

The Situation of Livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples in Plain Lands of the Northern part of Bangladesh:

An assessment of Integrated Development Programme for Indigenous Peoples

Md Akramul Islam Ripon Kumer Acharjya Jakiul Ahmed Newazul Moula



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March 2016

Published by

Integrated Development Programme (IDP)

BRAC

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Date of Publication : March 2016

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Foreword

Bangladesh is a rich variety of indigenous communities with one being outstandingly prominent-the Bangalis. The rest of the indigenous communities, a little more 70 in number demonstrates a rich spectrum of cultural diversity and richness. The indigenous communities together constitute less than two percent of the total population of Bangladesh. In true democracy and inclusive development, this numerical insignificance should not in any way marginalizing, but to be proudly celebrated, harnessed and strengthened as a force that adds to the diversity and richness of the mosaic that is Bangladesh.

Unfortunately, our policies have more often failed to vigorously promote the indigenous communities in many different ways. Over the years, people of the indigenous communities experienced a strong sense of social, political and economic exclusion, a lack of recognition as well as fear and insecurity, loss of cultural identity and social oppression. Mainstream development efforts have mostly ignored their concerns.

Considering this issue, BRAC has been implementing a pilot project, "Integrated Development Programme for Indigenous Peoples of Plain Lands of the Northern part of Bangladesh" since 2012 to empower and improve their livelihood opportunities, leadership capacity, cultural practices and advocacy support in an integrated approach. This publication aims to delineate BRAC development activities on indigenous issues for dissemination and referral use within and outside BRAC. This initiative, promoting BRAC's concept of inclusive development, is a remarkable reference of how the programmes reach even the most marginalized communities in the society.

One of the cardinal principles for peaceful coexistence is respect for diversity of belief, practices and culture. Knowledge and understanding are critical here. I am pleased to know that the action research team of IDP has conducted an assessment survey on the Integrated Development Programme for Indigenous Peoples in Plain Lands of Bangladesh. The findings of the study are particularly significant as it explores the indigenous people's livelihoods and assesses impact of the project. The study has provided an inventory of indigenous people's present livelihoods condition including socioeconomic, health, education, economic power and access to safe water and hygiene practices.

This is an important contribution to enhance the knowledge of plain lands indigenous people livelihoods and resources and I hope it will help in the formulation of new programmes and development strategies for the indigenous peoples in Bangladesh.

Anna Minj Director of CEP, GJ&D and IDP, BRAC

Acknowledgements

The assessment team are grateful to Ms. Anna Minj, Director, Community Empowerment Programme (CEP), Gender justice and diversity programme and Integrated Development Programme (IDP) and Mr. Shyam Sundar Saha, Head of Integrated Development Programme (IDP), BRAC for their support. Special thanks to Mr. Albericus Khalko, Senior Manager, IDP-IP, BRAC for providing continuous support. We would also like to thanks the field management of IDP-IP project and the action research team of IDP, who assisted in data collection, processing and drafting. We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Iftekhar A. Chaudhury, Coordinator, Editing and Publications, RED for editing support carefully. We also thanks Ms Tanvira Chaudhury for her editorial contribution. Mr. Syed Md. Tafhim, Deputy Manager of Material Development, IDP deserves special thanks for final proofing and formatting of the report. The assessment team are also indebted to the survey respondents for providing time and valuable information for the study. Thanks to all the people associated with this research for their support, suggestions and assistance.

Integrated Development Programme (IDP) is supported by the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) fund and BRAC's core fund and also funds from donor agencies and organisations. IDP received wide support and cooperation from all programmes of BRAC, particularly from the field staff and the people of the IDP programme without whose sincere support and patronage no action research could be conducted smoothly. We acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Talim Hossain, Assistant Professor, Head of Department of Social Science and Humanities, Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) who has reviewed the draft with his constructive insights and valuable comments. The effort will be considered successful when it will be referred and used within and beyond BRAC contributing towards the development of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh.

Action Research Team IDP

Abstract

This assessment study aims to assess the livelihood condition of plain lands indigenous peoples after programme intervention in the plain land. The secondary aim of this study is to assess the effectiveness, efficacy and relevance of Income Generating Assistances (IGAs) training and support in employment generation as well as to assess the changes in livelihoods of Indigenous peoples. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were employed in this research. Data was collected mainly from programme intervention areas and analysis was completed with comparison with baseline and assessment survey findings. The findings of the assessment survey revealed that after programme intervention, Adivasi families' socio-economic status had improved in terms of higher average annual income, increased savings, greater percentage of education at the primary, Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) and graduate level, improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices. All these factors indicated greater improvement in comparison to the baseline data. The families took intra-household decisions through household heads and spouses jointly and this percentage was significantly better in assessment findings in comparison to the baseline survey. Adivasis' participation in local judgment or shalish has also increased. A good number of Adivasis have received a variety IGAs training with financial support and it has helped them to earn more money to pay for their regular family expenses. However, the research has also found that the Adivasis have limited access to GO/NGO facilities, especially in healthcare services, lower participation in local institutions and lack of awareness regarding basic human rights. Death of the main income earner and incidence of natural disasters always brought major economic crises for the Adivasi communities. The survey suggests that special efforts like, need based IGAs training with market linkage and value chain as well as collective approach and advocacy would be required to improve the livelihood of Adivasis living in plain lands especially in the northern part of Bangladesh.

Acronyms

Agri. Agriculture

BBS Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

GO Government Organization

HSC Higher Secondary School Certificate

HH Households

HIES Household Income and Expenditure Survey

IDI In-depth Interview

IDP-IP Integrated Development Programme for Indigenous peoples

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IGA Income Generating Activities

ILO International Labour Organization
IUB Independent University, Bangladesh

MDG Millennium Development Goal NGO Non- governmental Organization

Non-agriculture

SPSS Statistical Package for Social Science

SSC Secondary School Certificate
SSI Semi-structure Interview

UP Union Parishad

VGF Vulnerable Group Feeding
VGD Vulnerable Group Development

Chapter I

Introduction

Background

Bangladesh is a country of different nations and cultures. Indigenous peoples with their distinct cultures different livelihoods and different ways of living have enriched the cultural diversity of the country. But like many other countries in the world, indigenous peoples in Bangladesh are still disproportionately represented, they are found the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society and they have an entire history of discrimination and marginalization. In such a situation, their 'development along with their ethnic and cultural identity' has often been tough or almost impossible. Traditionally, land-based farming is the main source of income for indigenous peoples. But unlabeled economic exploitation and land grabbing have severely narrowed their livelihood options. The situation in some areas such as in North Bengal is so grim that even stopping land grabbing cannot ensure minimum livelihood opportunities for them. This can only stop if indigenous peoples regain their lost land from illegal occupants. Alternative livelihood options like off-land activities are not feasible either as requisite occupational skill level and education levels among indigenous communities are often very poor. In higher education, this rate is even lower. This situation is further aggravated when the issues such as violation of human rights and health hazards become a constant reality in their daily life.

Some development agencies such as NGOs are trying to address the struggling socio-economic and political condition of indigenous peoples. But their intervention is so limited in scope and sectoral perspective that taking these initiatives do little to address multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional economic activities 'livelihoods'. The rationale for BRAC's engagement with indigenous issues is grounded in BRAC's mandated areas of development work as well as the development needs of indigenous peoples. Different programmes of BRAC already have different focus to work on indigenous peoples' issues and the area they live in. BRAC's experience on indigenous issues and its current structure all over the country have great potentials for developing an effective interface to play a leading role on the issue. While strategising its own development objectives, BRAC contributes in attaining the national policy commitments such as MDGs through its focused programmes on more vulnerable section of the peoples, such as the ultra poor and indigenous peoples (Minj A 2015).

The development strategy of BRAC prioritizes the available assets of poor, organizes them for reduction of social discrimination and exploitation and identifies the potential opportunities for sustainable development. It is possible to

leverage the existing structure and strength of Integrated Development Programme (IDP) BRAC which structurally involves all other BRAC programme to design and deliver intervention strategies can help people realize major challenges associated with the livelihood of indigenous peoples. This will in turn, contributes to BRAC's mission to empower people and communities in cases of poverty, illiteracy, illness and social injustice. This project presents an outline of an intervention strategy dedicated towards addressing some of the key challenges faced by indigenous peoples, particularly those living in the plain land areas of Bangladesh. The aim of this project is to empower them through an integrated approach. The project has implemented a number of different development initiatives in Naogaon, Joypurhat and Dinajpur districts of the northern part of Bangladesh since July 2012 for 3-year. The title of the [roject is 'Integrated Development Programme for Indigenous people (IDP-IP). These initiatives are enterprise development and IGAs training, cultural revival and promotion of leadership among the indigenous community, advocacy as well as other emergency support for better livelihoods of the indigenous peoples (Islam MA 2013).

An assessment study is necessary for knowing the changes which would have happened as a result of programme intervention. These study findings can be used to design new phases or programme intervention in the same community and this in term help local future targets and understand possible changes as the project proceeds (World Bank 2007). This assessment study has emerged in order to be a part of an effective intervention of BRAC's integrated development programme for indigenous people of Bangladeshi plain lands.

Study objectives

The general objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness, efficacy and relevance of programme intervention especially IGAs training and financial support with development programmes that were designed to improve the livelihoods of the targeted Adivasis.

Specific objectives:

- Assess the overall socioeconomic status of Adivasis;
- Assess the current quality of life associated with factors such as health, education, economic status, access to safe water and sanitation, hygiene practices, basic family practices as well as awareness in the Adivasi community;
- To assess and determine the types of IGAs training and development of entrepreneurship in the Adivasi community;
- To recommend the ways and means by which efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness of the entrepreneurship development will be improved and employment creation will occur in the Adivasi community.

Indicators

The assessment study covered the following indicators to meet the above mentioned objectives:

- Socio-demographic characteristics
- Education
- Income and expenditure
- Savings
- Land ownership
- Loan or credit
- Access to safe water as well as healthcare facilities and sanitation
- Basic family practice and awareness
- IGAs training and employment creation
- Strategy of coping mechanism during disasters and crises

The main areas of overlap in quantitative and qualitative surveys were IGAs training, rise in income as well as present coping mechanisms during crises.

