



Daffodil
International
University

Report on

“Newspaper Coverage on Indigenous People in Bangladesh”

By

Chelsy Veronika Rema
ID: 163-24-567

Supervised By:
Dr. Sheikh Shafiul Islam
Associate Professor and Head
Department of Journalism & Mass Communication
Faculty of Humanities & Social Science
Daffodil International University, Dhaka

Date of Submission: 08.08.2020

Certificate of approval



I am pleased to certify that the dissertation is prepared by Chelsy Veronika Rema bearing ID no. 163-24-567 of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication has been approved for presentation and defense. Under my supervision Chelsy worked very effectively. She completed the work and the study has been undertaken in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Social Science in Journalism and Mass Communication at Daffodil International University.

I am pleased to certify that the data, the findings presented in the report are authentic work of Chelsy Veronika Rema bears a good moral character and a very pleasing personality. It has indeed a great pleasure working with her. I wish her all the success of life

Academic Supervisor

Dr. Sheikh Shafiul Islam

Associate Professor and Head
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
Daffodil International University

Application for approval of dissertation

Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Shafiul Islam
Associate Professor and Head
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
Daffodil International University

Subject: Application for submission of my dissertation for approval

Dear Sir,

I have accomplished my dissertation “Newspaper Coverage on Indigenous People in Bangladesh” as a course requirement for my Bachelors program.

I have tried my best to work with sincerity to cover all aspects regarding the matter, which I have been assigned.

I believe that this dissertation has enlarged both my knowledge and my experience. I hope you will assess my report considering the limitation of the study. I shall be highly grateful if you kindly accept my project. Your kind approval is requested

Sincerely

Chelsy Veronika Rema

Ms. Chelsy Veronika Rema
ID: 163-24-567
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Daffodil International Univerisity

Declaration

I hereby declare that this report entitled as “**Newspaper Coverage on Indigenous people**” has been carried out under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Daffodil International University in fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor’s in Social Science. I have composed this paper based on the researcher’s findings from various literature, newspaper analysis to the best of my acquaintance and belief original and the result of my research. This has not been submitted in part or full to any other institutions for any other degrees.

Sincerely

Chelsy Veronika Rema

Ms. Chelsy Veronika Rema

ID: 163-24-567

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Daffodil International University

Acknowledgment

This dissertation paper was supported by Daffodil International University. Firstly, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Shafiul Islam, Associate Professor and Head of the department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

I am very fortunate to being supervised by him, his supports and ideas was very helpful to complete this project. He always helped me with various ideas, research paperwork and experience of his has greatly improved the manuscript.

Beside my supervisor, I would like to thank my rest of faculty teachers; late Mahfuz Ullah sir, his leadership and companion always helped me to get through. And all the other associate teachers who had been very kind and helpful to me in the entire period.

I would like to show my gratitude to the reviewers for their insights. I am enormously obliged for their comments on an earlier version of the manuscript, even though my errors are my own and should not blemish the reputations of those esteemed persons.

Last but not the least, I must express my very profound gratitude to my parents and Theophil Nisharon Nokrek, Sanjeeb Drong and Philip Gain for sharing their experience with me. And to my very supportive friends for the entire time. This accomplishment would not have been possible without them.

Abstract:

During the liberation war newspaper left a tremendous history. Like any courageous youth, newspaper were burnt down and rise again. Left the power of information spread and people all over the world supported with Bangladesh. Not only Bengalis fought in the war, but indigenous peoples also dreamt of an independent country and fought against Pakistan. But after 40 years 2011's constitution indigenous people were specified as second class citizen, concerning only protection of the culture and environment. Whereas many indigenous people are still fighting for the rights, newspaper focusing publishing only festivals, indigenous food, living style and etc. In 14 days observation, found eight reports on indigenous people, where only two reports revealed crisis on indigenous people being deprived from budget allocation and crisis on employment during pandemic situation which were published in 'The Daily Star'.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 1-5

Abstract

Introduction

Why Newspaper is important

Objective

Literature Review

Newspaper Selection

Chapter 2..... 6-7

Methodology.

Case Study

Chapter 3.....8-29

Presentation and Analysis of Information obtained from Observation on
Newspaper Reports: Weekly

Chapter 4.....30-33

Figures of 2 week's indigenous news at a glance

Chapter 5.....34-37

Findings of Analysis

Conclusion

Reference

Chapter 1

Introduction:

The nature of the indigenous issue of Bangladesh is very complex. It involves political ideology, religious ideology and regional politics. The issue also linked to the “India oriented” and “Anti-India” political attitudes of political parties. The issue of political ideology within the newspaper and journalists are very strong as it affects the ownership structure of the newspaper, corporate interest and political beliefs of the owner and political ideology of editor and journalists.

As the development grows, media organization has become competitive towards each other. Each media organization is working hard to get target rating points to survive in the industry which includes audience attention.

As an indigenous person, I often get to see how less news regarding our issues getting attention. Bangali people consider us second class citizen. Government stated to protect our culture and environment but denied to recognize. Land right issues are like forever. There are many places that still is out of the network, lack of proper education, less treatment facilities and so on. Education in our own language is important but government seems to care less about this fact. 1952 language movement happened because we didn't want “Urdu” as our national language. The nation fought over the rights of the language, doesn't care about indigenous language anymore. While electronic media seems to focus on only crime and conflicts, print media focuses reporting on cultural activities of indigenous people.

Due to short time and pandemic all over the country, I decided to observe on newspaper report coverage on indigenous people for 14 days. Thanks to Robaet Ferdous sir for his brilliant observation on the book he wrote which focused on the same topic. He took 3 months for the research and methodically examined the reports that was published and

succeeded to show the fact how newspaper industry are dealing with the indigenous issues.

Why Newspaper is important:

With the fastest growing development people rely on device, electronic media and radio very much. Reading newspaper needs time, literate audience and money to buy. Why do we need newspaper now a days? The answer is within our daily life. Perks of reading newspaper is you can't rely on online news portal. As to survive in the industry many online news portal tend to publish fake news with an exclusive headline to attract audience. When a reader clicks the news, often gets disappointed. Busy life don't allows television and radio all the time. That is the time people relies on newspaper headlines for information with a quick view. For example: Television broadcasted an exclusive news. But due to having work you couldn't watch what happened and missed all the information, next day newspaper publishes the same news elaborately and whole information is right in your hands.

With the editorial and features often written by experienced writers guides you with the proper words and makes communicative language better. Also various section of newspaper tends to allow the perspective of the renowned people's opinion on several matter that concerns people to criticize, think and that what makes another steps towards development.

Television has many talk shows that allows to discuss on a particular matter but that's a matter of schedule which often does not match with people's work time. But with the newspaper information, people get to know more and get to think more.

Objective:

Just as the existence of the indigenous people in Bangladesh can't be denied, similarly how they are being represented in media considering to the time, space and content can't be accepted. This study highlights the presents of the indigenous people's presence in Bangladeshi print media. The specific objects of the study include to:

- Identification of Indigenous issues, news, feature, editorial, sub editorial and picture distribution
- What percentage of the total indigenous people has been represented in newspaper considering the 'Space'?
- When the print media is publishing any incident/information regarding 'Indigenous people' how are they being presented towards public?
- Evaluation of indigenous news and opinion content
- Information based on news treatment, variation, subject-based classification, region-based classification and analysis of district base information

Literature Review:

Related to the function of the media in a democratic country, J. Keane (1991) states that the liberal economy has a negative impact on the quality of democracy. Keane summarized this argument about neo-liberalism in the media sector stating "*time has long passed when it could be assumed credibly that market competition guarantees freedom of communication.*" (Keane, 1991: p.88-89).

In 2011 the National Parliament enacted the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh denying recognition of indigenous people as full citizens of this country. Article 6(2) of our Constitution states, "The people of Bangladesh shall be known as Bangalis as a nation and the citizens of Bangladesh shall be known as Bangladeshis". Again Article

23A provides, "The State shall take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities." Article 6(2) explicitly denies the indigenous peoples as citizens of Bangladesh while Article 23A categories and alienates indigenous people from Bengalis making them second class citizens of the State. Whereas country's constitution has denied the fact, media are also reluctantly focuses on the incidents of the indigenous people.

