

State of the Marginalised Communities in Bangladesh, 2016

Sharing of Study Findings

Conducted by

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The Study Contexts

- Certain communities in Bangladesh are historically prone to exclusion that make them extremely vulnerable. At least 30 million marginalised people are living in Bangladesh with diverse categories, cultural identities, races and ethnicities.
- These groups are victims of rights violation such as violence, discrimination, vandalism, threats etc. They are also victims of hostile socio-political conditions.
- Their employment opportunities are limited, livelihoods are fragile and social identity and status is low.
- Institutions mandated to protect the rights of every citizens do not operate in the same way for them. Although, certain positive changes have occurred recently, their demands are often ignored by policy-makers, politicians and even by the mainstream populations.
- Women in this groups face additional marginalisation and have few recourses to access education, economic opportunities or justice.
- As the agenda of SDG's is "Leave No One Behind" Bangladesh will not be able to meet the SDG goals unless specific obstacles faced by marginalised communities are addressed.
- As an organisation supporting human rights and good governance, MJF is gathering evidence to highlight their socio-economic and human rights situation and bring to the attention of policy-makers, development partners and general public to influence policy formulation, planning and implementation.

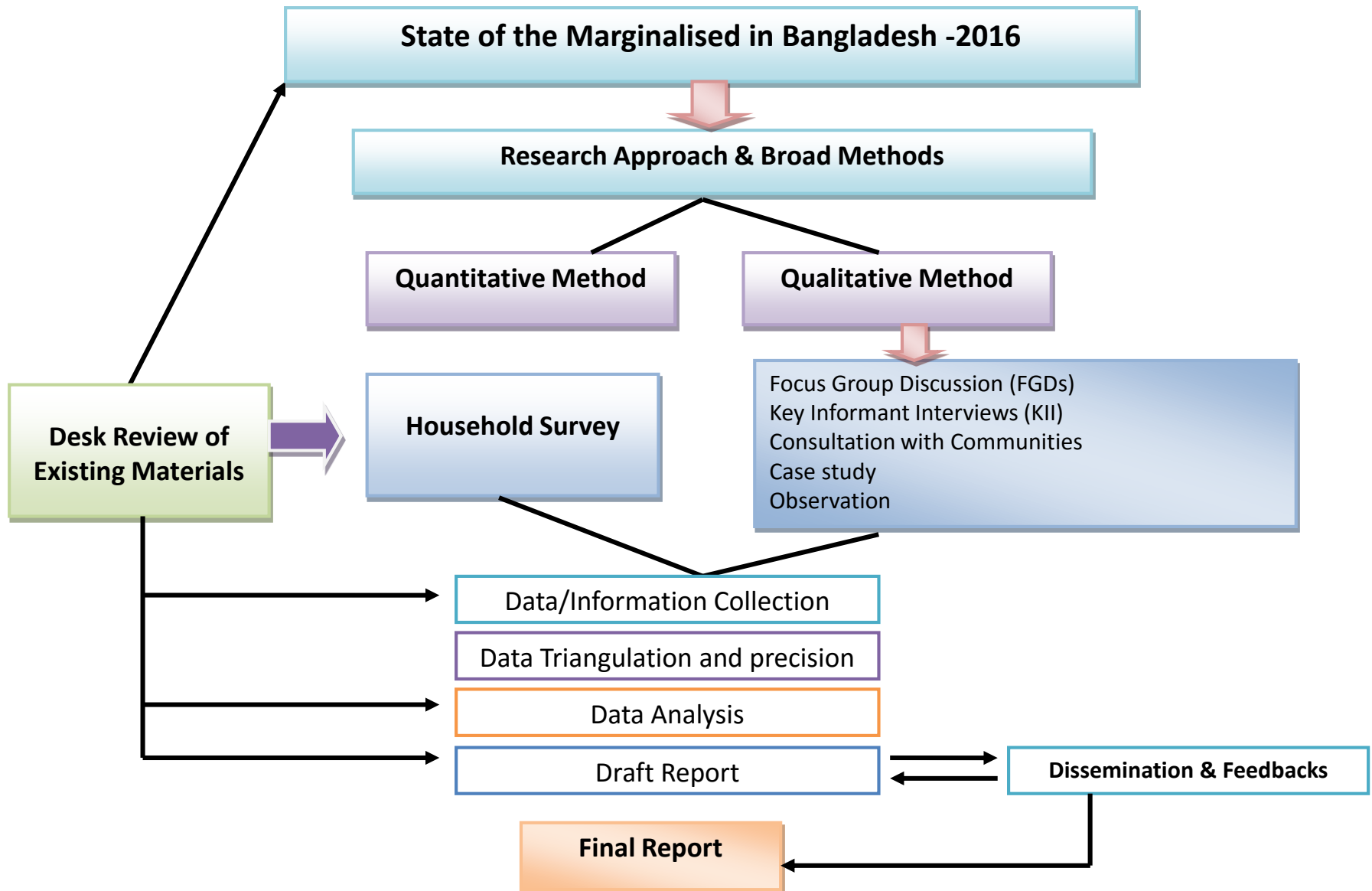
Objectives of the Study

Study Objectives:

- Conceptualising the issue of marginalisation with its diversity;
- Exploring the current economic social, cultural, political and human rights situation of certain marginalized communities in Bangladesh;
- Identifying magnitude of deprivation, discrimination and exclusion of marginalised communities in Bangladesh;
- Exploring determinant and manifestation of violence against marginalised communities; and
- Recommending strategic and policy options for improving security and enhanced rights of the marginalised communities.