Chapter II

Methods

The study followed a quasi-experimental design to assess the livelihood situation of plain land indigenous peoples after programme intervention. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used. The assessment study findings compared the results with baseline survey findings especially for experimental sites or project intervention areas in order to changes brought about by the project intervention. This was done for better situational analysis of the participants' status.

Study areas and population

Before beginning the project, a baseline survey was conducted and there were two groups – experimental and control areas. In the assessment study, we had only considered experimental sites or project intervention areas and the findings were compared with the results of baseline survey. Therefore, the study was conducted in four upazilas (Panchbibi, Patnitola, Nawabgonj and Mohadebpur) of Joypurhat, Naogaon and Dinajpur districts. A total of 70 Adivasi households those who are received IGA training with financial support from the project and they were considered to be the study targeted population in the study. A detailed description of the study areas and population is in table 1.

Table 1. Study areas and target population

| District | Upazila | Target households for SSI | In-depth Interview/Case study |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Joypurhat | Panchbibi | 23 | 3 |
| Dinajpur | Nawabgonj | 12 | 2 |
| | Patnitala | 23 | 3 |
| Naogaon | Mohadebpur | 12 | 2 |
| Total: 3 | 4 | 70 | 10 |

Sample and sampling procedure

Statistical representation was not considered in determining sample size. A two stage random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the target population, ie, Adivasi villages and households that were part of programme intervention through training with financial support. At the first stage, four unions were selected on purpose from each upazila for programme intervention. In the second stage, at least 12 project beneficiaries were randomly selected from each union at their respective upazilas. The size of the total sample was targeted to be 70 Adivasi households in experimental or project intervention areas.

Methods of data collection

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used for data collection. A structured questionnaire was used to collect information. In-depth interview and case studies were also conducted with recipient Adivasi households, these households received IGA training and financial support. Three researchers assisted in direct collection of information.

Semi-structured interview:

Semi-structured interviews were carried out with Adivasi households. The researcher directly collected information from selected Adivasi households that is those households that received IGA training and financial support from the project. The semi-structured interview covered Adivasis livelihoods-socio-demographic characteristics, economic empowerment, education, health, safe water and sanitation, coping mechanism in crisis time, participation in training of IGA and awareness on human rights as well as family practices.

In-depth interview/case study:

Ten in-depth interviews of core service recipient from programme intervention areas were conducted by the tree researchers in order to collect information about changes in the livelihood of Adivasi communities after project intervention.

Data management and analysis

The quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS. A number of different statistical techniques were used, from simple frequency distribution to cross tabulation (with t-test and chi-square test). The qualitative data was analyzed manually by following coding and recoding process. In addition, qualitative techniques were employed to describe any particular situation of significance. Quality control was observed in every stage of the study. Extensive guidance was provided by the coordinator of action research of IDP, BRAC.

Limitations of the study

The study did not follow a scientific method or procedure in selecting sample size due to shortage of time and low budget. So, this was a quick study that was used to observe the impact and effectiveness of programme intervention especially IGA support for Adivasi people for better livelihood. On the other hand, Adivasi people lived in a dispersed fashion and sometimes it was difficult to reach the sampled household. This was especially true during rice harvest time. These people are also not educated enough to understand what the researcher wanted to know from them. Moreover they would try to evade these interview sessions sometimes due to major or minor concerns.

Chapter III

Findings

Socio-demographic profiles

The study was conducted in the programme intervention areas of IDP-IP and it compared the findings of pre-intervention (baseline) and post intervention (assessment) effects in the same Adivasi households in order to assess whether these were any changes in Adivasis' lives after programme intervention.

The first indicator of study, that is socio-demographic characteristics considered of household size, income earner, cultivated land size, marital status and main occupation of household members. Table 2 presents the summary statistics of socio-demographic characteristics of surveyed households in both areas (areas covered in baseline and assessment surveys). It was observed that there was no statistically significant difference between the baseline and assessment group respondents where one excludes average size of household and cultivated land. The study observed that more than half of the population was married in both areas (52.5%in baseline areas and 50% in assessment survey). On the other hand, above 40% of the unmarried population was found in both groups. A few Adivasis were widowed and the level of divorcees was same in both groups (5.8% in the baseline survey and 5.5% in assessment survey).

The majority of the target population was involved in non-skilled, labour intensive occupations, such as that of day labourers (agri., and non-agri.), rickshaw/van pullers and farmers. This was more in both groups observed. However, there were changes between baseline and assessment survey results regarding those in involved with agri. firming. Some of these activities did not generate income directly (non-IGA). These activities included housework (17.9% in baseline survey and 19.3% in assessment surveys).

Table 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of surveyed households

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Household | | | |
| Household size | 4.5 | 5.1 | .010 |
| Household income earner | 1.2 | 1.6 | .366 |
| Cultivated land (in decimal) | 29.2 | 25.6 | .055 |
| Marital status (%) | | | |
| Unmarried | 41.7 | 44.6 | .006 |
| Married | 52.5 | 50.0 | .065 |
| Widow/Separated | 5.8 | 5.5 | .136 |
| Main occupation (%) | | | |
| Agriculture farming | 8.6 | 12.5 | |
| Small business | 1.4 | 3.7 | |
| Day labour (agriculture and non-agriculture) | 25.7 | 13.9 | |
| Service (GO & NGO) | 2.3 | 3.0 | |
| Rickshaw/van puller | 2.9 | 3.7 | |
| Housework | 17.6 | 19.3 | |
| Student | 26.2 | 28.7 | |
| Others | 3.3 | 1.7 | |

In addition, 25% of Adivasis were students in both groups (26.2% in baseline survey and 28.7% in assessment surveys). On the other hand, a small proportion of Adivasi household members were involved in government and non-governmental services in both groups (2.3% in baseline survey and 3.7% in assessment surveys). Similarly, a small proportion of Adivasi household members were involved in small businesses in both groups (1.4% in baseline survey and 3.7% in assessment survey). Moreover, small differences were observed between baseline and assessment survey.

NGO affiliation

Among the surveyed population, more than 30% of Adivasis are affiliated with different types of national¹, international², and local NGOs³ in both groups (32.2% in baseline and 34.6% in assessment survey).

Table 3. Affiliation of household members with NGO (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey | Assessment |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| indicators | (n=2,553) | survey (n=312) |
| Affiliated with NGO | 32.5 | 34.6 |
| Type of NGO | | |
| International NGO (World Vision, | | |
| CCDB, Plan Bangladesh, Caritas | 57.8 | 18.5 |
| Bangladesh) | | |
| National NGO (BRAC, ASA) | 23.2 | 38.9 |
| Local NGO (Ashray, Alo Shikha) | 27.4 | 42.6 |

Multiple responses

-

¹ National NGOs include national organizations such as ASA, BRAC, TMSS etc. Some have state and city branches and assist local NGOs. (As per Wikipedia definition)

² International NGOs range from secular agencies such as Redda Barna, Plan Bangladesh, World Vision, CCDB, Caritas Bangladesh, Save the Children, CARE, OXFAM, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation to religiously motivated groups. They can be responsible for funding local NGOs, institutions and projects and implementing projects. (As per Wikipedia definition)

³ Local NGOs or Community-based Organizations (CBOs) arise out of people's own initiatives. They can be responsible for raising the consciousness of the urban and rural poor, helping them to understand their rights in accessing much needed services, and providing such services. (As per Wikipedia definition)

Table 3 shows that more Adivasi household members in assessment groups are affiliated with different national NGOs such as BRAC and ASA comparison to baseline group. On the other hand, a good proportion of Adivasi household members in the baseline survey are affiliated with different international NGOs, eg, CCDB, Caritas Bangladesh. In the assessment survey only 18.5% was observed. On the other hand a larger proportion of Adivasi household members in the assessment survey (42.6%) are affiliated with different local NGOs such as *Ashray, Alo Shikha* in comparison those of the baseline survey (27.4%).

Education

Table 4. Educational status of surveyed population (>5 years) (%)

| | Baseline survey | | Assessment survey | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| Details | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | (n=2,151) | (n=2,060) | (n=146) | (n=166) |
| Uneducated | 44.8 | 53.6 | 29.5 | 40.4 |
| I-V class | 29.3 | 23.1 | 31.5 | 27.1 |
| VI-X class | 17.9 | 18.0 | 21.9 | 18.1 |
| SSC | 4.7 | 3.3 | 11.0 | 9.0 |
| HSC | 2.8 | 1.9 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Diploma | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| Graduate | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Masters | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Table 4 shows a comparison between baseline and assessment survey findings for the educational status of Adivasis. A good number of Adivasi household members were found to be uneducated in the baseline survey (44.8% of males and 53.6% of females) while the proportion of those who were uneducated was lower in assessment survey (29.5% of males and 40.4% of females). However, the highest rate of illiteracy is among the females in both groups. On the other hand, a greater proportion of Adivasis completed class one through five comparison to through to females in both groups. At higher levels of education (HSC and above) the male have better standing than females in both groups.

Economic empowerment indicators

In this section, different types of economic empowerment indicators, i.e. income, expenditure, savings, loan and land ownership were observed and compared in both survey groups (baseline and assessment survey).

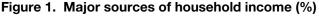
Income

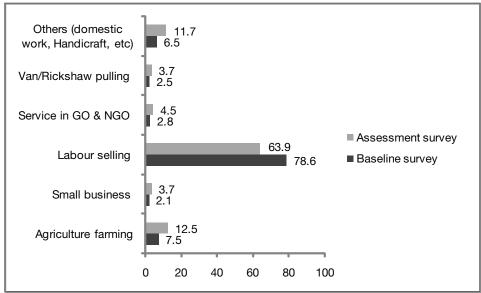
Table 5 shows that Adivasi household annual income was substantially higher in assessment surveys comparison to the baseline survey observed. The annual average income of Adivasi household was Tk. 76,908 in baseline survey while in the assessment survey was Tk. 1,04,615 observed. The difference was statistically significant.

