

Livelihood status of tribal people at Mohadevpur upazila in Naogoan district

Md. Mahade Hasan Sikder^{1*}, Md. Shajahan Kabir², Md. Mehedi Hasan Sikdar³

¹Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security (ICF), Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh

²Department of Rural Sociology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh

³Department of Statistics, Faculty of Agriculture, Patuakhali Science & Technology University, Patuakhali -8602, Bangladesh

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Accepted 13 April 2017

Online release 01 May 2017

Keyword

Livelihood status
Tribal people
Bangladesh

*Corresponding Author

MMH Sikder



mahade.hasan41@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to investigate the livelihood status of tribal people at three villages of Mohadevpur Upazila of Naogoan District. Data were collected from a random sample of 63 where the total tribal people were 252. A structured interview schedule was used for collecting data during July to September 2016. The selected ten characteristics of the tribal people such as age, level of education, family member, house land size, cultivable land size, annual income, sanitary system, drinking water, training experience and credit received were considered as the independent variables while their livelihood status constituted the dependent variable. Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient Correlation (r) was computed to explore relationship of the respondents' selected characteristics and their livelihood status. It was found that the observed score of livelihood status of the tribal people ranged from 25-65 in score while the possible range was 15-75. The mean livelihood status was 45.52 with a standard deviation 8.032. The findings of the study revealed that 14.28 percent of tribal people belonged to high condition livelihood, while 82.54 percent of tribal people belong to medium condition livelihood and 3.72 percent had low condition livelihood. The variation regarding different assets of livelihood was medium, the highest status of livelihood improvement was observed in case of financial capital and it was the lowest in case of social capital. Tribal people's level of education, house land size, cultivable land size, annual household income, sanitary system, drinking water, training experience and credit received had significant positive relationship with their livelihood status. While age had significant negative relationship with their livelihood status. Year-round income generation is vital for raising livelihood condition of the tribal people to their basic needs. Technical supports like training and credit may boost off-farm income of the tribal people. Mere relief supports and safety net programs are effective in case of seasonal and climatic adversities. Government and NGOs should be taken necessary steps for raising livelihood condition of tribal people.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is a populated country. Various group of people are living in Bangladesh. Most of the people are living in the rural area and the country has largest ethnic group, along with tribal people in northern and southeastern districts. According to the "Bangladesh *Khudra Nregosthi Sankskritic Prothithan Ain*" officially declared that there are 27 different tribal groups spread out across the national territory with the north, north-west and north-east, south east region. Bangladesh is the home of many tribal communities. There are 45 different indigenous communities were mentioned. In Bangladesh, total number of tribal people is 15, 86,141 which is only 1 % of the total population (BBS, 2015). Tribal peoples in independent

countries are those whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from others sections of the national community whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations. The livelihoods of the tribal people are not similar to the non-tribal people in Bangladesh. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Carney, 1998). Livelihood strategies are influenced by the prevailing transforming structures and institutions and the vulnerability. The transforming structures and processes are the

institutions, organizations, policies and legislation which determine access to the different types of capital, terms of exchange between the different types of capital and the economic and other returns from livelihood strategies. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both materials and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

Tribal people have significant roles for the agricultural productive activities but they are backward from modern technology and suffer from lack of capital. Sometimes they take loan from the international and national organization; NGOs and banks to fulfill the requirement of credit. Agricultural credit is important to tribal people in achieving improving their livelihoods. They are backward from other non-tribal people for their insufficient credit and other facilities to improve their living standard. Institutional credit and various training are important for the improvement of the tribal people livelihoods. Therefore the present study was undertaken to determine the current status of tribal people in the study areas of Bangladesh and to find out the relationship of the characteristics of tribal people and their livelihood status.

METHODOLOGY

Study area

The study was conducted in Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon district. Hamidpur, Juanpur, and Enaitpur village was selected from many tribal areas because no research work has done based on livelihood conditions in this area. Mohadevpur is an Upazila of Naogaon District in the Division of Rajshahi, Bangladesh. In Naogaon, total number of tribal people is 11, 67,36 (BBS, 2015).