Selected Communities, Sample Size, Selection Criteria and Sample Locations					
Types of Communities	Specific Communities	Sample Size		District	Selection Criteria
		Households	FGDs		
Hilly Adivasi (Local Ethnic)	Chakma	80	01	Rangamati	- Considering the diversity of the marginalized communities; - Mostly socially and culturally marginalized; - Representing both majority and minority of the respective communities; - Belong to the most deprived and excluded communities; - Considering the geographies diversity; and - Considering the special characteristics of some of the marginalized communities.
	Khyang	50	01	Rangamati	
	Khumi	50	01	Bandarban	
	BAWM	40	01	Bandarban	
	Marma	70	01	Khagrachari	
	Tripura	60	01	Khagrachari	
Plain Land Adivasi (Local Ethnic)	Garo	70	01	Netrokona	
	Santal	150	01	Rajshahi	
	Oran	80	01	Rangpur	
Dalit (Socio-occupational)	Horizan	100	01	Khulna	
	Rishi	100	01	Jessore	
	Kaiputra	100	01	Satkhira, Khulna	
Traditional Fisher Folk (Socio-occupational)	Traditional Fisher Folk	300	01	Magura, Gopalganj, Pabna	
Religious Minority (cultural)	Hindu & Christian	300	01	Chittagong, Gopalganj, Jessore	
Sex Workers (Socio-occupational)	Brothel Based Sex Workers	200	01	Tangail, Bagerhat, Jessore	
Person with Disabilities	Person with Disabilities	250	01	Sirajganj, Sylhet, Gazipur	
Total: 07	16	2000	18	18	

Methodology



Who are Marginalised: MJF Perspective

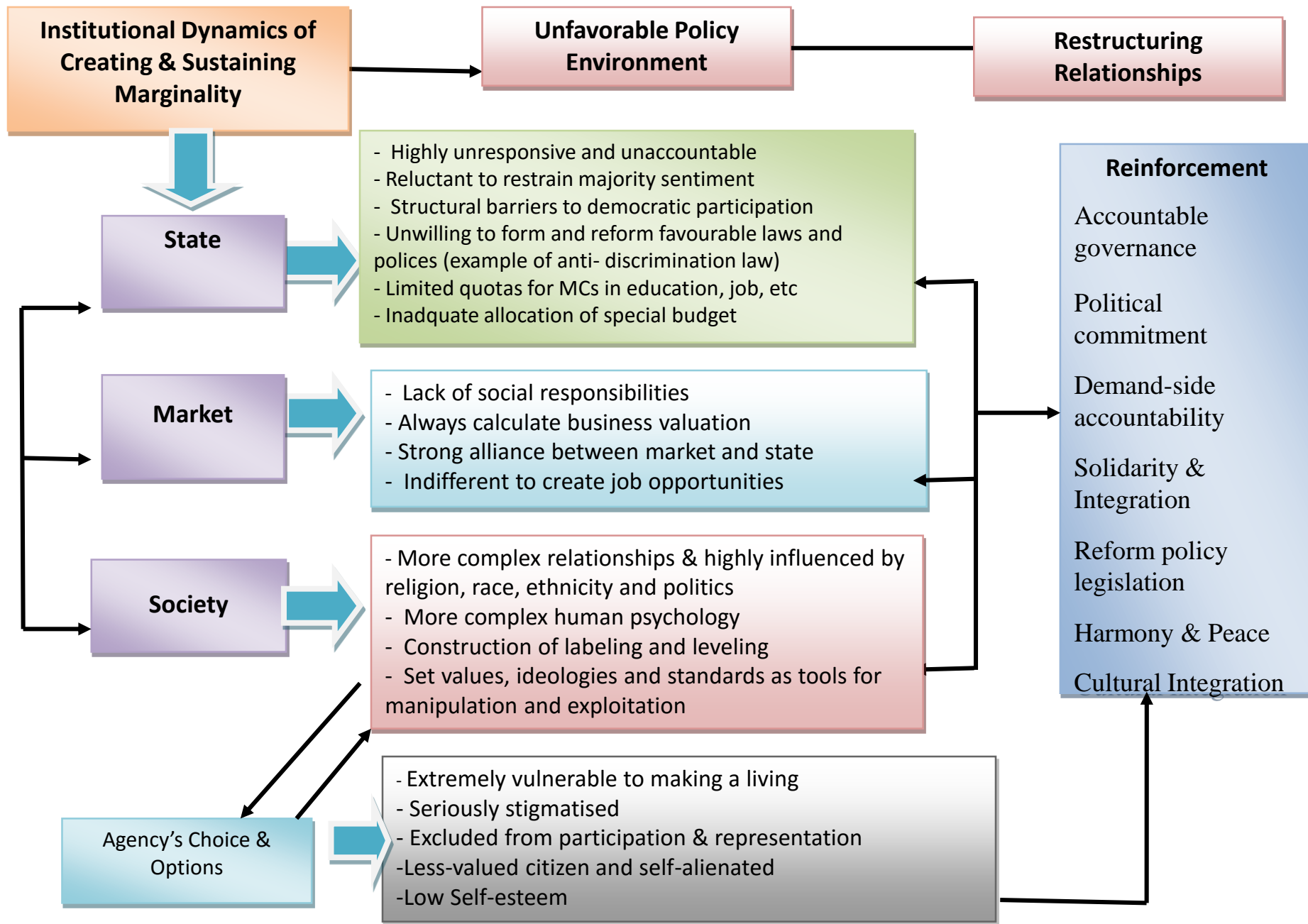
- MJF has adopted equality, inclusion and justice as core principles of its rights and governance programme.
- MJF believes that every citizen, including marginalised people, has right to life, freedom of speech, to participate in decision-making, to enjoy quality services, freedom of religion and cultural practices, which underpin and transform lives and enable to overcome poverty.
- In our country, marginalised people are excluded because of both entitlement failures (have rights but not able to get access) and governance failures (excluded because services are not available for them and also due to non-targeting).
- As per experience of MJF, marginalisation is linked to exclusion, deprivation, inequality and vulnerability which confines a person or group to lower social standing, being treated unfairly compared to others and limits their access to power & resources. They have little influence over decision-making, have weak capacities to claim rights and their voice remain unheard.
- MJF categorises marginalisation due to a) Occupation, b) Minority situation, c) People living in extreme vulnerable or hard to reach areas, d) Person with disability, and e) Sexual orientation & Gender identity.
- The present study covers 7 groups of marginalised people such as CHT Adivasi, plain land Adivasi, sex workers, Dalit, traditional fisher-folk, persons with disability (PWD) and religious minority.

