the current flood regime. Figure 9 shows the flood regime and land type projected for 2075, based on Alam, Nishat and Siddiqui (1999), who assessed vulnerability of water resources considering changes in flooding conditions due to a combination of increased discharge of river water during the monsoon period and sea level rise. The analysis found that much of the impact would be for F0 land, followed by F1 land, where embankment played an important role in restricting the extent of flood affected areas. A combination of development and climate change scenarios revealed that the Lower Ganges and the Surma floodplain would become more vulnerable compared to the rest of the study area. On the other hand, the north-central region would become flood free due to embanking of the major rivers; please see Alam, Nishat and Siddiqui (1999) for further details.



Source: Ministry of Environment and Forest (2005)



Source: Climate Change Cell (2006)

Figure 5: Drought Impact Area by 2005

Fig 6: Historical Flood Hazard Map

### 3.13 Climate Change-Induced Increases in Cyclones

While water-related hazards, including from floods and sea-level rise, have been looked at in Figure 9, Figure 11 provides the cyclone hazard map that looks mainly at storm damages resulting from cyclones. It shows clearly that even though the CHT are not within the area or high or moderate risk, most of the CHT are vulnerable to wind risk resulting from a climate change-induced increase in frequency and intensity of cyclones.

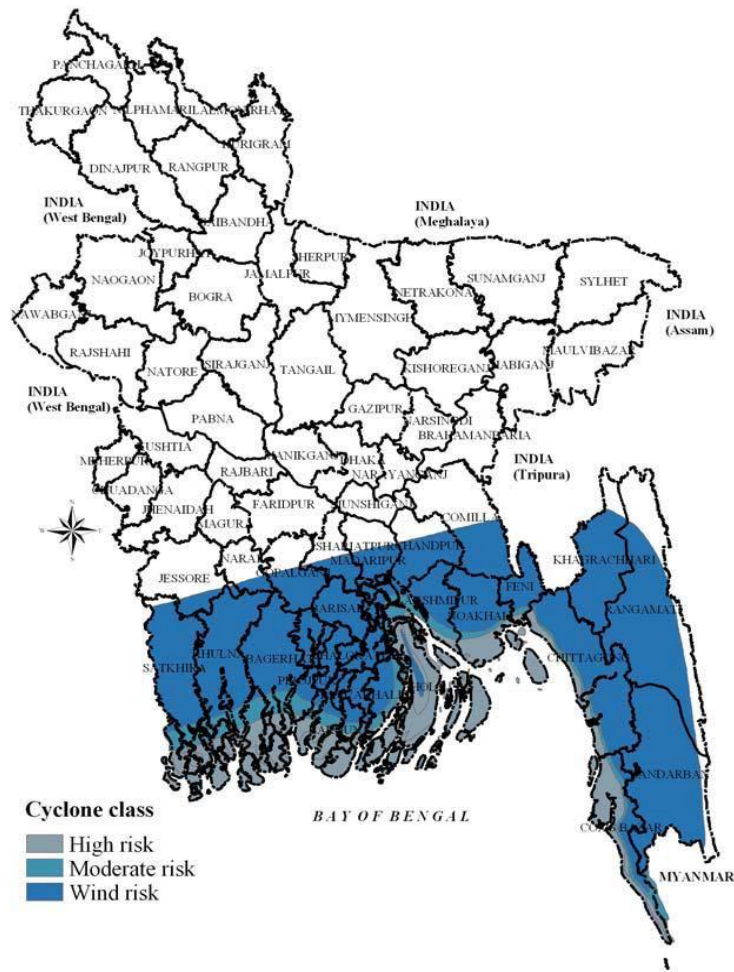


Figure 7: Cyclone Hazard Map

Source: Climate Change Cell (2006)