The Daily Star's report "**Media Failing Indigenous People**" 2018 reveals various perspectives of activists who have been already working years for the rights of indigenous people. According to Santu Larma "The media fails to portray the true picture of the repression of indigenous people due to pressure of the communal, undemocratic, non-progressive and discriminatory governing system of the country". And also focused on the point that media still sees indigenous problems from majority perspective as local issues but not as national issue. "The incidents [torture, rape, gang rape of Adivasi women] are reported without historical and political aspects, which is why the crimes happen repeatedly," Zobaiyda noted.

Newspaper Selction:

The study aims to understand the importance that newspaper provides on indigenous people's news by selecting a representative sampling from the existing Daily newspapers. Out of registered 26 main registered newspapers, five newspapers- Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, Daily Samakal, Daily Ittefaq, Daily Janakantha were selected for the study and a total 8 items (reports) were selected as there only 8 reports were published in 14 days. The analyzed reports were taken from the observation time of 17th to 31st July, 2020 purposively.

- Daily Prothom Alo is one of the top newspapers of Bangladesh. Widely read newspaper of the country. The stories presented in this newspaper are unique which represent the personality of Bangladeshi culture. Hence, you will find that many news items

which won't be part of other newspapers will find its way in this, making it a favorite of many.

- The Daily Star, only newspaper of the selection that is based on English language. The daily star and Daily prothom alo both print media owned by same owner.
- Daily Ittefaq has its position on coverage of various news items while not loosing focus on important aspects also a deep history during liberation war of Bangladesh.
- Daily Janakantha has numerous readers even after knowing that it is specifically biased and partial to a specific political party.
- Daily Samakal has its own section on literature and investigation with a good writing point. While other newspaper focuses on only incidents, affairs and events, this newspaper along with information also focuses weekly literature discussion and publishes story and poems.

Chapter 2

Methodology:

This study is based on analyzing five selected newspapers of Bangladesh and Robaet Ferdous's published book "Gonomadhyom O Adibashi" (Media and Indigenous People).

In a view to collect primary data, a reconnaissance observation of the reports that was published from 17th July to 31st July 2020, at the preliminary stage and it found that indigenous people reports publishes from minority view of media. Rather than showing important crisis, the reports often focuses on the culture, works and surface information. So, in the second phase, a semi-structured questionnaire survey was conducted with three media personalities two are indigenous Sanjeeb Drong and Theophil Nisharon Nokrek and one is non indigenous Philip Gain. The part of the questionnaire consists of questions regarding the media coverage experiences of the respondents and district wise coverage opinion. Response was in favor of 'more hill tracts coverage' but the findings of recent reports was based on 'Plain areas'. In order to enrich the database, data have been incorporated through formal and informal interviews, books and internet research. Moreover, it would be more substantiated if the field visits were possible but due to pandemic situation research carries findings in below.

Case Study:

On the question of "How well media people participates for covering an incident regarding indigenous people?"

Theophil Nisharon Nokrek, Director of Caritas Bangladesh replied "Media representatives does not always co-operate. We had to bring them by renting a car by ourselves and they also demanded money for publishing the news during incident happened in Modhupur. But some

media personalities are not like them. They search information genuinely.”

Activist Sanjeeb Drong was partially agreed with Theophil Nokrek, saying “Mr. Theophil is not wrong from his perspective but on the other side wages of district representative of a media industry are quite low. They also need to make living. It is not the main fact.” Pointing the recent media story hassle, he added “audience grabs the news whatever is sensual to them. Media tries to move with the flows that is capturing audience’s attention. It has become a business and competition now. Often people don’t care about intellectual crisis things. That is the reason why indigenous news gets less attention. But media people are not only at the fault, our people also likes to stay low. They don’t want media attention, interaction with outsiders. That is one of the reason why many incidents don’t get covered by media”

“As Chittagong is only hill tract of the country, most indigenous issues of the hill tracts gets priority over plain land” Theophil Nokrek said. Sanjeeb Drong added “Continuously indigenous people’s lands are illegally possessed by Bangalis or the area’s powerful elite person who is also non indigenous. Even though there are rules that land that belongs to indigenous person, cannot be sold to a Bengali. They have to get permission from tribal welfare and after that D.C confirms the land disposal. No media has ever focused on this matter.”

“Several research happened on indigenous people on their crisis and issues. Often news room editors select the news that to publish or not but The Daily Star always publishes my reports” said Philip Gain.

Chapter 3

Presentation and Analysis of Information Obtained from Observation On Newspaper Report: Weekly

The Daily Star

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
1st week news analysis
(17th July to 24th July 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports	Picture and caption
-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-

Thematic Classification of News:

On the first week, observation found no news coverage on special issues concerned to indigenous people but a fashion portrayed article on “Tenzing Chakma”.

Politics- Law-Peace Agreement	Land issues- Land Rights	NGO-Public Administration- Development- Environment	Language- Literacy- Culture- Work	Crime
-	-	-	01	-

Territorial Classification: (Hill v/s Plain or None)

As the article concerned creative work and focused on the designer, it can be described as neither of hill or plain concerned issues.

Hill Tract	Plain	None
-	-	01

News Treatment:

The only Article of the week was published on The Daily Star's "Star Lifestyle" Section's last page. The article was covered whole space of the last page. Catalogue article was covering on one of the accomplished designer Tenzing Chakma's creative work on various Kurtis. The feature's picture was also modeled by indigenous girls.

The Daily Star

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
2nd week news analysis
(24th July to 31st July 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports	News with Picture
-	01	-	01	-	-	01	-

Thematic Classification of News:

Politics-Law-Peace Agreement	Land issues-Land Rights	NGO-Public Administration-Development-Environment	Language-Literacy-Culture-Work	Crime
01	-	-	02	-

According to the classification of news published on the indigenous issues in 24th to 31st July 2020, one report was on Politics-Law-Peace Agreement and other two reports were on Language-Literacy-Culture-Work.

Territorial Classification: (Hill Tract v/s Plain or None)

Three published news were on plain district based.

Hill Tract	Plain	None
-	03	-

Division of News by District:

Among the three news of the 2nd week the mentioned plain districts were Moulobhazar and Kalsindur. Instead of district based news, the other one was published as indigenous based.

Moulobhazar	Kalsindur	Sylhet
01	01	01

News Treatment:

Front Page	Last Page	Middle Page
-	-	03

All the three reports that published on indigenous issues were found in inside pages and received treatment in column 4 and 5.

News Analysis:

Interpretive News: The interpretive News of 28th July, 2020 was published on how indigenous peoples are deprived from national budget allocation. The report showed, the national budget is regularly ambiguous regarding allocating separate and specific shares to indigenous people. Specially to plain land indigenous one. Even though

often a small portion of money for development of indigenous people of the plain lands are allocated under the Development Assistance for Special Area (except CHT) project, but recent details of the project shows the budget did not reach to plain land and most of the fund ended up going to non-indigenous people. However, being the only mountainous area of the country Chittagong Hill Tracts are protected by the constitution. That is why, certain paradox exists in these hill tract area. The report was written by indigenous rights activist and project coordinator of Kapeeng Foundation Khokon Suiten Murmu along with a picture of large portion of tea workers captured by the famous Philip Gain.

Feature: 29th July, 2020's writing on indigenous issue focused on Monipuri Weavers. One of the indigenous community of Bangladesh, who earns their bread and butter by carrying on a uniquely exquisite art of weaving. Due to recent pandemic situation, weavers are facing economical disaster on their daily earnings as the wholesale business goes empty of customers but the store rent, electricity bills and other expenses are piling up. The news was covered by some weaver's interview along with a photo by The Daily Star Correspondent of Moulobhazar.