Table 5. Household income distribution in a year (%)

| Annual income | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (70) | p value | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------|--|
| Average income (Tk.) | 76,908 | 1,04,615 | .001 | |
| Income distribution (Tk., %) | | | | |
| <25,000 | 4.2 | 1.4 | .002 | |
| 25,001-50,000 | 20.6 | 11.4 | .000 | |
| 50,001-75,000 | 35.0 | 28.6 | .000 | |
| 75,001-100,000 | 21.3 | 17.1 | .000 | |
| 100,001-125,000 | 9.2 | 12.9 | .001 | |
| >125,001 | 9.7 | 28.6 | .000 | |

Table 5 also shows the distribution of annual income of Adivasi households in both surveys, baseline and assessment surveys in project intervention areas. The highest proportion of Adivasi households with income distribution between Tk. 50,001-75,000 were observed in both surveys (35% in baseline and 28.6% in assessment) and the difference was negative as well as statistically significant. The second highest proportion of Adivasi households had income between Tk. 75,001-100,000 the rate was observed 21.3% in baseline and 17.1% in assessment survey and the difference was also statistically significant. A higher proportion of Adivasi households with income between Tk. 100,000-125,000 was observed in assessment survey (12.9%) in comparison to baseline survey (9.2%) and the difference was also statistically significant. Similar distribution of yearly income above Tk. 125,001 was observed in both surveys (9.7% in baseline and 28.6% in assessment) and the difference was also statistically significant.

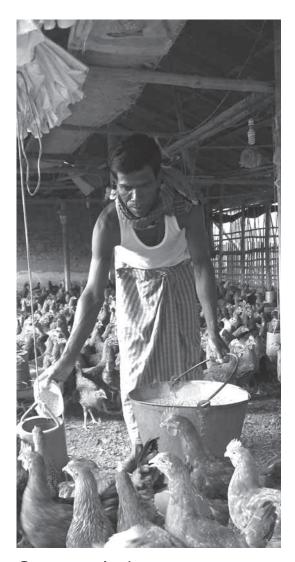




Diversification of income sources among the surveyed Adivasi households played a key role in raising households' income and capacity to cope with food security as well as other crises. Figure 1 shows diversification of income sources in both the baseline survey and assessment survey in the project intervention areas. Day labourer (agriculture and non-agriculture) was one of the major sources of income among the Adivasi communities that was observed in both surveys (78.6% in baseline and 63.9% in assessment). On the other hand, agricultural farming involving agriculture, poultry, livestock and fishing was less prevalent among Adivasis in both surveys (7.5% in baseline and 12.5% in assessment). However, rickshaw/van pulling was the third highest paying income source (2.5% in baseline and 3.7% in assessment) among plain lands Adivasi communities. Besides, in a similar proportion of surveyed households (2.8% in baseline survey and 4.5% in assessment survey) income sources were mainly formal services like garments and GO/NGOs services. Non-farm self-employment like small business appears to be a reliable source of income, which accounts for a smaller income in both surveys (2.1% in baseline survey and 3.7% in assessment survey). It was also observed that other income sources like domestic work, handicraft, etc. dominated slightly more in the assessment survey (11.7%) in comparison to the baseline (6.5%). So, the assessment survey finding reveals that the major sources of income like IGAs and self employment opportunities were increased comparison to the baseline survey except for labour selling.

In qualitative findings, the study found that the majority of Adivasi household members received different types of IGAs training with financial support from the IDP-IP project during the past three years. Example such training includes driving, poultry-livestock rearing, handicraft, tailoring, homestead gardening, small business, fishing, duck and pig rearing etc. Following case studies could be considered a positive impact of the IDP-IP Projects intervention to change the Adivasi people livelihoods.

Borun Pahan is 45 years old and is a tenant of Ghoshpara village of Mohadebpur union ,Mohadebpur upazila under Naogaon district. With two children and a wife, his is a family of four. His two children are studying and as usual he is the main earner of his household. Borun Pahan is involved with poultry business. His involvement with this type of business dates back to a much earlier time period, so there is no change in his livelihood. Even though he is still poor, he is trying to be solvent from this side. But his poultry business was not methodological before he got training from IDP-IP Project. This training makes him more confident about his poultry related business, as he now knows the systematic way of poultry farming. Though he has got only Tk. 11,730 as input support from the project, he has emphasized on the training. Now he has two poultry farms which contain 500 hens/cocks in two different shades. After the training, he made profits of nearly about Tk. 40,000 in the past six months. He wishes to expand his poultry business, wishes to incorporate more shades in order to earn higher profits and help family. However, in order to do this he needs more subsistence allowance or financial support from the project, because this will reduce the burden of loan that still remain for poultry wholesales in the market. He is a man with a passions this drives him to be well established his poultry business.



Case study 1:

Poultry Business,

changing the life

of Adivasi peoples

A total of 9 Adivasi women received the vanity bag training out of 30 female Adivasi Samity members of Joanpur village, Mohadebpur union of Mohadebpur upazila. They participated in a 3-day training at Mohadebpur upazila parisad. They also received support of Tk. 30,000 as financial support to start the IGA at the community level. From the training, they learned how to make vanity bags from puti, pipes and other materials. They bought all materials, e.g., puti, pipes and chains from Nozipur bazaar, Patnitola upazila by spending Tk. 30,000. They said that they worked together after finishing their household chores or other domestic work. They sell their products in the village and they also tried to sell them in nearby bazaar. But according to them, they cannot sell their products at the expected price in contrast to the work which they put for making each bag. Moreover, now they earn nearly Tk. 3,180 per month from this business. This money has been helping to meet their family expenses especially their children's education and treatment of family members. They said that this type of IGA training can change their lives positively. Moreover, training has to be longer and more technical skill would be required sustainability. On the other hand, they thought that this type of bag has less demand in this area even among the village girls. They said that they could earn more if they were offered training different kind of baa on making-training emphasizing modern design. They wish to go further with their IGA training given that they can somehow make their business more profitable or get a market linkage so that they can sell their self made vanity bag more easily.



Case study 2: Vanity bag making, a source of alternative income!!



Case study 3: Life is on with rearing duck for an Adivasi Family

Biswanath Kispotta is a 45 year old man from Subornopur village of Patnitola upazila with four other family members have been involved in duck rearing for quite some time. He was chosen as one of the training participants for duck rearing as he had some practical knowledge about it. He received a 3-day long training on duck rearing from IDP-IP project at Patnitola upazila. There, he learned about duck rearing and duck farm management. According to Biswanath even though he was involved in duck rearing before, the three-day training gave him information about some very important topics like good quality eggs for ducklings, vaccines for ducks, diseases of duck and also duck farm management. Two months after the training, he got 235-ducks from the IDP-IP project. Now he has 450 ducks in his farm. He earned nearly Tk.1,80,000 from selling duck eggs in the last season. From his profits, he bought two cows themselves worth Tk. 20,000. He said, selling the eggs of ducks is much more profitable than selling ducks. His family is now dependant on duck rearing. His son Uzzal kispotta helps him a lot by tending to the ducks. Earning money through duck rearing has changed his and his family a lot. He is thinking of taking up duck rearing as a full time profession. He is willing to develop a duck farm with a minimum 1,000 ducks in the next season. To fulfill his dream of a duck farm he needs more money as hard cash.

Expenditure

Household expenditures were estimated based on the average expenditure of the household head and other household members in the last one year. Table 6 shows that the annual average expenditures of Adivasi households in the assessment survey were a little higher than that observed in the baseline survey. The average annual expenditure of Adivasi households was observed Tk. 86,259 in the baseline surveys while in the assessment survey it was Tk. 1,05,841. The difference was statistically significant.

Table 6. Household expenditure distribution in a year (%)

| Annual expenditure | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Average expenditure (Tk.) | 86,259 | 1,05,841 | .021 |
| Expenditure distribution (Tk.,% |) | | |
| < 25,000 | 2.3 | 1.2 | .065 |
| 25,001 -50,000 | 21.8 | 17.4 | .015 |
| 50,001 -75,000 | 29.2 | 18.6 | .000 |
| 75,001 -100,000 | 17.2 | 22.9 | .000 |
| 100,001 -125,000 | 18.7 | 22.9 | .000 |
| >125,001 | 10.8 | 17.1 | .000 |

Table 6 also shows the distribution of yearly expenditure of households in both baseline and assessment surveys. The distribution of annual household expenditures was analyzed in six expenditure categories for both baseline and assessment surveys. Firstly, an annual expenditure of less Tk. 25,000 was a little higher in the baseline survey (2.3%) in comparison to the assessment survey (1.2%) and the difference was not statistically significant. Secondly, similar distribution was observed in the annual expenditure between Tk. 25,001-50,000 in both surveys (21.8% in baseline and 17.4% in assessment) but the difference was statistically significant. Thirdly, among the Adivasis, 29.2% of the baseline households had an annual expenditure between Tk. 50,001-75,000 in a year; this was higher than that of the assessment survey households (18.6%) and the difference was also statistically significant. Among the Adivasi households, 22.9% of the households in the assessment survey had annual expenditure between Tk. 75,001-100,000 in a year; this was higher than the baseline survey households (17.2%) and difference was statistically significant. Similarly, among the Adivasis, 22.9% of assessment survey households had annual expenditure between Tk. 100,001-125,000 in a year, which was much higher than the proportion of baseline survey households. The difference was also statistically significant. Annual expenditure above Tk. 125,001 in a year in the assessment survey (17.1%) was higher than the baseline survey (10.8%) and the difference was also statistically significant.

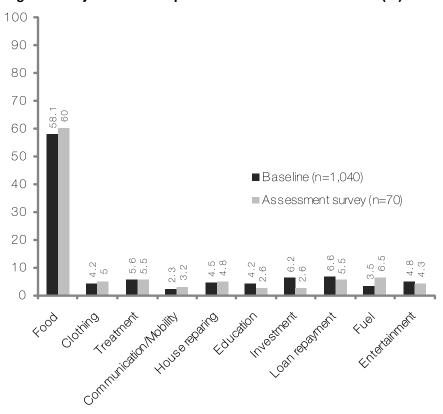


Figure 2. Major items of expenditure of Adivasi households (%)

Different expenditure patterns in both Adivasi groups in the baseline and assessment surveys emerged when we looked at different components of household expenditure (Fig. 2). Expenditures on food constituted nearly 60% of total expenses in both surveys (60% in baseline and 58.1% in assessment). The second highest Adivasi household expenditure was on loan repayment and repairing. Together with fuel, they constitute a very small proportion in comparison to expenditure on food in both the surveys. Among the non-food items, households spent a small proportion on treatment; this was similar in both surveys (5.6% in assessment and 5.5% in baseline). On the other hand, almost the same proportion of household expenditure went behind entertainment in both the surveys (4.8% in baseline and 4.3% in assessment surveys). The Adivasi households from both the surveys observed that a small proportion of their money (3.2%)in baseline and 2.3% in assessment) spent communication/mobility purpose, i.e. for buses, rickshaws, vans, and train fares. Costs of clothing for both the surveyed households were also part of their annual expenses- 4.2% in the assessment survey and 5% in the baseline surveys. Households investment like small businesses or land leasing, were also part of

annual expenditure that was dramatically changed in the assessment survey (6.2%) in comparison to the baseline survey (2.5%). Money spent on education was very low in both surveys (2.6% in baseline and 4.2% in assessment). However, the situation is slightly better for households in the assessment survey in comparison to households from the baseline survey (Fig. 2).