“We always feel insecure as we can be subject anytime to random or planned acts of violence. People might throw bricks on the tin roofs of our huts, take over our meagre property, invade our privacy , or even enter our homes by force to beat us up. We live in fear, and cannot even protest.” ... A Dalit woman

Political Economy of Marginalisation

(পিছিয়ে থাকা জনগোষ্ঠী বলে কিছু নেই, তারা আসলে পিছিয়ে রাখা জনগোষ্ঠী - Backward people are not functionally backward rather people/society holds them backward)

- Marginalisation is the by-product of political economy which is manifested by political domination and sustained structural inequalities.
- 'Politics' perhaps is the most powerful instrument to create sustained marginalisation which makes a large number of people believe they are less human and so they deny their rights and opportunities deliberately. This politics is called Exclusionary Politics or Politics of Difference.
- It fragments society, closes down mutual interaction and promotes positional and cultural differences.
- Constructs the sense of superiority and inferiority, powerful and powerless creating inequalities, conflict and other structural problems in regard to distribution of power and wealth in society.
- Long term domination, deprivation and imbalanced power practices creates a culture of silence for certain communities leading to low self-esteem and self-confidence.



Comparison of Study Findings with National Data

Indicators	Marginalised Study Findings	National Rural Status
Average household size %	4.25	4.5 (National) 4.53 National Rural (HIES 2010)
Female headed HH %	4.68	4.3 National rural (HIES 2010)
literacy rate %	28.40	53.37 (HIES 2010)
Primary enrollment rate (6-10 years) %	69.30	78.48 (national rural rate among poor HIES 2010))
Secondary Enrolment rate (11-15) %	58.67	72.28 (national rural-among poor HIES 2010)
Women engaged in income generating activities %	31.4	31.8 (HIES 2010)
Women able to take HH decision %	14.35	9.3 (HIES 2010)
Own dwelling %	66.67	83.6
Access to safe drinking water %	78.57	86.9 (Habitat for humanity report 2015)
Access to sanitation facilities %	24.5	60.6 (Habitat for humanity report 2015) 89.8 (Access to toilet facilities BBS 2011)
Absolute land less HH %	38.72	19.80 (HIES 2010)
Average monthly income (Taka)	7761	10,387/- (\$ 1.9 PPP WB 2016)
Average monthly expenditure (Taka)	9004	9612 (National Rural HIES 2010)
Access to Social Safety-net (%)	7.31	24.57 (National) 30.12 (National Rural)
Sources: MJF Study 2016 & HIES (Household Income Expenditure Survey)-2010		