Sports News: Another wave hit by corona virus was on sports section. Kalsindur's Garo Indigenous girls are famous as football players. The pandemic caused upend on the plans of these athletes. The Daily Star concerned enough to publish a report on them. On the report of 31st July, 2020 published the whammy on Kalsindur girls. Though the whole report was on the football team but the team also consist some indigenous girls. The report focused on how the girls are dealing with the pandemic. From the practice to mental situation as Kalsindur is a village not a city, indeed there are more suffering exists. The report was by non-indigenous reporter.

First Week's Report

The Daily Star

I think we have had enough of red, orange and fuchsia already! The summer heat somehow exaggerates the bright colours and turns them into a nauseating mix. The bright red pops out like a dent in the car, and the only way to remain subtle and restrained, inclines towards the whites. But aren't those already worn, tested and faded out? What if you are in the mood for experimenting?

Star Lifestyle might just have the befitting solution for you this Eid, with Tenzing Chakma's latest collection in fascinating greys.

Like to wear midis? Or experiment with fusion kurtis – the renowned designer encourages us to do all that and more. In pretty shades of bluish-grey. Checks have always been the designer's favourite pattern and this season, he indulges again to prove to the world that checks can look glamorous under any circumstances.

Some of you may wonder whether the collection is monotonous, because sometimes, these can be a bit boring. Well, in that case, good news! Tenzing Chakma brings about a mix of colours to play with the basic grey. An undertone of red and orange is visible here and there, to make the designs even more attractive.

As always, Tenzing usually suggests the designs be worn as a stand-alone piece, but you always have the option to mix and match. A long kurti, a close variant of the '90s midi, can be paired with white pants and colourful scarves.



It's safe to say that the summer collection by Tenzing Chakma are complete pieces on their own, but then again, if you wanted to add in your bit of flair to it, the options always remain open. So, have fun experimenting!

By Fashion Police
Models: Arpa, Riti, Upama, Anushka, Yashodhara
Wardrobe: Sozpodor By Tenzing Chakma
Photo: Hill Valley Production



LS CATALOGUE

The subtle greys



Second Week's Report:

The Daily Star

Budget allocations must target different indigenous populations specifically



THE indigenous peoples of Bangladesh welcome the Bangladesh government's commitment of additional funding to

combat the challenges in the Seventh Five Year Plan. However, the present budget lacks an exact and adequate allocation for both plain land and hill indigenous populations. More needs to be done to address promised special needs such as employment, mother tongue based education, non-farming opportunities, microcredit, vocational training, development of the tourism industry and more.

In Bangladesh, more than 54 indigenous communities live both in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as well as the plains, along with the majority Bengali population. According to the 2011 census, the country's indigenous population is approximately 1,586,141—the number is almost two percent of the total population in Bangladesh. However, indigenous peoples claim that their population is three to five million, according to a thematic strategy paper titled "Rights of the Ethnic People (Indigenous Peoples)" from Manusher Jonno Foundation in 2018. According to the Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, an apex organisation of the indigenous peoples of the country, the estimated population of plain land indigenous people (who are not based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts) is likely to be more than two million. This lack of disaggregated data and geographical mapping is one of the main obstacles to the allocation of a proportionate budget for indigenous peoples.

The national budget is regularly ambiguous regarding allocating separate and specific shares to indigenous peoples, even though they belong to the most disadvantaged sections of society and face multiple challenges that are economic, cultural, social and political. The poverty rate of indigenous peoples is 80 percent

in the plain land areas, whereas the national poverty rate is around 23 percent, as detailed in a World Bank Group Household Income and Expenditure Survey from October 2016. However, in the government declared Tk 5,68,000 crore budget for fiscal year 2020-21, there is no exact allocation for plain land indigenous peoples and their development.

At the moment, the coronavirus

Plain land indigenous peoples also have no separate ministry for budget allocation. As a result, no special scheme has been introduced by the government for boosting their economic activities and lifting up those who are the furthest behind. Often, a small portion of money for development of indigenous peoples of the plain lands are allocated under the Development Assistance for

most of this development assistance ended up going to non-indigenous peoples. While this non-indigenous population also needed the assistance, without targeted interventions of plain land indigenous peoples, they are likely to be pushed further into poverty as a result.

In the case of indigenous peoples from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), there are certain paradoxes

legal systems administered by both traditional leaders (circle chiefs, headmen and karbaris) and the state officials in the CHT are protected by the Constitution. There are laws in the country that do not apply to this region and there are some laws that apply only to the CHT—The CHT Regulation of 1900 (also known as the CHT Manual) is the most important legal instrument that is applicable only to the CHT. The CHT Regional Council is supposed to be the coordinating and supervising authority over the hill district councils, local government and the CHT Development Board, as well as all development activities and customary laws, among other things.

Nevertheless, the fund allotted for the CHT is under the the Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA), and this framework undermines the power of the CHT Regional Council—these different layers of administration and power structures are explained in detail in *Survival on the Fringe: Adivasis of Bangladesh*, a book edited by Philip Gain. In the fiscal year 2020-21, the proposed budget for MoCHTA is Tk 1,235 crore—however, there is no explanation of exactly how much of this budget is allotted for indigenous peoples specifically. All the legal administration, including the CHT Regional Council, must look to the MoCHTA for allotments from the budget, which takes away the authority to make decisions from the indigenous peoples in the CHT.

Indigenous peoples are culturally distinct societies and communities. Although they make up six percent of the global population, they account for about 15 percent of the extreme poor across the world. In Bangladesh, indigenous people are one of the major groups that require immediate attention and coordinated actions to minimise the socio-economic gap with the mainstream. Therefore, exact and adequate allotment of funds for indigenous peoples in the national budget is a necessity, and would be a new paradigm in Bangladesh.

Khokon Sulten Murmu is an indigenous rights activist and Project Coordinator (ESDRH) of Kapoenj Foundation.
Email: kamsamsuj@gmail.com



A large portion of tea workers in Bangladesh hail from plain land indigenous populations.

PHOTO: PHELIP GAIN

pandemic is another life-threatening risk for indigenous people in these regions. Besides, the unofficial lockdown has also impacted a large portion of indigenous peoples working in the informal sector, such as daily wage earners and migrant labourers. In terms of hardcore poverty, which is a subset of absolute poverty, the rate for overall rural Bangladesh is 17.9 percent, whereas for plain land indigenous peoples, the rate is about 25 percent, according to a research paper from the Bangladesh Economic Association.

Special Area (except CHT) project. However, recent details of this project fund allocation seems to show that the budget did not reach plain land indigenous peoples as expected. For example, in the fiscal year 2019-20, Tk 171 lakh was distributed from an allotted Tk 50 crore under nine upazilas—Tungipara, Kotalipara, Rajbari Sadar, Pangsa, Kalukhali, Baliakandi, Sakhipur, Faridpur Sadar and Pakundia. Regrettably, these nine upazilas are not areas with high concentrations of indigenous populations of the plain land, and

in the budget allocation as well. The CHT spans almost 5,093 square miles and is a unique territory, being the only mountainous area in the country, and home to one-third of the total indigenous population. The poverty rate of indigenous peoples is 65 percent in CHT, whereas the national poverty rate is around 23 percent, according to the 2016 World Bank Group survey. In CHT, the indigenous peoples often face difficulties such as unemployment, education, lack of health and infrastructure, etc.

The customary laws and unique

Monipuri weavers feeling the fury of Covid-19

Our Correspondent, Moulvibazar

The coronavirus pandemic over the past few months has dealt a severe blow to the people of lower income group, especially the artisans in different trades.

The Monipuri weavers of Sylhet region are no different.

The Monipuris are an indigenous community that carries on a uniquely exquisite art of weaving – their bread and butter that has been passed down for generations. Monipuri saris, shawls, scarves, three-piece cloth for women and bed sheets are a few of the merchandise that are usually high in demand.

Since most of their sales, including that of women's clothing, their best-seller, peak during the two Eids, the Monipuris invest all their energy and savings in making new merchandise ahead of these two festivities.