Savings

Savings are vital for business capital and for coping with unexpected crises. Adivasi household savings were surveyed in terms of average savings and their distribution by comparing baseline and assessment survey findings. The study found that the Adivasi household mainly saved a small amount of money in the formal and non-formal savings sectors, eg, in NGO *samity*, in insurance companies, in bank, as well as with friends and relatives. Analysis of savings behaviour reveals that savings pattern/trend of Adivasi households in assessment survey was better in comparison to households in the baseline survey (Table 7).

Table 7. Distribution of household savings (%)

| Annual expenditure | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Average expenditure (Tk.) | 86,259 | 1,05,841 | .021 |
| Expenditure distribution (Tk.,%) | | | |
| < 25,000 | 2.3 | 1.2 | .065 |
| 25,001-50,000 | 21.8 | 17.4 | .015 |
| 50,001-75,000 | 29.2 | 18.6 | .000 |
| 75,001-100,000 | 17.2 | 22.9 | .000 |
| 100,001-125,000 | 18.7 | 22.9 | .000 |
| >125,001 | 10.8 | 17.1 | .000 |

Table 7 also shows that the average savings of Adivasi households in the assessment survey (Tk. 9,707) was higher than average savings for households of the baseline survey (Tk.7,468) and the difference was statistically significant. However, a moderately small proportion of households had no savings in the assessment survey (7.1%) of households in comparison to the baseline survey households (10.4%) and the difference was also statistically significant. Among the surveyed Adivasi households, 16.6% of households in the baseline survey had average savings less than Tk. 1,000; this was much higher than the assessment survey household savings (8.6%) and the difference was statistically significant. On the other hand, among the baseline households, 48.9% of households had average savings between Tk. 1,001-5,000 which was slightly higher than the assessment survey households and the difference was also statistically significant. However, almost two times the proportion of Adivasi

households in the assessment survey (27.1%) in comparison to households in the baseline survey (12.4%) had average savings between Tk. 5,001-10,000. On the other hand, nearly the same proportion of baseline survey (4.4%) and assessment survey (5.7%) households had average savings between Tk. 10,001-15,000. A good proportion of households had savings range between Tk. 15,001-20,000 in assessment survey (5.7%) in comparison to the baseline survey (1.4%) and the difference was statistically significant. On the other hand, more than two times proportion of households in the assessment survey (14.3%) in comparison to the households in the baseline survey (5.8%) had average savings above Tk. 20,001 and the difference was also statistically highly significant (Table 7).

Ownership of land

Historically in Bangladesh 'land poor' are the poor in general and there has always been a strong negative correlation between land ownership and incidence of poverty (BBS 2011). Similarly, instances of loss of land suffered by the Adivasis of plain land are perhaps even more widespread than most suffered by the Adivasi's communities inhabiting the hilly areas of Bangladesh (Barkat *et al* 2008).

Table 8. Distribution of land ownership (%)

| Land owned (in decimal) | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Average homestead land | 6.56 | 6.12 | .057 |
| Average cultivated land | 29.18 | 25.23 | .055 |
| Average leased and | 23.10 | 22.84 | .141 |
| mortgaged land | | | |
| Own land distribution (deci | mal, %) | | |
| No land | 8.9 | 7.0 | .001 |
| <10 | 47.4 | 46.5 | .813 |
| 11-50 | 21.8 | 33.8 | .001 |
| >51 | 21.8 | 12.7 | .000 |

Table 8 shows the proportion and distribution of land ownership of Adivasi households in surveyed areas in both the baseline and assessment surveys. Firstly, the study observed that the average homestead land size was slightly higher in the baseline survey (6.5 decimals) in comparison to the assessment survey (6.1 decimals) and the difference was not statistically significant. Similarly, the average cultivated, leased and mortgaged land sizes were also slightly higher in the baseline survey in comparison to the assessment survey and the differences were also not statistically significant. However, among the Adivasi households, more than 7% of households had no land of their own and this was observed in both surveys. It was also found that the highest percentage of Adivasis land holders holding less than 10 decimals in both surveys (47.40% in

baseline and in 46.5% in assessment survey). On the other hand, a good proportion of Adivasi households in the assessment survey (33.8%) were holding 11-50 decimals in comparison to the baseline (21.8%) and the difference was also statistically significant. The exact opposite scenario was observed in land distribution above 51 decimals- comparison to 12.7% for the assessment survey. The difference was statistically significant.

Loan

Access to loan or credit is crucial for coping with unexpected crises and to smooth consumption during bad times for a poor and marginalized community like the Adivasis. It is also important for greater capital formation initiation of new income generating activities (IGA) at the community level for any vulnerable group (Barkat et al 2008).

Table 9. Loan received by households last year

| Loan amount | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Average loan size (Tk.) | 11,401 | 13,680 | .463 |
| Loan distribution (Tk., %) | | | |
| No loan received | 55.3 | 24.3 | .006 |
| <5,000 | 29.6 | 27.6 | .009 |
| 5,001-10,000 | 39.5 | 25.9 | .047 |
| 10,001-15,000 | 14.3 | 12.1 | .036 |
| 15,001-20,000 | 7.1 | 17.2 | .000 |
| 20,001-25,000 | 2.7 | 5.2 | .009 |
| 25,001-30,000 | 2.8 | 3.4 | .050 |
| >30,001 | 3.9 | 8.6 | .057 |

Table 9 represents the amount of loan received by Adivasi households in the last year in comparison to the baseline and assessment survey findings. The average loan size observed in the assessment survey (Tk. 13,680) was a little higher than that for the baseline survey (Tk.11,401) and the difference was not statistically significant. On the other hand, a good number of households in the baseline survey (55.3%) were not interested in taking any microcredit or loans from any formal institution while the assessment survey was found that only 24.3% of Adivasi households did not have any in taking out loan. So, after programme intervention, Adivasis were more skilled and confident about taking loans associated with IGA; this positively livelihoods through development initiatives. However, a slightly higher proportion of Adivasi households in the baseline survey (29.6%) took loans less than Tk. 5,000 in comparison to those in the assessment survey (23.1%) and the difference was statistically significant. Similarly, the

number of Adivasi households that took loan varied widely across classes for both surveys (baseline and assessment). However some differences were statistically significant. So, Adivasis are encouraged to take more loan from the formal sector for involvement with IGA for their of livelihoods.



Case study 4: "Only You Need to be United"

In 2013, BRAC's IDP-IP has given IGA support to seven Oraon people for a collective fishery project at Shajadpur village in Patnitola Upazila. After completion of fishery training, the BRAC employee gave them 280 of kilogram fingerlings and other feeding materials that cost Tk. 5,6000. In the beginning, they formed a club and created a fund Tk. 40,000 through joint savings. After that, they took out a lease of one acre of pond from 'Barendro Multipurpose Authority' for three years. They have started using this pond after getting IGA training with financial support from the IDP-IP. In the last two years they have earned nearly a total of forty five thousand taka. They have deposited the full amount of money in a formal bank like Mercantile Bank, Patnitola branch. They can be use this money next year for purchase a good quality fingerlings. They are also fishing for their protein demands, to honor of their guests and to conduct yearly ritual events. They assumed that they have reserved at least a large amount of fish in their pond for a time when market prize will be increased. They think that they did not get their desired benefits from the fishery project due to lack of quality fingerlings. Since, a large number of fingerlings were dead the year prior to the project. They also claim that feeding materials were also of poor quality; those were supplied by the project and they thought it was wasted money. In this case, they did not get their desired benefits from the fishery project. However, they are very happy that they are still working in their fishery project have met their demand of protein because of it and earn money from it. They hope that in future they will make a huge profit from their fishery project. That again is only possible for BRAC's IDP-IP project.



Case study 5: "The Poor Can Do It, Too"

*Mayer Ashirbad saloon' of Tufan Mahato is situated in Fichkarghat Bazar of Panchbibi Upazila. When he was a student of class five, he had started working at a local saloon due to financial crisis. At first, he had to embrocate his clients and other odd jobs in the saloon. Within 2 years, Tufan learn all the techniques of a full barber. In the, last 18 years he has been involved in this occupation. But he had no saloon to own. IDP-IP project of BRAC gave him an income support of Tk. 1,2000 to buy a set of modern saloon instruments, such as revolving chairs, shaving foam/cream, shears/scissors, comb, sheet/cloth, mirror, brush, razor, blades and other necessary tools for saloon. From then on, he started his own saloon business in a small rented shop. He also provided employment to Adivasi boys in his saloon as workers. They are students of the local high school and college and this employment opportunity helps them in continuing their education. Tufan Mahato said that, "I could not study due to financial crisis of my family. I have created opportunity for them so that they can continue their education by their own income. BRAC has given me support for better livelihood. I have also provided them with the same opportunity". Now, he earns around Tk. 600 to 800 per day. Now, he dreams of constructing a modern saloon cum gent's parlor in his own shop in the future. He believes that if IDP-IP project backed IGA support would be very helpful for indigenous people. Proper use of IGA support

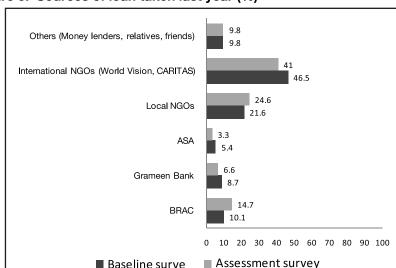


Figure 3. Sources of loan taken last year (%)

Figure 3 shows that a good proportion of the Adivasi household members were took loans from international NGOs eg, CCDB, World Vision and Caritas Bangladesh in surveyed areas (46.5% in baseline and 41% in assessment). Secondly, Adivasi households chose to take loans from local NGOs in both surveys found (21.6% in baseline and 24.6% in assessment). Thirdly a higher proportion of Adivasi household members took loans from BRAC in both surveys (14.7% in assessment and 10.1% in baseline), followed by Grameen Bank (6.8% in assessment and 8.7% in baseline) and ASA (3.3% in assessment and 5.4% in baseline). However, a small proportion of household members in both surveys observed (9.8% in baseline and 9.8% in assessment) that they took loans from different types of informal sources, such as land owners, *Mohajan* and relatives or friends to meet their crises.