Study Findings from Household Survey

**Basic Demographic, Social and Economic
Profile of Marginalised Communities**

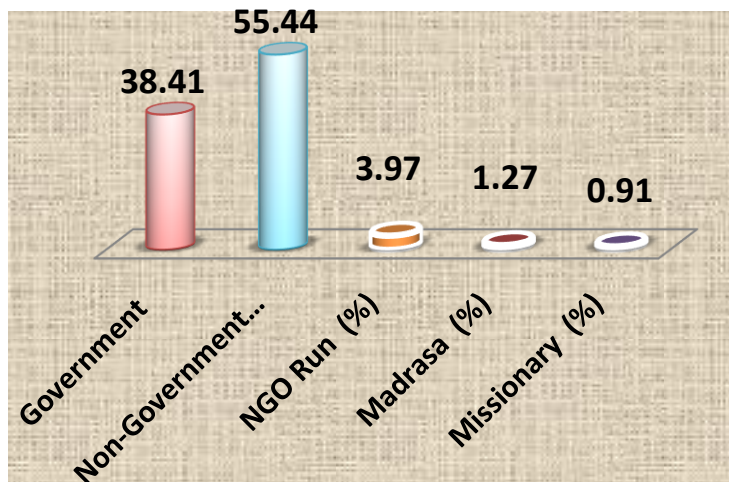
Households Demographic Profile

- The proportion of nuclear families is higher among the marginalised communities (78.95%) compared to that of the average rural households (67.5 %). Among the marginalised communities the highest percentage of joint families is found in Dalit communities (30.67%) and lowest in sex workers (only 4.5%).
- The proportion of female-headed households is fairly higher among the marginalised communities (4.7%) compared to that of the average rural households (4.3 percent). Among the marginalised communities the highest percentage of female-headed households is in hilly Adivasi communities (6.45%) while the lowest is in fisher-folk community (2.05%)
- Differences found in demographic characteristics in terms of age & sex composition, households size and marital status. Almost half of household head (49.90%) belong to 40-60 years of age group. And another highest (40.65%) percentage belong to 20-39 years of age group.
- Average family size is 4.26 for all households which is slightly lower than the national rural average (4.70). The average highest number of family size (5.01 people per family) is in plain land Adivasi community and the lowest (1.7 people per family) is in sex worker community.
- About 79.41% of the household heads are married, 5.47% are unmarried, 7.03% are living separate, and 2.85% are divorced. The highest percentage of separated households (47.50%) is observed in sex workers community while the study did not find any separated HHs in religious minority, Dalit and Fisher-folk community.

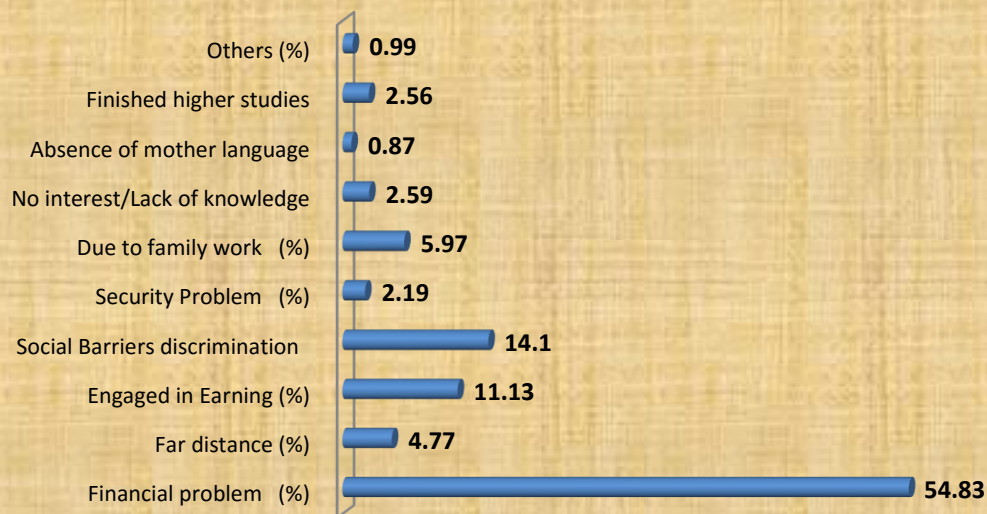
Educational Status of the Households

- The study observed substantial differences in access to education by the marginalised communities compared to national rural status. As per study findings, the primary enrollment rate of targeted marginalised communities (6-10 years) is 69.30 compared to about 78.48 (HIES,2010) in national rural.
- The same is true for secondary-level enrollment. The secondary enrollment rate of the marginalised communities is only about 58.67% (age 11-15) compared to about 72.28% (national rural-among poor HIES 2010)
- The study found the average literacy rate is 28.40% among the marginalised communities where the highest percentage is in sex workers community (39.50%) and lowest is in religious minority groups (18.70%).

Types of Education Institutions



Reasons for Stop Education



Housing, Sanitation & Ownership of Assets

Indicators	Plain Land Adivasi	Hill Adivasi	Dalit	Fisher Folk	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker
Own dwelling (%)	76.7	81.9	65.3	83.3	68.8	87.7	3.0
Access to safe drinking water (%)	87	44	89	82	81	89	78
Own tube well (%)	29.7	8	23.3	37	31.6	41.7	1.5
Toilet Facilities							
Sanitary/Pacca (%)	12.6	9.30	19.80	10.97	19.60	21.67	53.5
Ring Slab (%)	20.20	21.4	31.33	17.44	25.80	33.55	46.5
Katcha (%)	30.50	30.63	40.21	43.26	28.90	38.01	0
Open Defecation (%)	36.70	38.67	9.66	28.33	25.70	6.77	0
Ownership of assets							
Amount of land (Decimal)	32.38	9.37	29.61	26.40	22.91	87.76	7.50
No land at all – Absolute land less (%)	31.1	81.7	39.5	24.3	31.4	19.1	43.9
No Cultivate Land (%)	58.9	90.5	74	81.33	64.1	19.3	92.67
Land lost in the last one year (No. Of HH)	27	12	7	17	13	13	12