All of their investment was wiped out last Eid when social distancing rules were being enforced to rein in the virus. Later, the Monipuris had their hopes up once again as the restrictions were eventually withdrawn or relaxed nearly a month before the Eid-ul-Azha – the second of the largest two festivities celebrated by Muslims.

Unfortunately, with the Eid day just around the corner, the weavers did not see their sales pick up to the extent that would enable them to stand back on their feet and look forward to a better future.

In Sylhet city there are more than 100 large wholesale stores that carry Monipuri woven items. With the largest wholesale market being located in Bandarbar area, many of the



A weaver using a handloom to make a traditional Monipuri sari in Moulvibazar recently.

PHOTO: HENTU DESHIWARA

wholesale stores are in Lamabazar, Zindabazar, Tilghat, Chmwhatta and Ambarchatta areas of the city.

Many Monipuris also sell their merchandise directly from their houses in Lamabazar and Mashimpur in Sylhet city and Kamalganj and Sreemangal upazilas in Moulvibazar.

While visiting Monipuri clothing markets in Adampur and Madhabpur areas of Kamalganj and Radhanagar of Sreemangal recently, this correspondent found half of the stores shuttered.

During normal times, these markets are usually swarming with shoppers, with hardly any personal space between

one another. But this time, there were only a few people around and not much noticeable business transactions were going on at the handful of the stores that were open for business.

Monipuri clothing trader Mithun Singha from Sreemangal's Radhanagar area, said, "I had a wholesale clothing

store in Sreemangal town. I haven't been able to sell any of the clothes in the past few months. But the store rent, electricity bills and other expenses kept piling up. So I had to let go of the store this month. Burdened by the debts over my shoulder, I can't sleep at night now." Weaver Shilpi Devi, a resident of

Adampur in Kamalganj upazila, said the items Monipuri weavers make usually sell for good prices at local markets and they usually keep busy making those round the clock.

"Monipuri saris are more popular with young women including the newly-weds. But lately, sales have been poor due to the coronavirus," she also said.

"Wholesale buyers are not turning up amid the fear of Covid-19. So I'm selling the items at lower prices to any customer I can find," said Ranjita Debi, another weaver in Lamabazar area of Sylhet city.

"Over a thousand Monipuri saris used to sell all throughout the year and quite a good number used to be exported to the UK, but with sales falling almost to none, we are now living on empty pockets."

While speaking with this correspondent, many of the weavers including Anjali Sinha, from Adampur in Kamalganj, said after Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, they took loans to make new products, targeting the Eid shoppers. But they now fear losing all the investment as sales did not pick up as much as they had hoped for.

Contacted, Barkat Ullah, liaison officer of Bangladeshi Handloom Board (BHB) in Kamalganj, said, considering the present scenario, BHB has reduced interest rate on their loan, packaged for Monipuri weavers, to 5 per cent from the previous rate of 10 per cent.

The loan repayment period has also been extended and loan conditions relaxed, with maximum loan amount set to as high as Tk 2 lakh for the Monipuri weavers, he added.



The former assistant teacher of a nondescript primary school in remote Kalsindur village at the foot of the Garo hills, Mofiz Uddin, who coached the institution to a hatrick of titles in the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup from 2013 to 2015, poses with the students (L) while budding footballers of the famed village of Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh have been confined to practising in their courtyards amid the pandemic.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Double whammy for Kalsindur girls

AMINUL ISLAM from Mymensingh



Budding footballers of the famed Kalsindur village of the Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh have been confined to practising in their courtyards after a double whammy; the coronavirus pandemic paired with flash floods.

The young girls, some of whom have represented the national team at age level and others hoping to emulate that feat, have been left with little to survive with, let alone play football.

According to Kalsindur Govt School and College principal Mala Rani Sarker, the village currently boasts around 50 active female footballers. 14 play for age-level national teams or the women's national team. The rest ply their trade in local and district competitions.

"As Kalsindur has earned name and fame from football throughout the country and abroad, we are trying to produce more football talents through our limited efforts", Mala told this correspondent.

But the past four months have been

very difficult. Mala claimed that these girls did not get any support from official quarters, adding that she and her peers, with assistance from some affluent people, arranged relief materials for 40 girls before Eid-ul-Fitr.

But with another Eid knocking on the door and floods exacerbating the situation, financial assistance is paramount for the girls and their families.

Mohammad Iuel Rana, coach of the Kalsindur girls' football team, said it was becoming increasingly difficult to continue coaching. The young man gets only Tk 5000 as a monthly honorarium from the school and it is only due to his devotion to the game that he is continuing, he claimed.

Unfortunately, the current crisis is not the first setback to the fertile breeding ground for footballers. The village's primary school, which produced famed players such as Sanjida Akter, Tahura Khatun, Maria Manda, Sajeda Akter, Shamsunnahar Sr and Shamsunnahar Jr, saw football activities cease completely in 2018 due to a row over the credit for these players' success.

According to local sources said, the row

started in 2016 between Kalsindur Govt Primary School and Kalsindur Govt School and College over credit for the success.

Mofiz Uddin -- a former assistant teacher of the primary school who had coached the institution to a hatrick of titles in the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup from 2013 to 2015 -- was eventually transferred to another school and football activities at the primary school were stopped. The consequence for the schools from the famed football village was failure at the national level.

Despite all that, there are several players from that successful period who are very much part of the national team set up.

Sanjida is such an example, having graduated from the primary school well before the infamous row and claiming a regular place in the national team. She is nurtured and trained by the BFF along with 40-plus others round-the-year.

"I want to improve my performance and I dream of playing in the Club World Cup one day", the 19-year-old midfielder said.

But her plans have been upended and she is now training at home. Sanjida was

playing for Bashundhara Kings in the long-awaited women's football league in mid-March when the pandemic broke out, forcing the BFF to halt the league.

Having been away from the game for four months, Sanjida is trying her best to maintain fitness by following BFF coach Golam Rabbani Choton's instructions, which she receives online.

Like Sanjida, Shamsunnahar Jr, captain of the under-15 national women's team, is training at home and sends footage to the BFF every week for further instructions.

"I suffered huge mental pressure when I lost my mother when I was a fifth-grader. But I want to do well in football and lead a decent life with my siblings and ailing father," Shamsunnahar said.

Both Sanjida and Shamsunnahar know online instructions and individual drills are a far cry from the experience they garner from BFF camps or competitive matches, domestic or international.

They know their current test is navigating through this situation, but once the twin crises are over, their skills and fitness will face a much sterner test.

Daily Prothom Alo

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
1st week news analysis
(17th July to 24th July 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports
-	-	-	01	-	-	-

Thematic Classification of News:

The report published on this week was an inspirational feature on ‘Amit Chakma’ the Vice-Chancellor of Western Australia University. The feature was written by ‘Amit Chakma’ himself.

Politics-Law-Peace Agreement	Land issues-Land Rights	NGO-Public Administration-Development-Environment	Language-Literacy-Culture-Work	Crime	Others
-	-	-	-	-	01

Territorial Classification: (Hill Tract v/s Plain or None):

Hill Tract	Plain	None
01	-	-

Division of News by District:

Amit Chakma was mentioned born in Rangamati district. The district name was only written once in the feature in intro section.

News Treatment:

Front Page	Last Page	Middle Page
-	-	01

The feature published on a middle page with the treatment of 2 columns.

News Analysis:

In “**The way I learned to give importance to hard work**” titled and along with the photo of the writer, focused on sharing his thoughts on education, value and future plans among youth. He shared his childhood inspiration, struggles and journey towards success. As the writer voluntarily wrote for youth, the feature presents no indigenous issues. Instead of ponderous something the feature was an inspirational piece.

Daily Prothom Alo

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
2nd week news analysis
(24th July to 31st July 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports
-	01	-	-	-	-	-

Thematic Classification of News:

Following report focuses, Indigenous people's ability of getting less infected by Covid-19 disease. While the specific research places were found several patients died but there were less record of Covid-19 deaths among indigenous people.