### 3.14 Prospects of indigenous people

Image creation plays a powerful role in tourism. If the image of a tourist destination creates a positive impression, it will attract more tourists (Bonn et al. 2005 cited in Zahra 2012, p.19). If the image of a place and its inhabitants is overly romanticised, it will encourage outsiders to fantasize about the destination and its inhabitants as exotic things to be experienced, and this ultimately could be deleterious to the reality and integrity of the local people's culture. The CHT is a place of beautiful landscapes with vast ethnic and cultural diversity, which undoubtedly can be considered as assets for the tourism industry. It is common that tourism targets traditional societies to sell their authentic culture and distinct life style and features, as a piece of tourist product (Ghimire 2013, p. 18). But, this practice

contributes to the tendency of the tourism operators and tourists to demand the IPs to be represented the way they like to see them (Lanfant 1995, p. 33). It certainly despoils the original forms of representation of IPs culture, tradition and heritage just to fulfil tourist demands (Hemingway 2004, pp. 277-278). However, as Blanchard & Higgins-Desbiolles (2013, pp. 25-26) argue, the exclusion of the IPs from the promotion of their own culture and lands for the purpose of tourism creates a distorted image of the IPs and their lands. They add that if any tourism development fails to respect IPs, their culture and realities, there is no way that tourism development can benefit them. Indigenous peoples have long been deprived of having control over their own economic and social development processes by the state (Radcliffe 2012). Therefore, they never could determine for themselves. It is the state and its political framework that has always determined what the IPs fate would be, and it is also them who created the images of its indigenous peoples. In terms of the image creation of the IPs both negative and overly romanticized, the tour operators, media and tourist establishment operators have also contributed (Bhabha 1994, p. 20). McEwan (2009) argues that the language that is used to create an exaggerated and romanticized picture of development – one which is far away from the real picture - consequently produces misleading and demeaning information and images of a particular society, community, ethnicity or culture. This tendency is visible in the National Tourism Policy (2010, p. 3), where it stresses the role of cultural festivals as tourist attractions. Here, emphasizing that cultural practices should be staged attractively for tourists holds the probability that their authenticity will be diminished.

### **3.15 Agricultural Production**

The two main land forms in the CHT are the hills and the valleys. Hill villagers engage mainly in jhum cultivation, otherwise known as shifting cultivation or swidden farming, with some fruit horticulture. Valley villagers engage in the plough cultivation of paddy rice, along with a fair amount of vegetable and fruit cultivation. Many valley farmers also cultivate timber or jhums on the hill slopes, but more often than not, they are moving away from jhumming to either horticulture or timber plantations. The valley dwellers are mainly from the Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya and Bengali groups, while the Tripura, Mro and Bawm are hill dwellers, along with smaller communities, such as the Khyang, Pankhua and Lushai. Of the CHT's rural households, 66% depend mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. Among these, 33% are involved only in plough cultivation and 20% only in jhum cultivation, while the rest combine both plough and jhum cultivation (UNDP, 2009,

p 175). There are so many prospective side of agricultural production and farming in chittagong hill tracts (CHT)

Table 17: Changes in the importance of agricultural systems and crops in CHT valleys over the previous 10 years (Percentage of farmers involved, based on responses from 60 villages)

System/crop	Valley 10 years ago	Valley now	Percentage points difference
Jhum	42.1	10.5	-31.6
Ploughed rice	57.9	78.9	21.0
Vegetables	42.1	42.1	0.0
Chorakochu (Taro) ( <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> L.)	10.5	15.8	5.3
Ginger	42.1	52.6	10.5
Turmeric	42.1	57.9	15.8
Fruits	21.1	42.1	20.0
Livestock	52.6	47.4	-5.2
Fishery	10.5	31.6	21.1
Timber	21.1	42.1	21.0
Tobacco	5.3	15.8	10.5
Wage labour	21.1	63.2	42.1
Other, incl. Coriander ( <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> Linn.)		5.3	5.3

Source: ADB 2010

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Indigenous people are different from the plain land people. They are living in the remote area so they need special care for their socioeconomic development.
2. Indigenous people are facing so many social, political and economic problem. Communal attack is arise again.
3. Along with so many problem there are so many possibilities of Chittagong hill tracts along with so many so many tourist destination there also agricultural potentiality.

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