Sampling design

In total there were 252 tribal people (head from each household) in this selected village which

were considered as population of the study. Twenty five percent of the population was randomly selected by using a Table of Random Numbers. Thus, a total of 63 tribal people constituted the sample size for the study.

Measurement of the variables

Livelihood status: Livelihood status is operationalised as status of tribal people with reference to capabilities, assets to ensure livelihood security.

Based on review of literature four component of livelihood security were selected to know the livelihood status of tribal people. Each of the statements was put against 5-point like type scale highly increased, increased, no comment or remained same, decreased and highly decreased and score given as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively.

Based on total score of the respondents in the overall livelihood status, the respondents were classified into three categories viz. low ($< \text{Mean} - \frac{1}{2} \text{SD}$), medium ($= \text{Mean} \pm \frac{1}{2} \text{SD}$), high ($> \text{mean} + \frac{1}{2} \text{SD}$). Personal interview and Focus Group Discussion methods were employed for data collection. Data were analyzed in accordance with objectives of the study. SPSS (Statistical package for social sciences) computer program was used to perform the data analysis. Pearson's Product Moment correlation co-efficient (r) was computed. Correlation analysis was used to find the relationship between livelihood status of tribal people and their personal, socio-economic characteristics of the farmers on livelihood status of tribal people.

The dependent variable of the study was "Livelihood status of tribal people". The characteristics of the tribal people i.e. age, level of education, family member, household size, cultivable land size, annual income, sanitation system, drinking water, training experience, credit received were the independent variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Classification of tribal people according to their selected characteristics

Table 1

Categories of tribal people according to their selected characteristics.

Characteristics	Scoring system	Range		Number (N=63)	Percent	Mean	SD	
		Observed	Category					
Age	Years	30-67	Young (≤ 35)	12	19.047	49.44	10.466	
		(Unknown)	Middle-aged (36-55)	30	47.619			
			Old (> 55)	21	33.333			
Level of education	Level of schooling	0-5	Cannot read or write	19	30.158	1.548	1.839	
			(Unknown)	Can sign only (0.5)	19			30.158
				Primary (1-5)	25			39.682
Family member	Numbers	1-7	Small (1-4)	37	58.730	4.46	1.280	
			(Unknown)	Medium (5-6)	21			33.333
				Large (above 6)	5			7.936
Household land size	Decimal	3-20	Small (3-8)	55	87.301	6.62	3.517	
			(Unknown)	Medium (9-15)	5			7.936
				Large (above 15)	3			4.761
Cultivation land size	Decimal	0-140	Small (0-50)	43	68.253	46.03	31.170	
			(Unknown)	Medium (51-99)	14			22.222
				High (above 99)	6			9.523
Annual income	Taka (in "000")	8-222	Small (8-100)	49	77.777	91492.06	45350.916	
			(Unknown)	Medium (100-190)	9			14.285
				Large (above 190)	5			7.936
Sanitation system	-	1-5	Kacha-1	50	79.365	1.48	0.931	
			(Unknown)	Adha kacha-3	12			19.047
				Paka-5	1			1.587
Drinking water	-	1-5	Pure (5)	36	57.142	3.60	1.746	
			(Unknown)	Pond(3)	10			15.873
				Other(1)	17			26.984
Training experience	Days	3-28	Low (up to 10)	39	61.904	10.46	5.778	
			(Unknown)	Medium(11-20)	21			33.333
				High (above 20)	4			6.349
Credit received	Taka (in "000")	0-40	small (up to 10)	35	55.555	11904.76	7482.699	
			(Unknown)	Medium (11-25)	26			41.269
				High (above 25)	2			3.174
Livelihood status	Score	25-65	Low (up to 35)	2	3.174	45.52	8.032	
			(15-75)	Medium (36-56)	52			82.539
				High (above 56)	9			14.285

*SD= Standard Deviation

Age of the respondents ranged from 30 to 67 years with an average of 49.44 years and a standard deviation of 10.46 years. Majority (47.62 percent)

of the tribal people were in the middle aged and 19.05 percent belonging to young aged category and 33.33 percent to old aged category (Table 1).