Politics-Law-Peace Agreement	Land issues-Land Rights	NGO-Public Administration-Development-Environment	Language-Literacy-Culture-Work	Crime
-	-	01	-	-

Territorial Classification: (Hill Tract v/s Plain or None):

The report statistic was based on both CHT (Chittagong) districts and plain lands. So, the report consisted on overall count among indigenous people.

Hill Tract	Plain	Both	None
-	-	01	-

News Treatment:

Front Page	Last Page	Middle Page
-	-	01

The report published on 3rd page of the print media with treatment of 3 columns.

News Analysis:

During the corona virus situation, indigenous people were found less affected by the virus and less death toll according to the report. Prothom Alo representatives took a data analysis on indigenous people on the place these peoples are found. 26th July, 2020's "**Infection are lower among Minor Ethnic Group**" without a photo reveals, representatives did a data research on 12 upazila where indigenous peoples are found relatively high. The statistics showed that, people belong in 6 upazila of 6 districts didn't get affected whereas 6 upazila of 4 districts got affected but in a less portion than Bangalis.

Philip Gain said on the report that "Their behavior, habits are different than mainstream population. They are comfortable in home and likes to stay alone. Comes to the market less. These maybe the reason why the infection has been seen less in them.

Mundas live in Jaipurhat district's Panchbibi Upazila. They have a small organization named "Pamdo". Pamdo's chief executive said "Munda less interacts with outsiders, that is why they didn't get infected". On the other hand, Moulobhazar's Kamalganj and Sreemangal Upazila's Khasi and Mandi people closed the entrance gate soon after the lockdown was announced. They stopped betel leaf sellers from coming inside and instead they sell betel leaf outside of 'Paanpunji'.

The only Hill Tract of Bangladesh where more than 10 indigenous communities live, were also found less infected natives. According to the count in Bandarban, 338 people infected of which 280 people are Bangali and 98 people are indigenous.

The report also included reasons behind indigenous people are less infected informed by Physician in charge of Covid-19 at Bandarban district Civil Surgeon office Taohida Aktar "Having a strict lifestyle and their food habit can be one of a reason. Also they are accustomed to a society where it is natural to maintain social distance. These are the possible causes of low infection."

2nd Week's Report

ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তার মধ্যে সংক্রমণ কম

করোনা মোকাবিলা

বিভিন্ন ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তার মানুষের জীবনযাপন ভিন্ন ধরনের। তারা কীভাবে মহামারি মোকাবিলা করেছে, তা নিয়ে গবেষণা হওয়া দরকার।

শিগরি মোড়ল, ঢাকা

দেশে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর মধ্যে করোনা সংক্রমণ কম দেখা যাচ্ছে। কিছু এলাকায় প্রান্তিক এসব জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে কোনো সংক্রমণই দেখা যায়নি। যেখানে সংক্রমণ দেখা গেছে, সেখানে মৃত্যুর সংখ্যাও খুব কম। বিশেষজ্ঞরা বলছেন, কোনো কোনো জনগোষ্ঠী কীভাবে নিজেদের রক্ষা করল, তা নিয়ে গবেষণা হওয়া জরুরি।

ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর সংখ্যা তুলনামূলকভাবে বেশি, এমন ১২টি উপজেলায় করোনা সংক্রমণের তথ্য সংগ্রহ করেছেন প্রথম আলোর প্রতিনিধিরা। তাতে দেখা গেছে, ছয় জেলার ছয়টি উপজেলায় ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর কেউ করোনায় আক্রান্ত হননি। উপজেলাগুলো হচ্ছে পাঁচবিবি (জয়পুরহাট জেলা), নাগিতাবাড়ী (শেরপুর), মধুপুর (টাঙ্গাইল), ভালুকা (ময়মনসিংহ), কলমাকান্দা (নেত্রকোনা) ও গোদাগাড়ী (রাজশাহী)।

বাকি চার জেলার ছয়টি উপজেলায় ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর মধ্যে আক্রান্তের হার মূলধারার জনগোষ্ঠী কিংবা বাঙালিদের তুলনায় অনেক কম। এসব উপজেলা হচ্ছে কমলগঞ্জ ও শ্রীমঙ্গল (মৌলভীবাজার জেলা), বান্দরবান সদর (বান্দরবান), রাজমাটি সদর (রাজমাটি), কাগুড়ি (রাজমাটি) এবং খাগড়াছড়ি সদর (খাগড়াছড়ি)।

সরকারের রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগনিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানের (আইইডিসিআর) সাবেক প্রধান বৈজ্ঞানিক কর্মকর্তা মুশতাক হোসেন প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, 'আমাদের দেশের ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলো হয়তো নিজেদের মতো করে একটা নিরাপত্তাবলয় তৈরি করে নিজেদের সুরক্ষিত রাখতে পেরেছে। কিন্তু এতে আত্মতৃষ্ণিতে ভোগার সুযোগ নেই। কারণ, রাজিদের আমাজন এলাকার আদিবাসীদের মধ্যে একসময় সংক্রমণ কম থাকলেও এখন তা ব্যাপক আকারে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে।'

সরকারি হিসাবে দেশে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা আছে ৫০টি, যা দেশের মোট জনসংখ্যার প্রায় ২ শতাংশ। এরা সারা দেশে ছড়িয়ে-ছিটিয়ে আছে। তারপরও পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম, দেশের উত্তর-পূর্বাঞ্চল এবং উত্তরবঙ্গের জেলাগুলোতে এদের বসতি বেশি।

তিন দশকের বেশি এসব জনগোষ্ঠী নিয়ে কাজ করছেন বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠান সোসাইটি ফর এনভায়রনমেন্ট অ্যান্ড হিউম্যান ডেভেলপমেন্টের

■ সরকারি হিসাবে দেশে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা আছে ৫০টি, যা দেশের মোট জনসংখ্যার প্রায় ২ শতাংশ।

■ বাইরের কেউ ঢুকতে পারবে না, ভেতরের কেউ বাইরে যেতে পারবে না-এ নীতি তাঁরা কঠোরভাবে অনুসরণ করেছেন।

নির্বাহী পরিচালক ফিলিপ গাইন। তিনি প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, এদের আচার-আচরণ, অভ্যাস মূলধারার জনগোষ্ঠীর চেয়ে আলাদা। এরা ঘরমুখী, নিরিবিবি থাকতেই বেশি স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য বোধ করে। বাজারঘাটে কম আসে। এসব কারণেই হয়তো এদের মধ্যে সংক্রমণ কম দেখা গেছে।

কেউ আক্রান্ত হননি

উত্তরের জেলা জয়পুরহাটের পাঁচবিবি উপজেলায় মুন্ডারা বাস করে। মুন্ডারের ছোট একটি সংগঠনের নাম পামাজে-এর নির্বাহী প্রধান হৈমন্তী সরকার বলেন, মুন্ডারা 'বাইরের লোকজনের' সঙ্গে খুব একটা মেলামেশা করে না বলে তাদের মধ্যে সংক্রমণ দেখা দেয়নি।

সরকারি কর্মকর্তাদের হিসাবে পাঁচবিবি উপজেলার জনসংখ্যা ২ লাখ ৪০ হাজার ৭৯৭ জন। এর মধ্যে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা ১১ শতাংশ। উপজেলায় এ পর্যন্ত ১০৪ জন করোনা রোগী শনাক্ত হয়েছে। এর মধ্যে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর কেউ নেই।

দেশের যেসব জায়গায় করোনা সংক্রমণ বেশি হয়েছে, গাজীপুর তার অন্যতম। গাজীপুরের কয়েক কিলোমিটার উত্তরে ময়মনসিংহ জেলার ভালুকা উপজেলা। এই উপজেলায় এখন পর্যন্ত ২৭৫ জন করোনায় আক্রান্ত হয়েছে। এখানে ১৩ হাজারের বেশি কোচ ও মান্দি বাস করলেও তাঁরা কেউ আক্রান্ত হননি বলে উপজেলা প্রশাসন জানিয়েছে।