Income Employment & Job Availability

Indicators	Plain Land Adivasi	Hill Adivasi	Dalit	Fisher Folk	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker
Monthly household income BDT	6,859	6,539	7,728	5,445	6,755	9,498	11,503
Monthly expenditure	7,035	7,223	7, 376	7,031	9,610	9,225	13,897
Employment in formal & Informal Sectors							
Engaged in formal professions (%)	3.67	5.43	13.33	0.33	6.00	15.80	1.50
Engaged in informal professions(%)	96.33	94.57	86.67	99.67	94%	84.20	98.50
Engaged in government services (%)	.67	2	9.3	0	.33	3.80	0
Job Availability Round the Year (1-12 months)							
1-6 (%)	32.70	17.00	39.20	38.30	40.70	15.20	8.90
7-9 (%)	60.70	73.70	57.50	54.70	52.80	69.00	53.10
10-12 (%)	6.60	9.30	3.30	7.00	6.50	15.80	38.00
Average No. of Income Earner (Number)	2.30	2.45	1.67	1.80	1.30	2.49	2.26

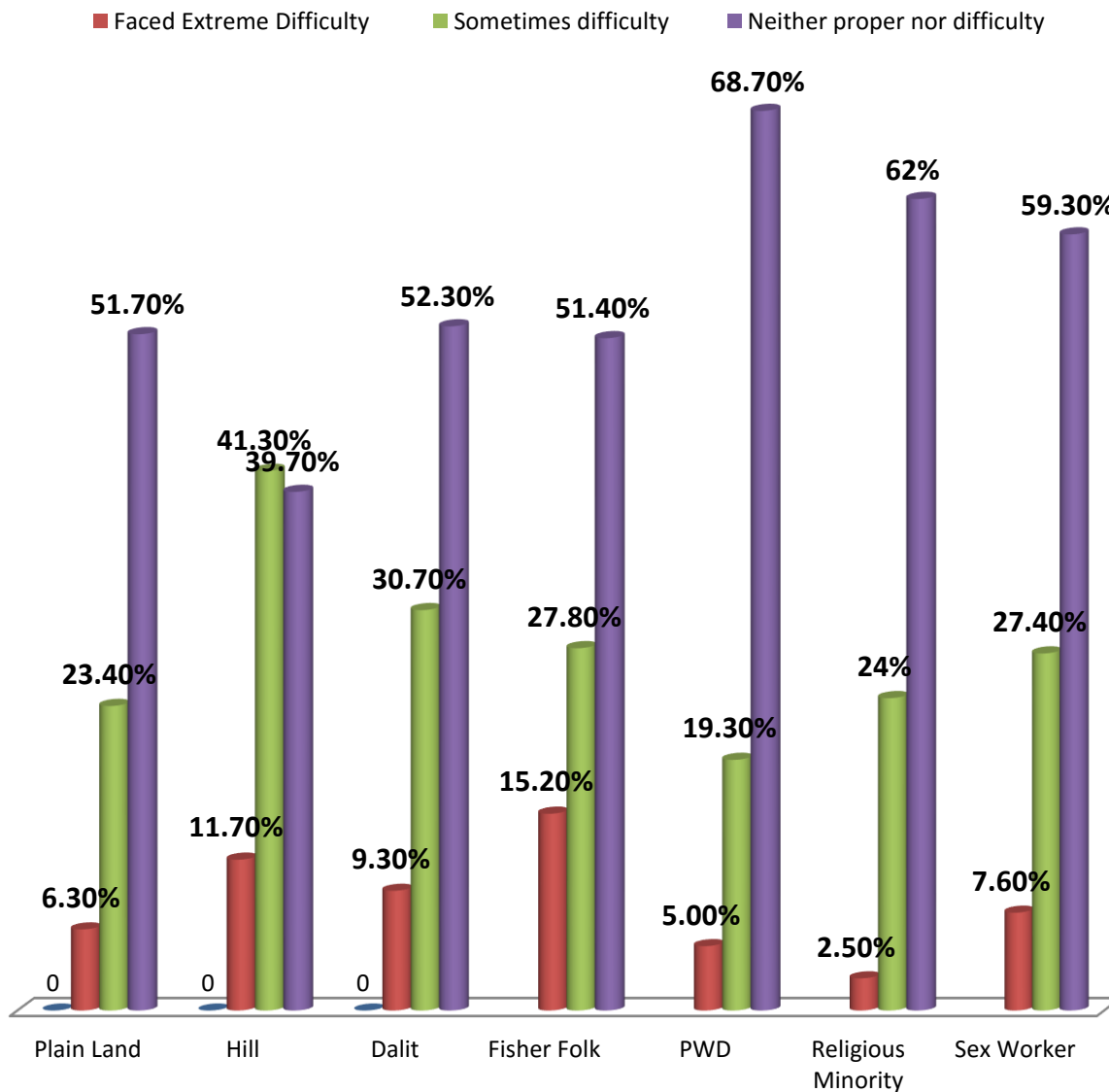
Exclusion & Deprivation from Services

Indicators	Plain Land Adivasi	Hill Adivasi	Dalit	Fisher Folk	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker
Access to education							
Tried to receive services (%)	93	87	91	94	64	95	56
Received education (%)	69	65	61	61	35	71	21
Inst. Responsiveness -Good (%)	13	16	7	9	19	26	8
Access to Health Services							
Tried to receive services (%)	87	79	67	79	73	88	91
Received Health services (%)	39	43	48	37	44	29	21
Inst. Responsiveness -Good (%)	12	17	9	29	21	23	8.6
Deprivation from Social Safety net							
VGF (%)	92.30	89	93.33	88.67	89.52	83.55	96.74
VGD (%)	93.21	90.8	94.39	91.97	94.35	90	97.67
Aged allowance (%)	98.05	96.91	95.1	98.54	100	91.54	100
Disability allowance (%)	98.7	98.46	96.08	98.27	69.9	89.30	99
stipend (primary) (%)	66.77	62.16	53.92	50.36	83.87	54.62	99
Deprivation from Legal Justice							
Tried to receive services (%)	27	31.5	15	27	11	33	9
Deprivation from LS (%)	93.7	87.5	96.5	93.8	97	83	98.5
Trust on existing judiciary process	17.1	23.7	3.3	6	11.5	22	6.5
Level of Satisfaction							
Highly Satisfied (%)	7.74	15.45	9.80	1.46	14.52	13.85	7.17
Satisfied (%)	13.64	25.17	26.47	18.98	24.19	42.31	14.13
Neither satisfied nor satisfied (%)	41.12	33.59	25.49	33.58	33.06	11.54	57.61
Dissatisfied (%)	37.50	25.79	38.24	45.98	28.23	32.31	21.09

Economic Exclusion, Deprivation & Discrimination of Marginalised Communities

Indicators	Plain Land Adivasi	Hill Adivasi	Dalit	Fisher Folk	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	5.7	8.1	10.2	19.5	4.7	1.2
Discrimination at workplace	27.3	10	32.7	12.1	24.4	3.3	16.5
Labour market depends on	Edu, experien ce & Skill	Edu, experien ce Skill	Personal contact, experien ce & Skill	Skill, Season and Market demand	Edu, experie nce & Skill	Edu, experien ce & Skill	Personal relation, physical appearan ce & Age
Low paid due to marginalisation	40.2	25.9	46.2	40.2	100	27.3	37.1
Low paid due to being marginalised women	43.9	29.7	62.2	51.7	100	35.3	38.1
Able to Receive Loan (% HH)	67	49	42	65	39	69	71.5
Receive loan from Bank	2.2	9.5	4.4	1.7	1.1	11	.63
Receive loan from NGO	69	13.5	44.89	66.30	31	68	72.5
Food deficit households (%)	29.7	53	39.7	43	24.3	26.5	35
Adequate food intake with satisfaction	18.6	7.3	7.7	5.6	7.0	11.5	5.7