Table 10. Types of loan received and invested last year (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=635) | Assessment survey (n=59) | p value |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Type of loan invested areas | | | |
| IGA | 69.8 | 85 | .015 |
| Non-IGA | 30.2 | 15 | .000 |
| Type of invested area (%) | | | |
| Purchase agri. Equipment | 9.5 | 10.8 | |
| Purchase agri. Inputs ie, | 45.5 | 47.5 | |
| fertilizer, seed and pesticide | | | |
| Purchase poultry-livestock | 15.2 | 16.9 | |
| Agri. land mortgage/leasing | 7.3 | 8.8 | |
| Business | 6.5 | 7.5 | |
| Purchase rickshaw/Van | 2.5 | 5.1 | |
| Self employment creation | 13.5 | 3.4 | |

Table 10 shows that a good proportion of Adivasi household members received loan for IGA (eg, small business, livestock and poultry rearing, agriculture, fish cultivation) in both surveys (69.8% for baseline and 85% for assessment) in the last year and the difference was statistically significant. On the other hand, a small amount of non-IGA related loan was taken by the Adivasi household members in the assessment survey (15%) comparison to the baseline survey (30.2%).

Safe water, sanitation and health

Quality and standards of safe water, sanitation and domestic hygiene were assessed in terms of sources and access of safe drinking water as well as types of latrine used by household members. Comparisons were made between baseline and assessment survey findings in programme intervention areas.

Access to safe drinking water

Table 11. Access to safe drinking water (%)

| Sources | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Tubewell (self) | 50.6 | 57.1 | 0.026 |
| Tubewell (community) | 49.4 | 42.9 | 0.035 |

Table 11 shows that almost 100% of Adivasi households have access to safe drinking water, ie, tubewell water in both areas (baseline and assessment survey). However, a good proportion of Adivasi households in assessment survey (57.1%) have their own tubewells in comparison to those of the baseline survey (50.6%) and the difference was statistically significant.

In the qualitative part, from the in-depth interviews, Adivasis said that most community tubwells are situated in a majority community like Muslim or a Hindu community and that most of them were situated far away from Adivasi communites. Besides that, they also sometimes faced many difficulties like purity-pollution, cultural norms as well as beliefs or attitudes of tubwell owners especially those of Hindu communities during water collection. In this case, they collectively wanted and demanded the union *parishad* to install new tuebwells in the Adivasi community, IDP-IP project would take this type of opportunity.

Access to sanitation

Table 12. Type of latrine used by adult members (%)

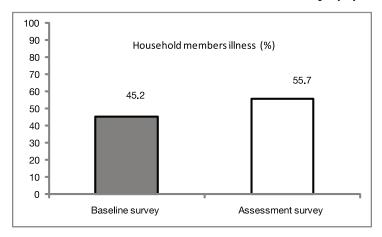
| Туре | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Sanitary latrine with water seal | 36.2 | 45.7 | .000 |
| Sanitary latrine with broken | 19.1 | 17.2 | .035 |
| water seal | | | |
| Pit/open/kucha | 44.7 | 37.1 | .000 |

Table 12 shows that a good proportion of Adivsai households (45.7% of those of assessment survey) have access to sanitary latrine¹ in comparison to those of the baseline survey (24.2%) and difference was statistically significant. However, 17.2% of Adivasi households in the assessment survey have been using sanitary latrine with broken water seal while only 19.1% in the baseline survey had observed. This type of latrine is totally un-hygienic. On the other hand, in the assessment survey a significant proportion of Adivasi households (37.1%) have not been using non-hygienic latrines (i.e. pit/open/kucha) in comparison to houses in the baseline survey (44.7%) and this was statistically significant.

Health

In order to the analyze prevalence of diseases among Adivasi communities in comparison to both surveys (baseline and assessment), the respondents were asked to recall their illness in the last 15 days from the date of interview. A slightly higher prevalence of diseases was observed in the assessment survey (55.7%) comparison to the baseline survey (45.2%).

Figure 4. Status of household member illness in last 15 days (%)



¹ Definition of sanitary latrine: latrine with two septic tanks and water seal or concrete ring (usually three rings) and slab with water seal was considered as sanitary latrine. If latrine's water seal is broken that latrine is not considered sanitary.

Table 13 shows that most of the Adivasis suffered from fever/common cold in the last 15 days which was observed in both surveys (52.9% in baseline and 50% in assessment). On the other hand, it was also observed that different types of pain were the second most common illnesses (16.4% for baseline and 15.4% for assessment). However, a substantial proportion of Adivasi people suffered from waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery which were found in both surveys (7.7% in baseline and 23.1% in assessment). The most common chronic illnesses reported by Adivasis were gastric/ulcer in both surveys (8.5% in baseline and 2.6% in assessment), difficulty in breathing i.e. asthma (2.7% in baseline and 5.1% in assessment) and heart problems (5.1% in baseline and 2.6% in assessment).

Table 13 also reveals the sources of treatment for Adivasis for curing their illness in the last 15 days. In this regard, the assessment survey found that a small number of Adivasis (17.9%) went to *Polli* doctors or traditional healers in comparison to those in the baseline survey (53.9%). On the other hand, almost the same proportion of Adivasi household members received services from government hospitals or clinics in both survey (24.8% in baseline and 25.7% in assessment).

Table 13. Types of illness and sources of treatment in last 15 days (%)

| Types of illness and treatment sources | Baseline survey | Assessment | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Types of liffless and treatment sources | (n=532) | survey (n=47) | |
| Non-chronic illness (%) | | | |
| Fever/common cold | 52.9 | 59.0 | |
| Pain (Abdominal pain and body pain | 16.4 | 15.4 | |
| Diarrhoea/dysentery | 7.7 | 23.1 | |
| Chronic illness (%) | | | |
| Gastric/Ulcer | 8.5 | 2.6 | |
| Blood pressure/ Heart problem | 5.1 | 2.6 | |
| Asthma | 2.7 | 5.1 | |
| Others | 10.2 | 12.9 | |
| Source of treatment (%) | | | |
| Palli doctors | 53.9 | 17.9 | |
| Govt./non-govt, hospital/clinic | 24.8 | 25.7 | |
| Drug shop | 17.4 | 46.2 | |
| Others (Homeopathy, Kabiraji, Jhar-fook) | 10.1 | 10.3 | |

Multiple responses

A good proportion of Adivasi household members in assessment survey (46.2%) received treatment with medicine related services from drug shops in comparison to those of the baseline survey (17.4). Even though the literature narrates indigenous people's reliance on *Kabiraj* or indigenous doctors, empirical evidence found that only 10.1% in baseline and 10.3% assessment surveys observed that Adivasis reported visiting this type treatment sources when they were sick. So, considering the assessment findings, drug shop and govt./non-govt. hospital retained a dominant position in providing services to Adivasi peoples instead of Polli doctor and traditional healers/*Kabiraj* (observed in baseline survey). So, we can say that now Adivasis peoples are more aware and careful about searching for their treatment after illness.

Basic family practices and awareness

In most Adivasi communities, the system of relationships among its members is extremely complex. In small villages, most inhabitants are somehow related to one another and could be assumed to be belonging to the same extended family.

This study considers the family to be a socially and economically autonomous unit. According to M. Hasan², in Adivasi communities the basis for the formation of a family is marriage. A family typically consists of one or two parents and their children. In some cases, a family includes the parents of the head of the family and/or his/her parents-in-law. Two married brothers are considered as heads of two separate families. We should keep in mind that Adivasi communities in the study areas are male-headed or patriarchal societies. Female-headed families are usually found where widows are responsible for the livelihood of their children and, in rare cases their parents.

Marriage and dowry in Adivasi community

Table 14. Practice of dowry in marriage in the last three years (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=128) | Assessment survey (n=11) | p value | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--|
| Marriage without dowry | 28.9 | 27.3 | .575 | |
| Marriage with dowry | 71.1 | 72.7 | .477 | |
| Type of dowry (%) | | | | |
| Things/goods and ornaments (Furniture, TV, Bicycle, Motor cycle, Wristwatch) | 94.4 | 90.0 | | |
| Cash money | 78.9 | 74.3 | | |

Multiple responses

² Mahbub Hasan, "Livelihood of the Santals – Contemporary Change Dynamics", Center for Applied Social Studies, Dhaka, 2006, p. 62

Table 14 shows that the practice of dowry has been prevalent among adivasi households for the past three years. More than 70% of surveyed households reported that they had received different types of dowry³ (cash or goods) in wedding ceremony (71.1% in baseline and 72.7% in assessment) and that the difference was not statistically significant. Among them, a large proportion of Adivasi households received dowry in goods like furniture, television, bi-cycle, ornaments, This was found in both surveys (94.4% in baseline and 90% in assessment). Similar trends observed among the Adivasi households shows the recipient of dowry in the form cash in both surveys (78.9% in baseline and 74.3% in assessment).

In the in-depth interview and informal discussions, we found that among the Adivasi community, dowry is not a part of the cultural practice. But, they are practicing dowry and along with polygamy, it appears to be an issue for concern of Adivasi communities. They said that if women are highly educated, (that is the passed the secondary or higher secondary level), they cannot work in the fields as a day labourer like illiterate women. On the other hand, the educated Adivasi women did not get any jobs due to high competition with the Bengali or majority community. Even, they faced problems in marriage. Since, educated males are very rare in the Adivasi community. Thus, dowry is higher for educated women in Adivasi community, but day by day it has been changed due to NGO activities and due to access to jobs for educated Adivasi women. However, most of the plain land Adivasi community does not encourage higher education for a female child.

Intra-household decision making practice

In order to grasp gender relations, we have seen the exercise of authority in the decision making process of households in the project intervention areas by comparison with baseline and assessment surveys. In most cases, men as the household heads were identified as key decision makers in the household matters, especially for purchasing daily household goods for maintaining the family income, expenses, etc. in both surveys, Moreover, after project intervention, it was found that male dominant approach and practices decision-making were declining in comparison to the with baseline (Table 15).