আক্রান্ত, তবে কম

'বাইরের কেউ ভেতরে ঢুকতে পারবে না, ভেতরের কেউ বাইরে যেতে পারবে না—লকডাউনের এ নীতি আমরা শুরু থেকে কঠোরভাবে অনুসরণ করেছি। সম্ভবত সেই কারণে কোনো খ্রিস্টপুঞ্জির একজনও করোনায় আক্রান্ত হননি।' এ কথাগুলো ডাবলছড়া ও মাগুরছড়া পুঞ্জিপ্রধান পিডিশনপ্রধান সুচিয়াংয়ের।

মৌলভীবাজারের কমলগঞ্জ ও শ্রীমঙ্গল উপজেলায় প্রায় ১০ হাজার খ্রিস্ট বসবাস করে। সাধারণত উঁচু টিলার ওপর তাঁদের গ্রামগুলোকে পুঞ্জি বলা হয়। পান চাষ তাঁদের অন্যতম প্রধান জীবিকা। পিডিশনপ্রধান সুচিয়াং প্রথম আলোকে বলেন,

লকডাউনের ঘোষণা আসার পরপরই সব পুঞ্জির প্রবেশপথ বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়। পান ব্যবসায়ীদের ভেতরে ঢোকা বন্ধ করা হয়। পানপুঞ্জির বাইরে নিয়ে বিক্রি করা হয়। ঢাকা বা অন্য বড় শহর থেকে শিক্ষার্থী বা অন্য যারা এসেছিলেন, তাঁদের ১৪, ২১ ও ২৮ দিন গ্রামের বাইরে ঘর তৈরি করে রাখা হয়েছিল।

এ দুই উপজেলায় মণিপুরীদের বসবাস আছে। তা ছাড়া এখানকার চা-বাগানগুলোতে বেশ কয়েকটি ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তার মানুষ শ্রমিক হিসেবে কাজ করেন। কমলগঞ্জ উপজেলায় এ পর্যন্ত ৮৯ জন শনাক্ত হয়েছে। তাঁদের মধ্যে মণিপুরি ৪ জন ও চা-শ্রমিক ৩ জন। এ ছাড়া করোনা উপসর্গ নিয়ে ২ জন চা-শ্রমিক মারা গেছেন।

ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর একটি বড় অংশ বাস করে তিন পার্বত্য জেলায়—বান্দরবান, রাজমাটি ও খাগড়াছড়িতে। ঢাকমা, মারমা, ত্রিপুরা, লুসাই, কম, তঞ্চঙ্গ্যাসহ ১০টির বেশি ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা এ জেলাগুলোতে বসবাস করে। তিনটি জেলার সদর উপজেলাগুলোতে অর্থাৎ জেলা শহরে ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা ও বাঙালি জনসংখ্যার অনুপাত প্রায় সমান। কিন্তু আক্রান্তের সংখ্যা বাঙালি জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে বেশি বলে সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয় সূত্র জানিয়েছে। বান্দরবান সদরে আক্রান্ত হয়েছেন ৩৩৮ জন। তাদের মধ্যে ২৪০ জন বাঙালি ও ৯৮ জন পাহাড়ি।

বান্দরবান জেলা সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়ের করোনাবিষয়ক দায়িত্বে থাকা কর্মকর্তা চিকিৎসক তাওহিদা আক্তার প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, 'খাদ্যাভ্যাস ও কঠিন জীবনযাপনে অভ্যস্ত হওয়ার কারণে হয়তো ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলোর মানুষের মধ্যে রোগ প্রতিরোধক্ষমতা বেশি। এ ছাড়া তারা এমন সমাজব্যবস্থায় অভ্যস্ত, যেখানে স্বাভাবিকভাবে সামাজিক দূরত্ব বজায় রাখার বিষয়টি মেনে চলা হয়। এগুলোই সংক্রমণ কম হওয়ার সম্ভাব্য কারণ।'

রাজমাটি ও খাগড়াছড়ি সদরে আক্রান্ত হয়েছেন যথাক্রমে ৩৪০ জন ও ১৯০ জন। সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয় জানিয়েছে, এদের ৩০ থেকে ২০ শতাংশ ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তা। এ পর্যন্ত করোনায় আক্রান্ত হয়ে রাজমাটিতে ৮ জনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে। তাঁদের মধ্যে দুজন ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তার।

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের পাবলিক হেলথ অ্যাডভাইজারি কর্মিটির সদস্য আবু জামিল ফয়সাল প্রথম আলোকে বলেন, করোনাভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ নিয়ে বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে নানা ধরনের গবেষণা হচ্ছে। বিভিন্ন দেশে, ভিন্ন ভিন্ন জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে সংক্রমণের নানা ধরন দেখা যাচ্ছে। এ মহামারি মোকাবিলায় বাংলাদেশের ক্ষুদ্র জাতিসত্তাগুলো কী উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে, দেশের বৃহত্তর স্বার্থেই তা জানা দরকার।

(প্রতিবেদন তৈরিতে সহায়তা করেছেন জয়পুরহাট, শেরপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, ময়মনসিংহ, নেত্রকোনা, রাজশাহী, মৌলভীবাজার, বান্দরবান, রাজমাটি ও খাগড়াছড়ি প্রতিনিধি)

Daily Ittefaq

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
Weekly news analysis
(17th July to 31st July 2020)

Observation found no report on indigenous people in Daily Ittefaq during these 2 weeks.

Daily Samakal

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
1st week news analysis
(17th July to 24th July 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports
01	-	-	-	-	-	-

Thematic Classification of News:

Politics-Law-Peace	Land issues-	NGO-Public Administration-	Language-Literacy-	Crime
---------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------

Agreement	Land Rights	Development-Environment	Culture-Work	
-	01	-	-	-

On 6 November 2016, a conflict took place between Rangpur sugar mill labor, police and Santals for preventing santals for cutting sugarcane from the sugarcane farm that was claimed to be owned by ancestor of Santals. The report was on demanding justice of the event along with seven-point demand of Santals.

Territorial Classification: (Hill Tract v/s Plain or None):

Hill Tract	Plain	None
-	01	-

The report was covered on Santals of Gobindoganj, Gaibandha.

News Treatment:

Front Page	Last Page	Middle Page
-	-	01

The report got place on a corner with one column of the page 7.

News Analysis:

“Human Chain in Seven Demands including trial of Santal Murder” the report consisted surface news with no details of the seven demands. The human chain was covered following who participated and a speech of a speaker. It was presented as small report covering 1/3rd of the 1st column of the page and no picture was published as well.

During the conflict, 3 Santal people died by the gunshot of police.

Daily Janakantha

Presentation of information obtained from content analysis
(News and Opinion)

Indigenous News Coverage
1st week news analysis
(17th July to 24th July, 2020)

Variety of News:

Surface News	Interpretive News	Investigative News	Feature/Article	Editorial	Column	Sports
01	-	-	-	-	-	-

Thematic Classification of News:

Politics-Law-Peace Agreement	Land issues-Land Rights	NGO-Public Administration-Development-Environment	Language-Literacy-Culture-Work	Crime	Others
-	-	-	-	-	01

Territorial Classification: (Hill Tract v/s Plain or None):

Hill Tract	Plain	None
01 (Khagrachari)	-	-

News Treatment:

Front Page	Last Page	Middle Page
-	-	01

The report was very short. The page had 23 reports along with the indigenous report. Considering, 10 rows of 2nd column of the page.

News Analysis:

Headline titled as “Women in Khagrachari”. Report revealed that a Tripura women died undergoing treatment. She was seriously injured while trying to stop the fight of neighbor. The reporter didn’t try best for the headline, no picture was attached and neither the details was focused enough.