Frequencies of Difficulties Faced in regarding food intake

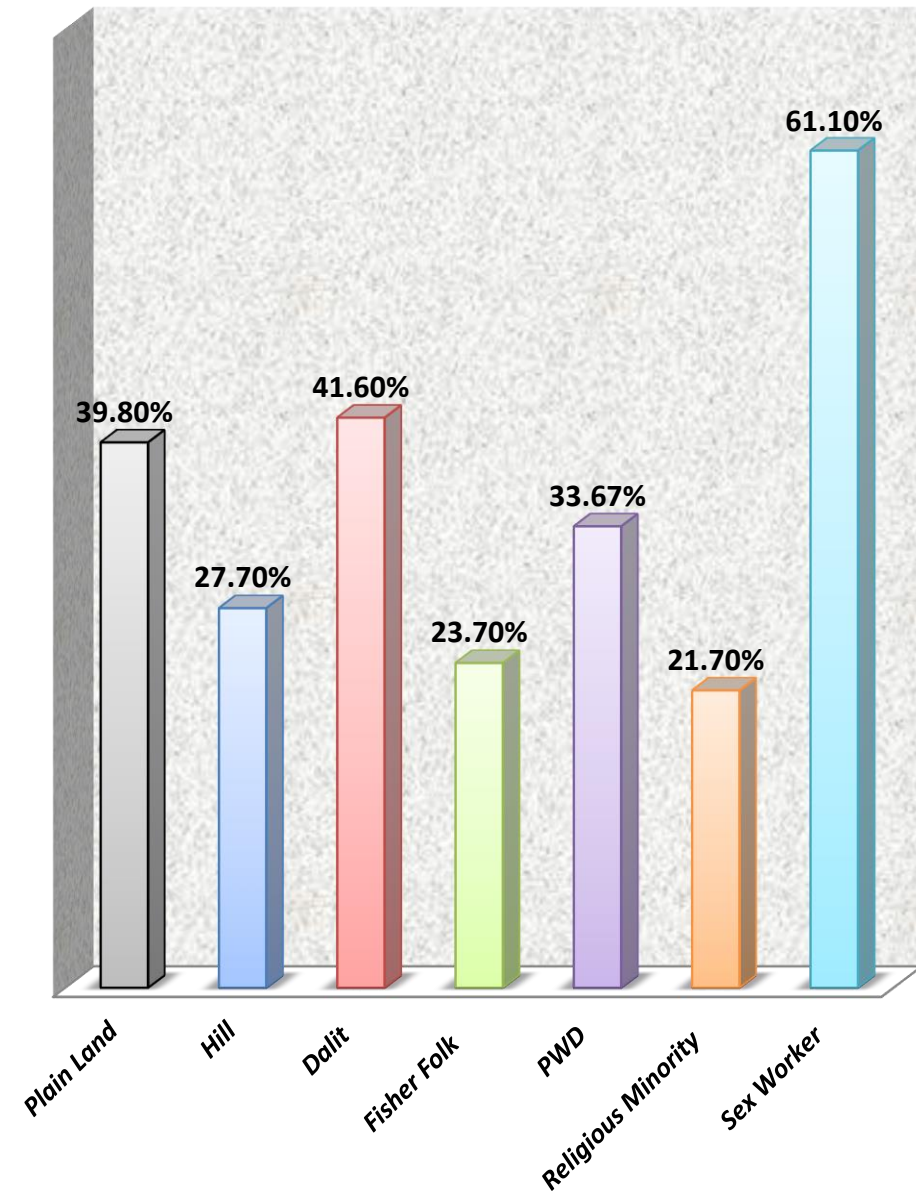


Response against food Crisis

- 23% households remain hungry due to food deficit
- 37% take loan from different informal sources to buy food for their families
- 13.4% households reduce their daily other consumptions
- A significant percentage (12.7%) of households seek food supports from relatives and neighbours

Experience of Torture & Violence

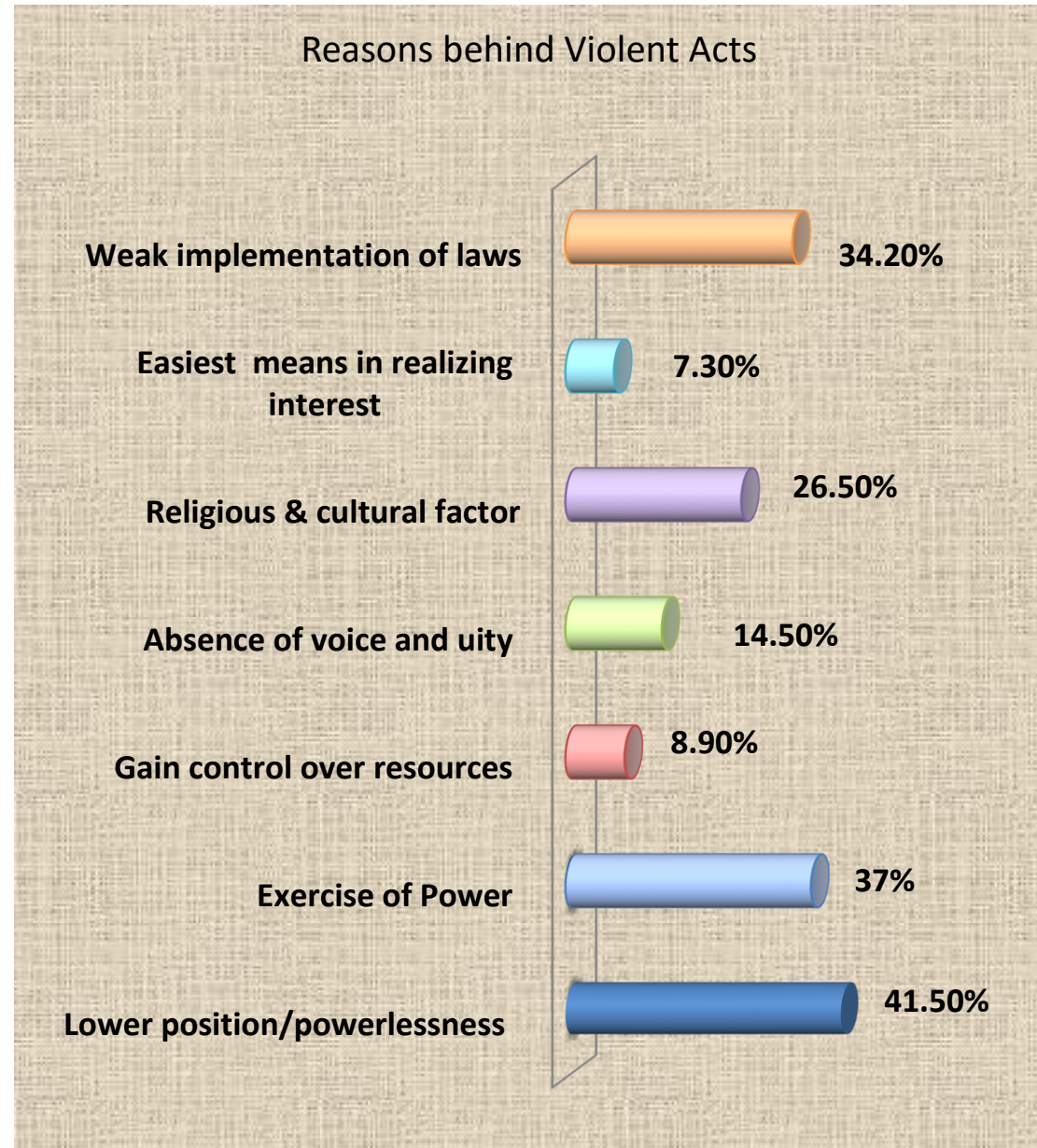
Faced violence



- On average 33.9% of study HH become victims of physical violence (sex workers highest in percentage (52.2) while Hilly Adivasi lowest (11.1%));
- 5.14 % of the households face eviction and displaced from their land (Plain land Adivasi highest in percentages (7.4%) .
- 9.8% HHs are forced to cast their votes in favour of majority candidate.
- 26.4% of Persons with Disability are denied their entitlements over inherited properties;
- 23.5% Hilly Adivasi are forced to leave from market with their products and 11.8% from same community are also forced to sell their products at low prices.
- Study found 14 rape and 04 trafficking cases in the surveyed households

Reasons behind Violent Acts

- 41.5% HHs report that violence occurred due to their lower position in the society and longstanding ignorance of the majority
- The second highest percentage (37%) of the respondents perceive that violence is the outcome of showing and exercise of power by the majority
- A large number of respondents (34.2%) perceive that violence occur due to weak implementation of laws and policies
- About 8.9% respondents believe majority people want to ensure control over land and other valuable assets.
- About 7.30% expressed that violence against MCs is the easiest means to realize their greed and interest
- 26.5% respondents view that religious and cultural issues play strong role in creating violent acts
- 14.5% HHs state that violence occurs due to absence of strong voice and unity.