Table 15 shows that a small proportion of respondents in assessment survey (54.3%) child the male as the key decision maker in household matters instead of the female. This is in contrast to 91.9% those in the baseline survey and the difference was statistically significant.

³ A dowry is money, goods or estate that a woman brings to a marriage. One function of dowry may be to provide the husband with "seed money" or property for the establishment of a new household and to help feed and protect the family.

Table 15. Decision-making for most important tasks (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Intra households decision-making | | | |
| Household head self and discuss with other family members | 91.9 | 54.3 | .000 |
| Household head and spouse together | 6.2 | 42.8 | .000 |
| Others (Grandfathers/mothers) | 1.9 | 2.9 | .027 |
| Areas of decision (%) | | | |
| Purchases of daily household needs | 82.6 | 39.5 | |
| Family income and expenses | 75.8 | 50.7 | |
| Child health care and education | 27.5 | 24.0 | |
| Land leasing or mortgage for agriculture | 21.7 | 13.2 | |
| Adult health care | 8.2 | 11.3 | |
| Others (Family Planning, Marriage, religious & cultural) | 6.3 | 6.8 | - |

Multiple responses

Table 15 also shows that among the Adivasi communities over 40% of household head and spouses acted together to take important household decisions in assessment surveys (42.8%) while 6.2% did so in the baseline survey and the difference was statistically highly significant. This is one of the most very positive effects of the IDP-IP project in terms of changing the Adivasi people's family practices and decision making.

Participation in local judgment or Shalish

Shalish is a traditional dispute-resolution mechanism. A shalish committee can be formed upon request by parties involved in the conflict or by Union Parishad (UP) chairman or by local elite members involved in the conflict-resolution process. The shalish is participated by local elites that often include retired government staff, teachers, religious leaders and other local elites. Normally, the shalish process starts with an interrogation of the parties and conflict-related witnesses by the committee. After interrogation, which considers diverse opinions and ascertains facts, the committee meets separately for consultation. Within one week (in some cases sometimes even on the same day) the shalish committee comes to conclusion and proposes a solution to the parties. When a conflict is solved through shalish, the resolution is often a financial settlement up to Tk. 1,000 (Jakob P. Braun 2010). The study tried to find that shalish was a major rural institution for judgment for the Adivasi communities.

Table 16. Type of local Shalish performers in Adivasi community (%)

| Types of local Shalish performer | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Adivasi leader (Mondol) | 45.7 | 72.8 |
| UP chairman/members | 62.4 | 67.1 |
| Village elite person | 0 | 14.3 |
| NGO representative | 0 | 1.4 |

Multiple responses

Table 16 shows the scenario of local conflict resolution. Adivasi leaders or Mondal were ahead of Union *Parishad* (UP) chairmen and members in terms of conducting community based *shalish* in assessment survey in comparison to the baseline. However, in this case, Adivasi leaders were preferred by *Mahali, Sing* and *Santal* communities among the Adivasi communities.

From the in-depth interviews, we found that Adivasis were mostly practicing their own traditional culture to mitigate any dispute; they try to follow the first approach of the local elderly people, especially *Mandals* for resolving any dispute. However, previously, many of them used to follow *Mandal's* verdicts. Now many of them do not want to follow it due to liaison with local political parties. The issues for local dispute resolution are related to women, land and family disputes. If *shalish* in the village fails, the aggrieved party goes to the Union *Parishad* Chairman. If union *parishad* also fails at this stage, they go to leaders of political parties or Thana or Court. However, Adivasis complained that they often do not get justice from local elites and political people nor police or from any public judicial system due to bribery and corruption. Moreover, very recently, the importance of upazila chairman is increasing among the Adivasi communities.

Table 17. Participation in local Shalish in the last year (%)

| | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Participation in Shalish | 8.1 | 22.9 | .000 |
| Type of participation | (n=84) | (n=16) | |
| As a victim | 59.5 | 25.0 | .000 |
| As a perpetrator | 21.4 | 18.8 | .328 |
| As a witness | 3.6 | 18.8 | .000 |
| As a general participant | 15.5 | 37.5 | .000 |

Table 17 shows that a good proportion of household members in assessment survey (22.9%) participated in local *shalish* in comparison to the baseline survey (8.1%) in the last year and the difference was statistically significant. On the other hand, a small proportion of Adivasi peoples in assessment survey (25.0%)

participated in local *shalish* as a victim in comparison to baseline survey (59.5%). However, the proportion of Adivasis participation in assessment survey was smaller in comparison compared to the baseline as a perpetrator in local *shalish*. But significantly there is greater Adivasis participation in local *shalish* as a witness and general participant in comparison to baseline survey. This is another positive impact of the IDP-IP project.

Access to public resources

Only 31.8% of respondents in the baseline survey reported that they have access to different type of public resources and social safety-net programmes while in the assessment survey 24.2% had such access and the difference was statistically significant.

Table 18. Access to public resources and social safety-net (%)

| Access and type | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p value |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Have got access | 31.8 | 24.2 | .012 |
| Type of access to public resources and social safety-net (%) | | | |
| Khas land/water body | 5.6 | 2.4 | |
| Govt. reserve forestry/ road/embankment | 0.4 | 0.3 | |
| Social safety-net support, i.e. VGF, VGD, Old age allowance | 96.7 | 98.3 | |

Multiple responses

Table 18 also shows that access to *khas* land or water bodies among the Adivasis in the assessment survey (2.4%) was lower compared to baseline survey (5.6%). On the other hand, access to social safety-net support ie, VGF, VGD and old age allowance was a little increased among the Adivasi peoples in comparison to baseline survey. A few Adivasi people had access to government reserve forestry/road/embankment which were observed to be the same in both surveys (0.4% in baseline and 0.3% in control).

Income Generating Activity (IGA) Training and Livelihoods

The skill development training courses helped Adivasi people make better and more efficient use of resources they had and to identify as well as tap underutilized local resources, ie, open water bodies, public forest land, and *khas* land etc. as well as cope with technical inadequacies for carrying out IGA. On the other hand, training on human and social issues increased literacy and social awareness among the poor as well as disadvantaged communities like Adivasis (Kamal *et al* 2007).

Table 19. Received training in the last three years (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p-value |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Received training on average | 12.2 | 65.7 | .000 |
| training course duration (day) on | 15 | 10 | .000 |
| average | | | |
| Types of training courses | (n= 142) | (n=52) | |
| IGA: Poultry-livestock, Fishery, | 71.1 | 96.2 | .001 |
| Homestead Gardening, Tailoring, | | | |
| Soap & Deterzen, Driving and | | | |
| Electrical | | | |
| Gender, Human rights, and | 9.2 | 0 | |
| women development | | | |
| Mother and child health care and | 10.6 | 0 | |
| nutrition | 0.5 | • | |
| Education | 8.5 | 0 | |
| Others | 0.7 | 3.8 | |
| Organized by | (n= 142) | (n=52) | |
| BRAC | 38.0 | 86.5 | |
| International NGOs | 37.3 | 1.9 | |
| Other local NGOs | 11.3 | 7.7 | |
| Government organization | 13.4 | 3.8 | |
| Areas for using the knowledge | (n= 142) (n=52) | | |
| of the training | | | |
| Children's school enrollment | 3.6 | 3.9 | |
| Awareness about dowry, early | 28.9 | 5.9 | |
| marriage, women abuse, women | | | |
| rights and leadership, health and | | | |
| nutrition | | | |
| Develop skill on productive | 68.6 | 90.2 | |
| activity | | | |

Multiple responses

Table 19 shows that a good proportion of Adivasi people in the assessment survey (65.7%) participated in different type of training courses (skills and human developments) in comparison to those of baseline survey (12.2%) in the last three year and the difference was highly statistically significant. On the other hand, the mean duration for the training course was a little higher in the baseline survey (15) in comparison to assessment survey (10) and the difference was statistically negatively significant. In the assessment survey, we observed a good proportion of Adivasis reporting that they had received a variety of IGA training, e.g., poultry-livestock, fishery, homestead gardening, tailoring, soap & detergent, driving etc. during the last three years in comparison to the baseline survey (71.1%) and the difference was statistically significant.

Table 19 also shows that two groups of respondents made significant difference in receiving training BRAC from (38% in baseline and 86.5% in assessment). Even though the Adivasis received skills training on various IGAs, such as, poultry-livestock, fishery, homestead gardening, tailoring, soap & detergent, driving, etc., it was also observed that 90.2% of those in the assessment survey could apply their skill and knowledge learnt from IGA training practically comparison to 68.6% of those in the baseline survey. (In details, see the case study-6 & 7)

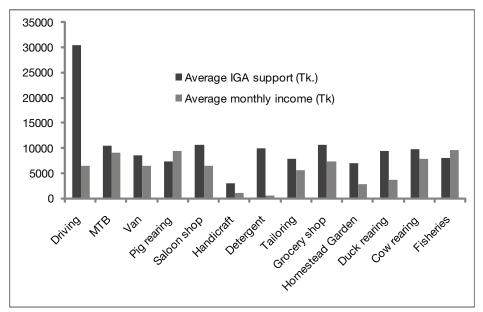


Figure 5. Financial support and average monthly income (Tk.) from IGA

Figure 5 shows the distribution of IGA support and average monthly income scenario among the surveyed Adivasi households. The assessment survey found that the most IGA support distribution between Tk. 5,000 - 10,000 was observed except IGA training of driving. On the other hand, Adivasis reported that they had been successfully participants in large number of IGAs, such as, driving, machine tools box, van, pig rearing, saloon shop, tailoring, grocery shop, cow rearing and fisheries project out of the 13 IGAs. An average monthly income distribution between Tk. 5,600- 9,500 was also observed except handicraft and detergent related IGAs monthly average income. They also reported that all IGAs have created a lot of self-employment opportunities among the Adivasi community not only for training recipients but also Adivasi family. (A summary of findings of IGAs is attached in Annex A: Matrix1.)