Chapter 4

Figures of 2 Week's Indigenous Reports in a Glance

The Daily Star (17th July-31st July,2020)

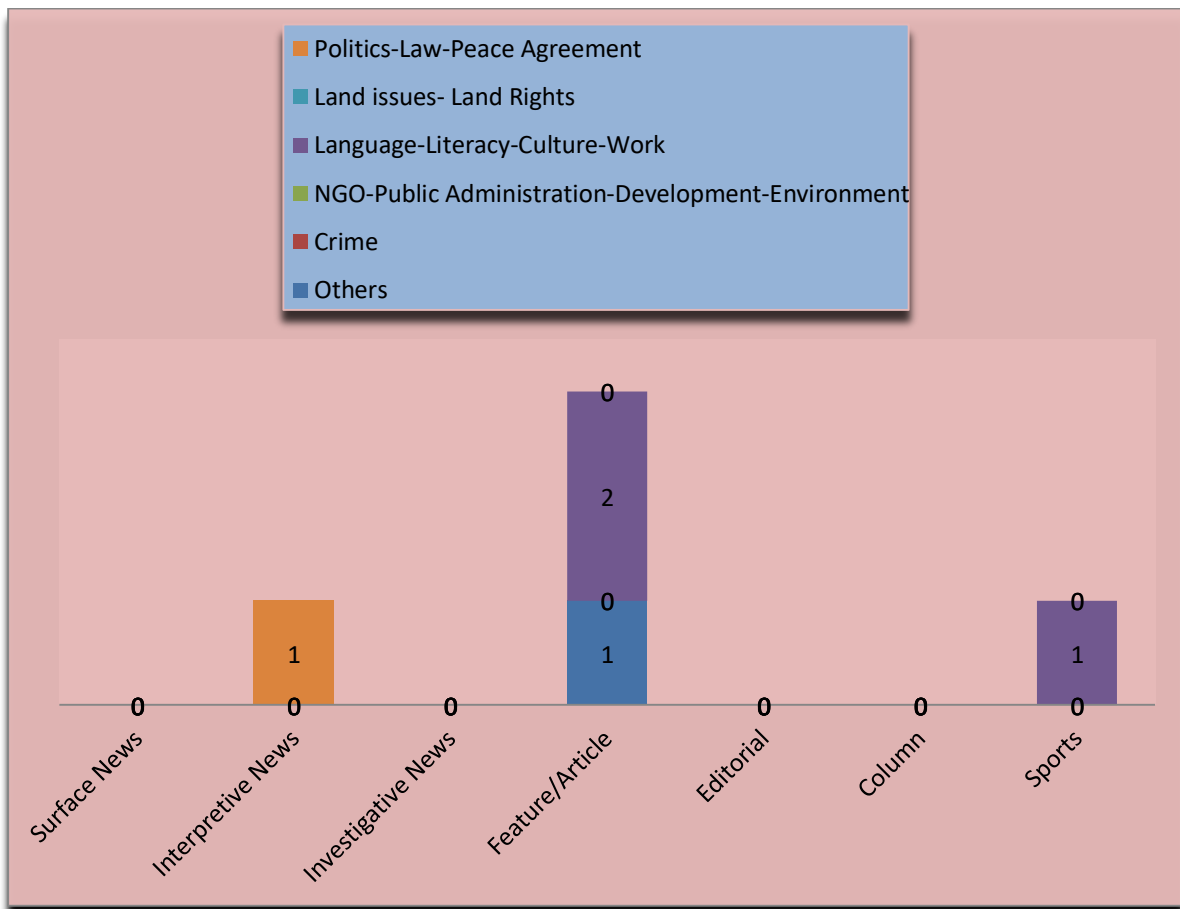


Figure 1

Daily Prothom Alo
(17th July-31st July, 2020)

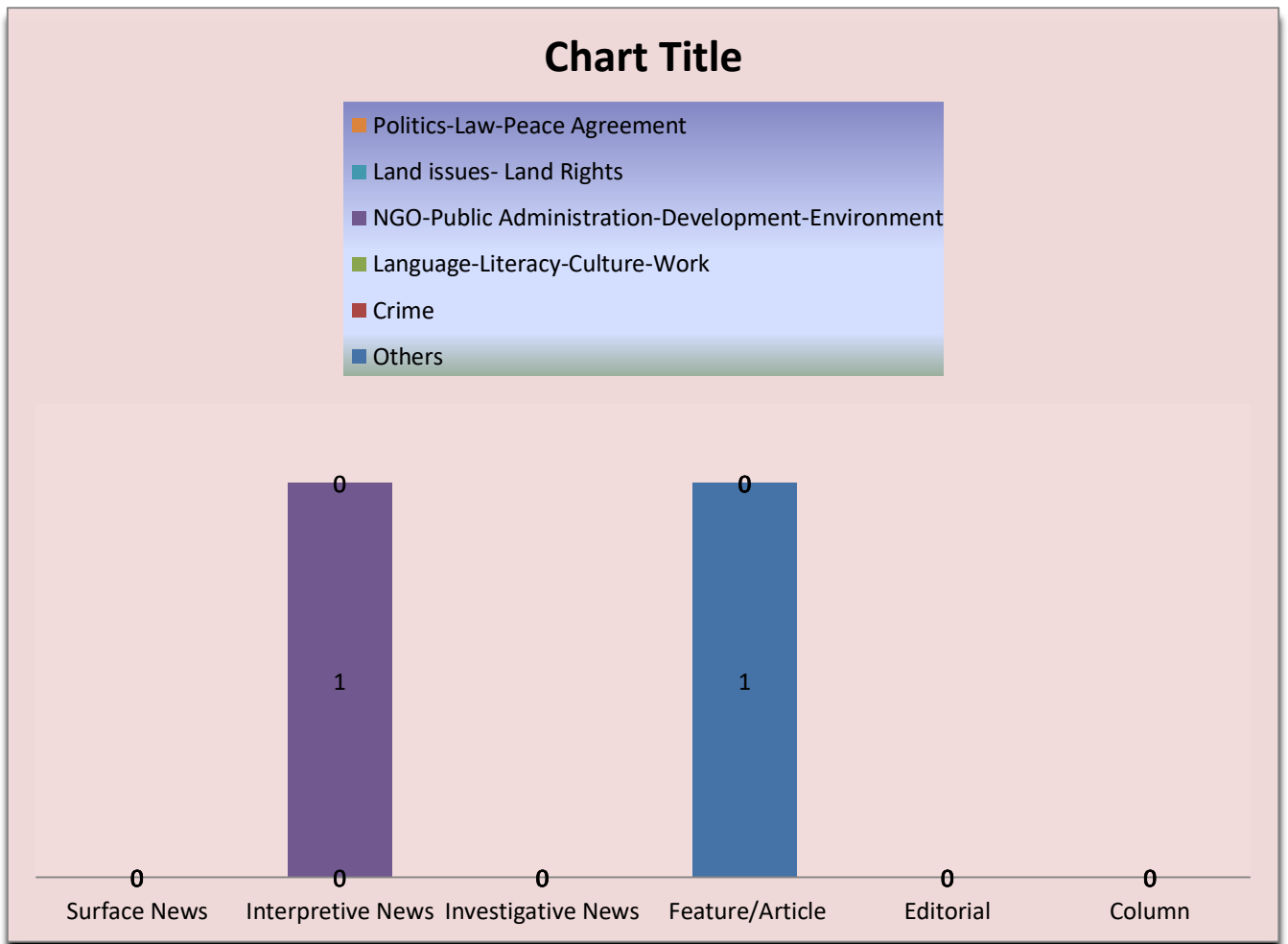


Figure 2

Daily Samakal

(17th July-31st July, 2020)

