

# Status of Adibashi Youth: SDG 10 (Reduce Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)

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# Identified Major Issues

- Disproportionate poverty (65% in CHT and above 80% in the plains) affecting social inclusion
- Potential loss of demographic dividend due to massive youth unemployment
- Inaccessibility to education, specially in tertiary level
- Lack of access to employment, inadequate skill, and less/sustainable income opportunities
- Adibashi youth women remain less-focused in gender inclusiveness
- Relevant policy/Institutional commitment



## Progress in SDG 10 & 16

Bangladesh is at **116<sup>th</sup>** position while major challenges remain in attaining Goal 16 and significant challenges remain attaining Goal 10.

Bangladesh's Position among South Asian Countries in SDG Index

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Maldives    | 47  |
| Bhutan      | 84  |
| Sri Lanka   | 93  |
| Nepal       | 103 |
| India       | 115 |
| Bangladesh  | 116 |
| Pakistan    | 130 |
| Afghanistan | 153 |

Source: UNSDSN



# Key information on Youth & Adibashi

- National Youth Policy define age group 18-35 as Youth.
- It is estimated that, 30% of the total population in Bangladesh is youth.
- Estimated number of Adibashi youth could be around **536,750**.



# Education and Skill Development

The main challenges in education includes:

- Education in their mother language (Books, teachers, training)
- High drop-out rate specially in upper level (acute poverty, geographic isolation, learning environment, demotivation for not having decent job, insecurity in case of girl children)
- Only 2.63% of the Adibashi youth considered as skilled workers, while over 80% have either no or very limited levels of skills and training
- Dropout form the TVET causes due to Socio-economic factors (isolation, mindset, inability to address the special needs by the institutions)



# Employment opportunities

- Overwhelming dependence on Agriculture (80% in Plains and 72% in CHT) narrows other employment (increasing landlessness and quick industrialization)
- Unemployment is higher among tertiary graduates (2.04%) compared to those with no education (0.11%).
- Engagement in salaried job/ business is minimal (3% in CHT and less than 1% in the Plains). Only 0.07% Adibashi in north-west has own business.
- Investment capacity decreased as savings decreased in last 10 years to 5,745 taka from 6,150 taka among north-west Plainland Adibashis.



# Social Protection and Inclusion

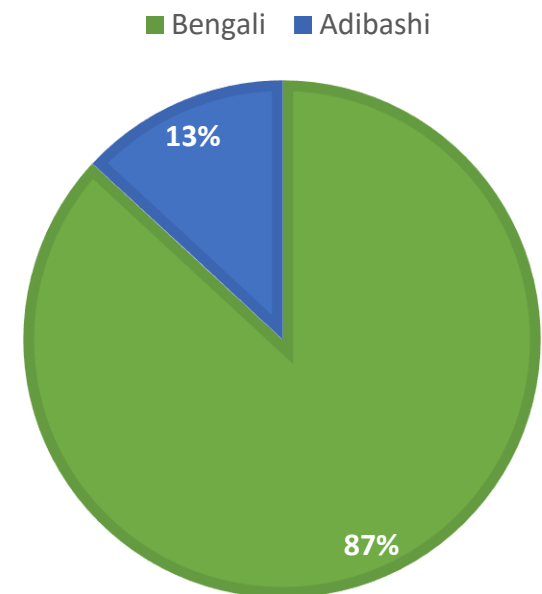
- Social-safety net schemes are not inclusive towards Adibashi such as, no special allocation for Adibashi student stipend
- Limited government initiative to ensure access to finance (only 54% in CHT and 62% in the Plains have access to credit, mostly by the NGOs, Bank with 10% from usury lenders)
- Lack of allocation for employment generation, TVET and skill development in social protection provision.
- Bribes are to be paid for enrollment to the social safety-net



# Non-discrimination and Social participation

- Anti-Discrimination Law has not been passed yet.
- Social stigma (lifestyle, food habit, traditional occupations etc.) is very persistent and cause discrimination for Adibashi youths.
- Youths are largely left out of political representation and social participation in local, sub-national and national level.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION OF PLAINLAND ADIBASHIS





# Women's situation and perceived security

- Violence against Women; at least 137 cases of human rights violations were reported in 2018 (both in Plains and the CHT region- a large no. was Youth).
- Early Marriage rate is higher both in Plains and CHT.
- Maternal and Reproductive Health has implication on mortality rate of Adibashi youth female due to remoteness, inaccessibility to health care facilities and lack of facilities for special needs.
- Wage discrimination of Adibashi female is quite high comparing to the male and female from the mainstream.
- Plainland Adibashi female youth started wearing veils for their social security, as well not being presented themselves as non-Muslim.



# Specific Policy Recommendations

- **A special survey** is required to collect and make disaggregated data by ethnicity, sex, age, disability, employment, poverty, education and health.
- Ensure policy intervention through **placing separate chapter** for Adibashi youth in the 8<sup>th</sup> Fifth year Planning, national youth policy 2017, national perspective plan (Vision 2041).
- **Take special measures** to create employment, education and capacity building opportunities
- **Reserve five percent quota** for the Adibashi youth, women and person with disability in govt. jobs and education.
- **Allocate adequate budget** for social safety net and Annual Development Project (ADP).



# Specific Policy Recommendations

- Ensure **education in mother language** at least in primary level, provide trained and eligible teachers for Adibashi students to enroll them in quality education for creating future potential.
- Develop **online based easy-accessible database** for land, TVET and essential service allocation. Enhance capacity for Adibashi youth to access digitalized services.
- **Pass the Anti-discrimination Law** immediately.
- **Implement CHT accord** with a specific time frame to ensure the development and security of Adibashi Youth.
- Adibashi youth women **need to be focused for gender inclusiveness** (regarding stopping violence, ensure health facilities, minimize wage discrimination)



# Thank You!