Women's Position within the Marginalised Communities

Indicators	Plain Land Adivasi	Hill Adivasi	Dalit	Fisher Folk	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker
Involved in income generating activities (%)	44	71.4	21	24	8	20	98.5
Able to take decision in family (%)	21.3	31.7	5	3.3	12.8	12	95.5
Membership in different groups & Samity's (%)	61.3	27.7	43.7%	58.3	45.6	49.3	86.5
Participation in different local events (%)	65.7	61.7	25.7	21	19.6	26.7	11
Can move in public place alone (%)	46	73.4	24	9	4.8	26.7	98.5
Can seek medical facilities alone (%)	41.7	62	65	35.7	7.2	28	97

Major Qualitative Findings

- Absence of constitutional recognition, non-recognition of their rights, forced displacement, threat and insecurity, exclusion from mainstream support and services, violence, structural barriers to democratic participation in politics and decision making process, unfavorable market and exclusion from human development support are major challenges for the marginalised communities.
- Due to poor understanding on marginalisation and marginalised communities, policy-makers, bureaucrats and service providing institutions are not sensitised and responsive enough to target and provide quality services.
- Income vulnerability and institutional deprivation are higher among the fisher-folk, Adivasis, Dalits and PWD HHs. Social and cultural threats make them economically vulnerable. They are losing traditional professions and have higher chance of remaining unemployed. They are also facing challenges to cope with new professions.
- Dalit, plain land Adivasi, religious minorities and sex workers face higher risks and threats compared to other groups/communities. Sex workers often face police raids and abuses. The dominant forms of abuses by police include extortion, threat of imprisonment, abusive slangs, rape/sexual advances and illegal arrests.
- Marginalised communities suffer mostly from their identity crisis making them vulnerable in their everyday life. Marginalised communities are not organised and socially, culturally and politically segregated.
- Negative views and stereotypes towards marginalised communities are widespread. They are socially and culturally stigmatised and frequently treated with disdain and disrespect.

Marginalised Communities Perception about Mainstream people

Indicators	CHT Adivasi	Dalit	Plan Land Adivasi	PWD	Religious Minority	Sex Worker	Traditional Fisher Folk	Total
Marginalised People's Opinions towards Mainstreaming Behaviour & Outlooks								
Well (%)	51.40	34.70	20.70	37.20	37	49.50	26.30	36.30
Bad (%)	48.60	65.30	79.30	62.80	63	50.50	73.7	63.70
	Worried and scared							
Worried (%)	62.60	93.30	81.40	50.40	82	58	39.40	67.50
Not Worried (%)	37.40	6.70	18.7	49.60	18	42	60.60	32.50
	Secure and Insecure							
Secure (%)	68.3	26.0	60.0	84.4	39.3	55.5	78.7	58.7
Insecure (%)	31.7	74.0	40.0	15.6	60.7	44.5	21.3	41.4

Recommendation & Way Forward

State:

- Political commitment of state is imperative to promote equitable development in terms of SDG goals.
- Ensure effective protection against discrimination through adopting new laws and policies.
- Revisit existing policy frameworks of different marginalised communities.
- Augment accountability and transparency of the service institutions towards marginalised communities.
- Set up special mechanism for taking care of marginalised people's affairs (e.g. inter-ministerial committee, separate ministries/departments).
- Ensure constitutional recognition and identity of Adivasi communities.
- Need to initiate long-term development programmes for social and economic development. Maintain and strengthen social safety-net programme.
- Greater attention should be paid to allocate more budget or extra budget (education, health, food security, employment generation) for particular marginalised communities and to ensure that allocated budget is used efficiently.

Market (need market based solution to overcome inequalities and poverty):

- Should be responsive to create job opportunities for the marginalised people

Recommendation & Way Forward

- Facilitate and promote skill and capacity development .
- Public commercial banks, specialised banks and microfinance institutions should design special credit and finance schemes for marginalised communities.
- Enhance market linkages (internal & external, urban–rural market) and need strategic interventions to reduce intermediaries influences.
- Restructure labour market for marginalised communities by providing information, technologies and scope of full participation.
- Need to draw market-led coherent policy analysis for marginalised people (rapid changes of occupation, wage discrimination, lack of capacity and controlled by the outsiders).

Society:

- Facilitate enhancing recognition and acceptance of diversity in society.
- Greater emphasis on building social harmony, integration and inclusion.
- Addressing discrimination should be everybody's responsibility – encourage to speak out against discrimination of MCs which can contribute to creating a truly inclusive and respectful society.
- Effective use of civil society as a counter balance.