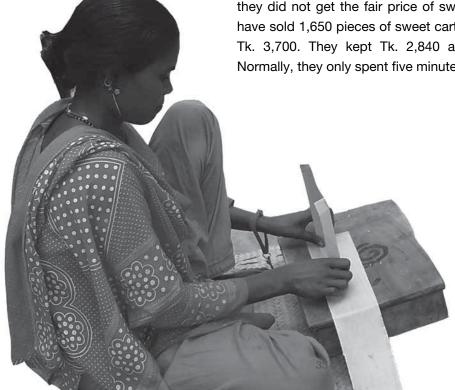
Case study 6:

"A new Foundation for Adivasi women's livelihood"

 ${f N}$ ine (9) ultra-poor Adivasi women of Panchbibi Upazila received six day training on making detergents from Panchbibi BRAC office in 2014. They had a commitment that they will produce detergents jointly and they got Tk. 8,000 (Eight thousand taka) individually for starting the IGA at the community level. Dipalee Rani Mahato was selected as team leader out of the nine members. The factory was established in her house at Birnagor- Bashpara. They brought the raw materials and machines from Dhaka through the help of the project staff. They have obtained a trade license from the local union parishod. They started production and within some days they had produced 100 kilograms detergent powder. They decided to distribute 12 kg per person for marketing. One of the group members Ava Rani successfully reached her selling target. However, the rest of the members had failed to reach their target. They did not sell the detergent to the local market, because shopkeepers/tradesmen thought that the detergent was of poor quality and was not famous in comparison to other. In this context, Dipalee Mahato said that, "Wrapping was a big obstacle in producing detergent. We collected the wrapping paper from our trainers. They have supplied us with the wrapping paper of Teer synthetic detergent powder of 'Amina Cosmetic and Chemical Ind. Ltd' of Narayangonj. This is not our patent and so shopkeepers fear that mobile courts may accuse them of keeping fake/illegal products. Even though we produced detergents, we were unable to sell these due to patent. After 2 months we made a wrapping paper by the name of "Belly". We have tried marketing our product again. Only some village women came to buy the detergent due to low price. But we again failed to market our product for patent". They closed their factory after 6 months due to the fact that most of their products were unsold. As a result they did not get any benefits from the IGA due to market linkage with an absent value chain actor.

Case study 7: "Making sweet carton and try to extra income"

Sweet carton training was offered to 6 members from village, Mohadebpur union Mohadebpur upazila. They were selected in a monthly meeting. They participated in a 3-day training season. Ritu Malo (PO, IDP-IP, Mohadebpur) informed the villagers of that training course. After training, a total of four participants received financial support of Tk. 20,800 out of the six training participants. Since the other two participants were not interested in starting the IGA due to personal problems. Now, four of them work together and each of them can make 20-25 sweet cartons in their leisure time per day in a day. But their carton selling price was not good due to lack of market linkage and absence of value chain actor in the IGA. In this circumstance, they sell their produce sweet carton only in local markets like the Bazzar or hat day, where they did not get the fair price of sweet cartons. They have sold 1,650 pieces of sweet carton with a price of Tk. 3,700. They kept Tk. 2,840 as group savings. Normally, they only spent five minutes to make a cart.



Coping mechanism of Adivasi community in disaster or crisis

Adivasi communities are generally very vulnerable. Naturally, this group is more prone to crises events such as sudden illness of family members or natural disasters as they rarely have any means of tackling let alone overcome such a situation on their own. Naturally in the event of such crises, they are plunged in even deeper poverty (Barkat et al 2008).

Table 20 shows the frequency of different crises faced by Adivasi households in the study areas and comparison between baseline and assessment surveys. A significant number of respondents in assessment survey (30.0%) reported that they had faced different types of natural disaster and family shocks in the past three years comparison to those of the baseline survey (11.0%). It was also observed that different types of natural disasters, eq. excessive rainfall, flood, river erosion occurred frequently and these damaged most of the crops in both surveys (39.1% in baseline and 14.3% in assessment). Incident or accidental death of livestock was one of the main crises of Adivasi communities in both surveys (29.2% in baseline and 19.5% in assessment survey). Illness/disability of an earning member was another frequent occurrence in both surveys (10.8% in baseline and 14.3% in assessment survey) among Adivasi communities. The second highest proportion of Adivasis reported that death of earning member (6.7% in baseline and 19.1% in assessment) happened frequently and that this might be a big crisis for them. They also reported that robbery or dispute over land frequently happened in Adivasi communities and these were observed in both surveys (14.2% in baseline and 32.8% in assessment).

Table 20. Nature of disaster and family crisis in the last three years (%)

| Indicators | Baseline survey (n=1,040) | Assessment survey (n=70) | p-value |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Disaster and family shocks faced | 11.0 | 30.0 | .000 |
| Causes of disaster or family | n=145 | n=21 | |
| shocks | | | |
| Crop damaged due to over rainfall | 39.1 | 14.3 | |
| and flood, and river erosion | | | |
| Death of livestock by | 29.2 | 19.5 | |
| incident/accident | | | |
| Illness of income earner/disable of | 10.8 | 14.3 | |
| income earner | | | |
| Death of income earner | 6.7 | 19.1 | |
| Others (robbery, dispute for land | 14.2 | 32.8 | |
| and social issue) | | | |
| Coping mechanism | | | |
| Did not do anything | 30.7 | 10.0 | |
| Take social safety-net support, i.e. | 25.8 | 38.1 | |
| VGF, VGD, old age allowance | | | |
| Saving household expenditure | 22.6 | 9.5 | |
| Selling fix assets (land, livestock, | 14.2 | 19.1 | |
| poultry, and tree) | | | |
| Look loan or financial support from | 10.8 | 38.1 | |
| relatives or land owners | | | |
| Leased land or other assets | 5.0 | 0.6 | |

Multiple responses

Adivasis are not always able to cope with difficulties or crises that they face (Barkat *et al* 2008). In the study, we found instances where Adivasis reported of having negative or harmful coping strategy (for instance selling off main assets like livestock, land, etc.). Besides, they were practiced some positive coping mechanisms in such as saving household expenditure.

In cases of shocks where they suffer income loss or need to incur further costs, households use different types of coping strategies. However, a good number of Adivasi households in both surveys (30.7% in baseline and 10.0% in assessment), were left with nothing to do in response to particular shocks, eg, death of income earners, loss of livestock and damaged crops by natural disaster etc. Nevertheless, a good number of Adivasi households, received the support of social safety-nets support to cope the crisis which observed in both surveys (25.8% in baseline and 38.1% in assessment). Besides, a small proportion of Adivasi households in the assessment survey (9.5%) coped by saving household expenditure in comparison baseline survey (22.6%).

Apart from this, a small proportion of Adivasi households, sold their assets, e.g., land, tree, poultry and livestock to cope with crisis that was observed in both survey (14.2% in baseline and 19.1% in assessment). Informal assistance like loans taken from friends, relatives, and land owner were particularly important to Adivasi households in both surveys (10.8% in baseline and 38.1% in assessment) in crisis.

From in-depth interviews, they also said that they sold their labour in advance and ate one meal per day to cope with the crisis, but this type of tendency decreased among the Adivasi community due to involvement with different types of IGA. But that's not enough to improve their livelihood within such a short period. They suggested that new IGAs and innovative initiatives which are more feasible to the Adivasi communities can eradicate chronic poverty.

Main problems of Adivasi community

According to International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), the Adivasi community suffers higher rates of poverty, landlessness, malnutrition, human rights violation, unemployment and internal displacement than other sects of the society, and they have lower levels of literacy and limited access to health services (Barkat *et al* 2008).

Table 21. Nature of existing main problems of Adivasi community (%)

| Major problems | Baseline survey | Assessment |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | (n=1,040) | survey (n=70) |
| Poverty and unemployment | 36.4 | 40.6 |
| Safe water and sanitation | 30.9 | 25.4 |
| Shortage of agricultural and | 13.7 | 22.1 |
| homestead land | | |
| Lack of education | 6.7 | 7.5 |
| Less access to health services | 6.7 | 10.2 |
| Social insecurity (ie, eve teasing) | 4.1 | 10.5 |
| Others (i.e. political tension) | 14.7 | 19.2 |
| No comments | 20.2 | 9.2 |

Multiple responses

Table 21 shows the types of problems of Adivasi communities in project intervention areas in comparison to baseline information. Firstly, poverty and unemployment were a problem of Adivasi communities in both surveys (36.9% in baseline and 40.6% in assessment). Secondly, access to safe water and sanitation was another problem for Adivasi communities in both surveys (30.4% in baseline and 25.4% in assessment). Thirdly, a little large proportion of respondents in assessment survey (22.1%) reported that they have no agricultural

or homestead land which was a major problem in Adivasi communities in comparison to those of the baseline survey (13.7%). Fourthly, a small proportion of the respondents reported that they have limited access to basic health and education services in both areas; this is an issue ensure basic human rights for the Adivasi communities in plain lands. On the other hand, a good proportion of respondents reported that social insecurity and political tension were another major problem for Adivasi communities compared to those in the baseline survey.

From the in-depth interviews and informal discussions, Adivasis reported that Adivasi women and youth girl face a lot of eve teasing, a major problem for smooth physical mobility. They also said very secretly, that when they worked as day labourers in the majority community most of the time, they are faced many types of difficulty like mental and physical abuse especially women. In this situation, they worked in a group in an agricultural farm; not they did work individual labourers. The main reasons for conversion lay in poverty and lack of basic needs eg, health, education etc. It was found that when a particular family was badly in need of money for medical facilities or education, the religious organization extended a helping hand with a tacit invitation for acceptance of new faith.

Moreover, Adivasis are vulnerable in many ways. They often face discrimination because of indigenous identity from different government institutions. They have complained about incidents where they were verbally abused where abusers have addressed them by saying that 'they ate Indians, and should go back to India for food and clothing'. Sometimes, main stream Bengali and other communities do not want to take Adivasi peoples especially Santals in work as day labourers since they eat pork like pig meat.

When they are supposed to arrange religious and cultural functions, they need to take permission from UP (Union *Parishad*) chairman. So, *Mandal* (Adivasi leader) has to take permission from UP Chairman. This dependency on the UP chairman sometimes causes lots political tension within the community. Though the Adivasi communities have not shared any information regarding insecurity related to land, women or cultural issues, it was assumed that they voluntarily refrained from sharing information due to fear and cultural barrier.

Chapter IV

Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendation

The discussion section, particularly the stages of analytical schema consider factors that affect the livelihood of plain land Adivasis as well as measure the project's ability to change the lives of Adivasis. This survey was conducted to assess the present livelihood situation of the targeted Adivasi community three years after project intervention.