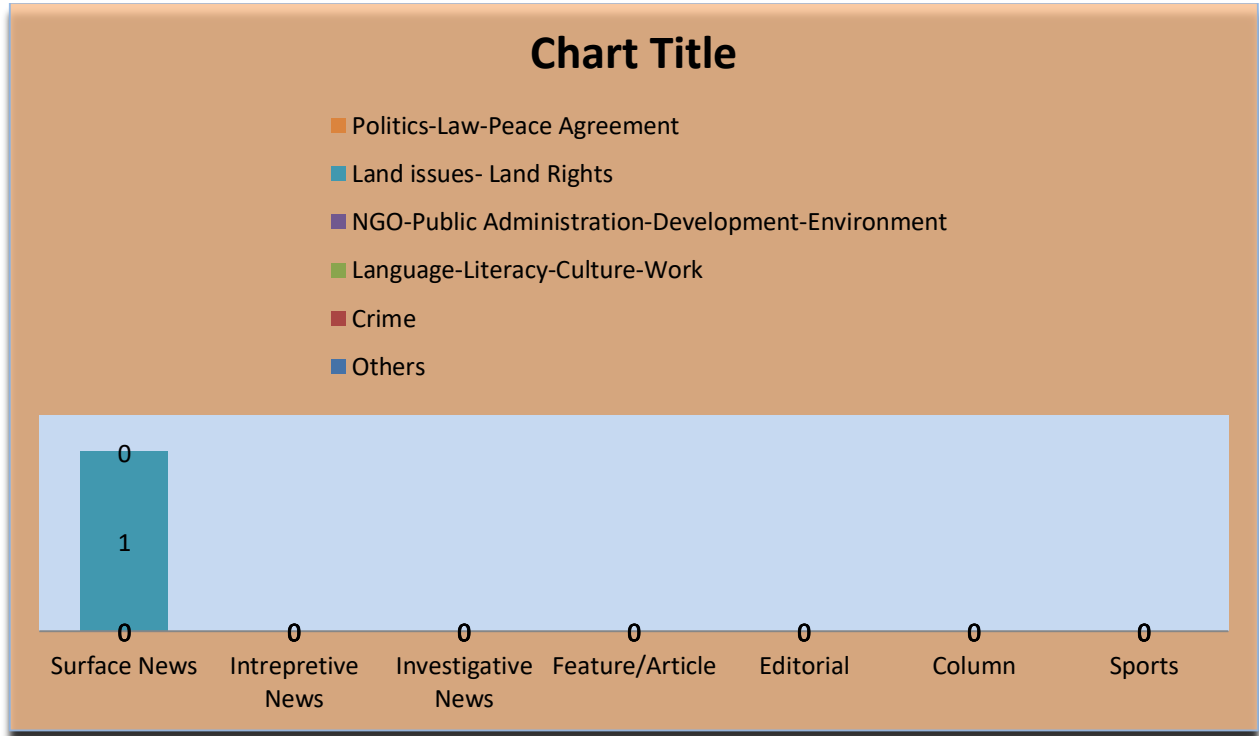


Figure 3

Daily Janakantha
(17th July-31st July, 2020)



Figure 4

Chapter 5

Analysis of Findings:

Bangladesh's mostly Print media is dominated by power, politics and influence of elite classes. Where the 'face and protocol values' are considered for news reports rather than the 'news values' of events, incidents or affairs. The ruling politically involved party usually gets importance in front page of the newspaper and after that the news regarding their perspective on which audience will get attracted the most. The news of indigenous people usually gets spaces in the middle of the pages. Festival's picture gets place in last pages but mostly their news comes in an article or a feature style. Unlike Television media, newspaper is a reading material with different sections of explicit limits. Some indigenous news publishes to "so-called balance" between the other news so that limit and balance of columns or row can be adjusted. But it is also bound to focus that some newspaper has daring journalists who no matter what writes and publishes the matter of the facts concerning people who actually need to get attentions in Opinion, Column or Feature part. That is the beauty of a newspaper.

Though in present days, indigenous peoples can be found in many sectors of the city even in the media sectors but most people still lives in hill tract and rural plain areas. The harsh truth of the fact is, Bangladesh's developing network still needs speed to reach out of them. The Daily Observer's journalist reveals that, representative from rural area earns less as a journalist. Monthly income happens to be around four to five thousand taka, Which is not enough to live a decent life but what benefit they do get by being a newspaper journalist is they can use their working card for various intensions including for building and developing their own businesses.

Certainly, news follows on wherever the attention goes. The findings showed, Daily Janakantha which is known for its involvement with political party 'Awami League', did not considered publishing

enough news on indigenous people. Some reports may publish but in a short report regarding small surface news. Rather it played role as the mouthpiece of the political party showing partiality to some of the identical faces of the significant political party leaders and their speeches, portraying bad images of BNP leaders. On the other hand, The Daily Star and Daily Prothom Alo published some concerned features, opinions and columns of indigenous people's suffering issues that partly involved with government and topic to be concerned. Also, there was no report found in Daily Ittefaq and Daily Samakal published a report with less detailed news.

Findings from the analysis of two weeks arise questions like why there are less reports concerning indigenous people when a large portion of them lives from the very beginning in Chittagong, Sylhet and Netrokona of Bangladesh? Newspapers only focuses on murder issues, cultural issues and festivals when there are lot more concerning things happening. The reason can be, less indigenous people's ability or opportunity working in mainstream media. According to Sanjeeb Drong the activist, "Indigenous people likes to stay in between their comfortable zone, not communicating with outsiders also district representative of certain media are not doing their jobs well. Every journalist finds a big scoop and we are still minors in their perspective. This is the reason why issues that concerns a community of a nation, stays unfind".

From the normative viewpoint, it is a social responsibility of the media to present issues, incidents, affairs and the facts that is happening around the world without being biased or corrupted for money. There are numerous matters happening in between indigenous people that needs to be published. For example: According to the law, Bangali people can't buy land from indigenous people without any permission from Tribal welfare. After getting sealed documents provided by Tribal Welfare, Area's DC approves the document by legislation. But in some places (mostly in plain lands) Bangalis are taking lands from indigenous people inappropriately or illegally. This facts needs to be come before the public. Education in their own mother tongue, poverty, subsistence,

unemployment etc should be portrayed in media. As the media is fourth estate of a country.

Conclusion:

Making sure other sensual news doesn't cover the present incident is the most needed one. Print media is a dying industry. Soon this industry might get vanished. But as the development grows print media might turn in to E-paper. Details and section stays the same, information gets elaborate and can be found and read comfortably through devices. Based on the aforementioned findings, it can be said that the media can't play its role independently due to political involvement and elite powerful intervention. But journalism requires revealing concerned topics that has deficiency of attention.

News Media ain't a business. People's attraction should not be center in case of publishing news around the world. Due to government restriction, linkage of dominant class, media can't perform investigate the corruption and malpractices. While the government announces through amendments indigenous people second class residents only who can speak up beside themselves are media people, who are considered eyes and mouth of a nation. When government mentions a developed country, this involves indigenous people also. Apart from the indigenous people are also citizen of a country, indigenous culture, behavior and existence does represent a country. There are several development needed in these communities which requires public attention to progress. As newspaper provides several sections and intellectual write ups, indigenous people must need to focused on.

It is not true that indigenous news doesn't get prioritize. There are certainly more news than before but reports concerning main crisis are not getting priority. Print media should see indigenous people as native not minority

References:

“Ganamadhyom O Adibashi” (Media and Indigenous) (2013) book by Robaet Ferdous

Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous People’s Forum

Theophil Nisharon Nokrek, Director of Caritas Bangladesh

Philip Gain, Director of Society for Environment and Human

file:///C:/Users/DOLPHIN/Downloads/ejnm_v02i2101.pdf
<https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/21277/DODSON-DISSERTATION-2013.pdf?sequence=1>

<file:///C:/Users/DOLPHIN/Desktop/Chelsy/4d030e5265e73cd8b0c07ed96d17952b4ccb.pdf>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/city/media-failing-indigenous-people-1618630>

https://books.google.com.bd/books?id=4FDqAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA124&lpg=PA124&dq=Sanjeeb+Drong+media+coverage&source=bl&ots=AJp7fPTeN9&sig=ACfU3U05KdGQHM_0ZeXfkqmKdJbLe4MkTA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjDheCVu8TqAhUFwzgGHWugD3EQ6AEwAnoECAoQAQ#v=onepage&q=Sanjeeb%20Drong%20media%20coverage&f=false