It is very clear that economic empowerment indicators as shown by the assessment survey data demonstrate positive impact by IDP-IP project. The assessment survey's average annual income is Tk.1,04,615 while average income in the baseline survey was Tk.76,908. However, this value of average income of Adivasi communities is still lower than the national figure (Tk. 115.776) (HIES 2011). Similar trends were also observed in the assessment survey in comparison to the baseline survey of the average annual expenditure (Tk. 86,259 for baseline and Tk.1,05,481 for assessment) and savings (Tk. 7,468 for baseline and Tk.9,707 for assessment) among the Adivasi communities. On the other hand, access to loan or credit is important for coping with unexpected crises and for starting any IGA for employment and income increase it was observed in the assessment survey that Adivasis have increased access to loan or credit from the formal and informal sectors in comparison to those of the baseline survey.

Adivasi communities are generally less educated and own virtually no productive assets. Most of them depend on selling manual labour for their survival. The assessment survey found that the educational status of Adivasi students especially that of female increased in comparison to baseline survey for the classes one to five (baseline: male 29.3%, female 23.1%; assessment: male 31.5%, female 27.1%), secondary (male 4.7% and female 3.3% in baseline; male 11% and female 9% in assessment), higher secondary school certificate (male 2.8% and female 1.9% in baseline; male 4.8% and female 4.8% in assessment). However, this achievement is not significant in comparison to the national figure (primary school enrolment 93.4%, BBS 2011).

A small but higher proportion of Adivasi household members in assessment survey (34.6%) were affiliated with NGOs in comparison to baseline survey respondents (32.5%). The assessment survey also observed that they were found to be more affiliated with local and national NGOs like Ashray, Alo Shika, BRAC, ASA in comparison to the baseline survey.

The target of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) seven is to establish integrated development and management of a water resource system. In response to the MDG target, Bangladesh has fixed its target to ensure that 100% of urban and 96.5% of rural population will have access to safe water by 2015. Government, NGOs and donor agencies are involved through soft and hard programmes to ensure safe water in both rural and urban areas. The assessment survey findings reveal that 100% of Adivasi households (57.1% self and 42.9% community) have access to tuebwell water which is nationally recognized as a major source of safe drinking water in rural areas. This result substantiates existing research findings where more than 90% of the rural population use tubewell water for drinking (HIES 2011). Nevertheless, a large number of Adivasi households (42.9%) did not have their own tubewells as of yet in project intervention areas.

A significant proportion of Adivasi households had access to sanitary latrine in comparison to those of the baseline survey (36.2% in baseline and 45.7% in assessment) in project areas, while the national sanitation coverage rate is 62.3% (BBS 2011). However, pit/open *kucha* - a non-hygienic form of latrine was found to be most widely used by the Adivasi communities in both surveys (44.7% in baseline and 37.1% in assessment).

Health status and health services were seen in terms of illness and sources of treatment of Adivasi households in project areas. Most of the Adivasis suffered from fever/common cold in the last fifteen days. Abdominal pain and body pain were in the second position in this matter. For cure of illness, a good proportion of Adivasis (17.4% in baseline and 46.2% in assessment) went to drug shops instead of government/non-government hospital or clinic in comparison to the baseline survey observed. However, health seeking behavior of Adivasis were looked upon; traditional healers, *Kabiraj* and *Polli* doctors retained the dominant position in providing services to Adivasi communities.

Conditions regarding basic family and social practices as well as awareness are necessary to assess living conditions of Adivasi communities. Practice of dowry has been found to be prevalent in 71.1% of families in the baseline survey and 72.7% of families in the assessment survey. In most cases, men being household heads were identified as key decision makers in household matters, especially with respect to purchase of daily household things, family income and expenses in both survey (91.9% in baseline and 54.3% in assessment). However, 42.8% of household decisions taken by household heads and spouse together were observed in the assessment survey which reflected significant change of Adivasi family practice after programme intervention in comparison to that of the baseline survey (6.2%).

Empirical evidence tells us about changes in this practice in traditional institutions. Adivasi community leaders like *Mondal* were far ahead than UP chairmen or members in terms of conducting *shalish* (from assessment survey). On the other hand, a significant difference was observed between two survey findings (8.1% in baseline and 22.9% in assessment) in terms of participation in *shalish* of as victim, perpetrator, witness and as a general participant (having no interest in the issue of dispute).

The assessment study found that 65.7% of the people received training on variety of IGA like poultry-livestock, fishery, homestead gardening, tailoring, soap & detergent, driving etc. while 12.2% did so in the baseline survey. It was evident that the percentage of those receiving training was higher after project intervention among the Adivasi community. They used their skills and knowledge in practically on productive activity; they were also able to increase average family income this way according to the assessment study.

The study was more focused on findings related to the basic socio-economic and cultural state of the Adivasi people on the basis of empirical evidence. The research did not go deep regarding issues in the related to vulnerable indigenous people's identity like language, culture, etc. However, the distinctive feature of this study was to show that the presence of poverty in Adivasi community from many dimensions like income, land ownership, access to safe water, sanitation, educational level as well as through legal and social issues. Even though the presence of poverty had influenced them to over look the concerns related to their identity and culture, any development intervention to bring the Adivasi communities in development activities should emphasize on preservation and promotion of indigenous culture as well as language as a part of development with cultural identity.

Recommendations

On the basis of the suggestions of the respondents of the assessment survey the following measures have been recommended to improve the livelihoods of the Adivasi people such as reduce poverty and unemployment reduction by the introduction of new income generating activities as well as access to safe water and sanitation, education and health services. In this regard, IDP-IP project can take the following initiatives:

- Provide Adivasis need based and feasible IGA training with financial support e.g., driving, mechanics, poultry-livestock rearing and management, vegetable cultivation, fisheries and small business to reduce economic vulnerability.
- Education level among the Adivasi community was very low in both the sexes observed. A very small number of Adivasis completed the HSC and examination above it. Some Adivasis said that they have a wish to go to school but their poverty is one of the major barriers to education. In this situation, main stream education could not improve their life style because of a poor economic system.
- There were no prospective job opportunities for Adivasis. So, IGA training and vocational training with financial support can be introduced among the Adivasi community for betterment of their livelihoods.
- The quality of basic health and sanitation in the study area was below the satisfactory level. They were not conscious of health issues like sanitation, hygiene practices as well as, health-care seeking behaviour. Due to prevalent ignorance, they rely on village doctors or traditional healers for medicine. So, it is important to provide healthcare support to improve health status of the Adivasi community especially that of women and children.
- A majority of the respondents had a small piece of land and they did not have any legal documents in some cases. So, the project can provide proper services for legal documents. At the same time, the project can also undertake some initiatives to organize the Adivasi community in order to protect their legal rights through grass roots institution building.
- Finally, to protect Adivasi community rights, their traditional culture and their land, IDP-IP project can go through the advocacy approach to negotiate with the government. GO and NGO must work on reducing the gap between Adivasi community and local people as well as build a bridge.

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Annexure Matrix 1. Summary findings of IGAs

| Name of IGA | Results or outputs: | Remarks/Limitations; |
|--|--|---|
| Cow/Got/Sheep rearing | Supply own family nutrition with extra income; Enhance family assets; Have a dream to make a firm; | Lack of technical knowledge; Need Poultry Livestock Extension Worker (PLEW); Need training on cow food production; |
| Machine Tools Box (MTB) | Now they are skilled and capable to earn extra money for their family; Enhanced employment opportunity for making better livelihood; | Need training on TV, Refrigerator, Air Condition repairing for more skill; Need training on Motor Cycle Mechanics; |
| Small business like Ferreowala, Small village Shop | They earned average daily Tk. 300; This profession is good instead of labour selling or day labour; Meet up their daily food expenses and save a small money for future; | Transportation and commodities carrying are the big concern or problem for them; |
| Saloon | Now they have is well set up Saloon and they could earn more income compared to past; Created self-employment opportunity; | Need additional financial support for making a well furnish decorated saloon; |
| Van/Rickshaw | Created opportunity for them to earn regularly income; Meet up their daily food expenses and save a small money for future; They can earn average daily Tk. 200-300 from one Van pulling; This profession is good instead of labour selling or day labour; | Need new Van/Rickshaw for more income for reducing maintain cost; |
| Tailoring | Earned more money from tailoring as an occupation especially youth girl; | Carefully select the training participant; |
| Homestead Gardening | Meet their family need and nutrition; Earn extra money to meet their family expenses; | Need quality inputs ie, seeds organic fertilizer and pesticides; |

| Name of IGA | Results or outputs: | Remarks/Limitations: | |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Duck | Meet up their family need and | Need training on | |
| rearing/poultry | nutrition; | vaccination and treatment | |
| farming | Earn extra money to meet | of duck diseases; | |
| | family expenses; | Need to develop a market | |
| | | linkage for fare value of egg | |
| | | and duck; | |
| Sweet carton/ | They could not able to make | This type of IGA not | |
| Shopping bag | any profit from this IGA; | feasible for the poor and | |
| making | | marginalized people; | |
| | | This is a group based IGA, so it should be made | |
| | | commitment within group | |
| | | for hard working and meet | |
| | | the challenges; | |
| | | G . | |
| Vanity bag | They could not able to make | Need training on modern | |
| making | any profit from this IGA; | designing to produce | |
| | | quality production; This is a group based IGA, | |
| | | so it should be made | |
| | | commitment within group | |
| | | for hard working and meet | |
| | | the challenges; | |
| Handicraft | They made a small profit from | Need to develop a market | |
| папистан | this type of IGA; | linkage for selling the | |
| | tills type of ida, | product; | |
| Fisheries | They earned a good profit from | • | |
| risileties | fish farming within six months; | Need training on group base fish farming; | |
| | non farming within old months, | Develop a linkage with | |
| | | upazila/district level | |
| | | fisheries extension services; | |
| Detergent | Still they could not able to get a | Lack of coordination | |
| | good results from this IGA; | among the producer group | |
| | - | was a big problems; | |
| | | Marketing and | |
| | | management were the | |
| | | another concern; | |
| | | Need a trade-mark license | |
| | | for marketing of production | |
| | | on time; | |
| Driving | Driving was one of the | | |
| | sustainable IGA for the Adivasi | | |
| | youth; | | |
| | They got a good job after the training; | | |
| | They could be able to earn | | |
| | average Tk. 6,500 per month | | |
| | from this profession; | | |
| | | | |

COUTThe assessment team

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