The level of education of the tribal people ranged from 0 to 5 and the average was 1.548 with a standard deviation of 1.82. Among the total respondents 30.16 percent could not read or write, 30.16 percent could sign only and 39.68 percent had primary level of education.

The family member of the tribal people ranged from 1 to 7 and the average was 4.46 with a standard deviation of 1.28. Among the total respondents 58.73 percent of the tribal people were in the small family, 33.33 percent of the tribal people were in the middle family and 7.92 percent had large family size.

The household land size of the tribal people ranged from 3 to 20 and the average was 6.62 with a standard deviation of 3.52. Among the total respondents 87.31 percent of the tribal people were in the small household land size, 7.92 percent of the tribal people were in the middle household land size and 4.76 percent had large household land size.

The cultivable land size of the respondents ranged from 0-140 decimal with an average of 46.03 decimal and standard deviation 31.17. Among the total respondents 68.25 percent of tribal people belonged to small cultivable land category, while 22.22 percent fell in medium cultivable land category and 9.52 percent had large cultivable land size.

Annual incomes of the tribal people were ranged from 8 to 222 with an average of 91492.06 and standard deviation of 45350.916. Among the total respondents the highest proportion 77.8 percent of the respondent had low income while 14.29 percent had medium income; rest of the respondent 7.92 percent had high income.

The sanitary system of the respondents ranged from 1-5 score with an average of 1.48 and standard deviation 0.931. Among the total respondents 79.37 percent of tribal people belonged to kacha sanitary system, while 19.05 percent fell in adha kacha sanitary system and 1.6 percent paka had sanitary system.

The drinking water condition of the respondents ranged from 1-5 score with an average of 3.60 and

standard deviation 1.75. Among the total respondents 57.14 percent of tribal people belonged to pure water category; while 15.87 percent fell in pond water category and 26.98 percent other sources had drinking water used.

The training experience of the respondents ranged from 3-28 days with an average of 10.46 and standard deviation 5.78. Among the total respondents 61.9 percent of tribal people belonged to low training experience, while 33.33 percent fell in medium training experience and 6.35 percent had high training experience.

The score of credit received by the respondents ranged from Taka 0 to 40 thousand with a mean of 11904.76 and standard deviation of 7482.69. More than half (55.56 percent) of the respondent were in the small category, 41.27 percent medium, rest 3.17 percent were in high category.

The observed score of livelihood status of the participant tribal people ranged from 25 to 65 with a mean and standard deviation of 45.52 and 8.032, respectively. Among the total respondents the majority (82.54 percent) of the respondents had medium strategy, while 14.28 percent had high and 3.72 of them had low category of livelihoods status.

Asset-wise livelihood status of tribal people

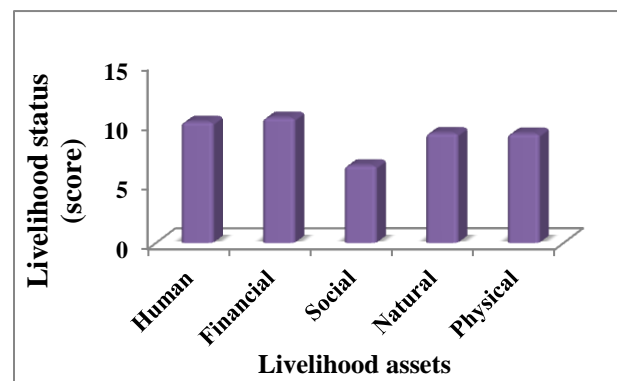


Figure 1
Livelihood status regarding different assets.

A comparative observation of the Figure 1 has been shown, which illustrates that average livelihood status for financial capital was the

highest (10.48) followed by social capital (6.48). Social capital is lower than other capitals. Because of tribal people are mostly illiterate, backward and not adjusting other people. Livelihood status regarding the rest three capitals, namely natural, physical and human capital was more or less similar, though physical capital was secured the lowest average score for livelihood status of the respondents.

Overall livelihood status of tribal people

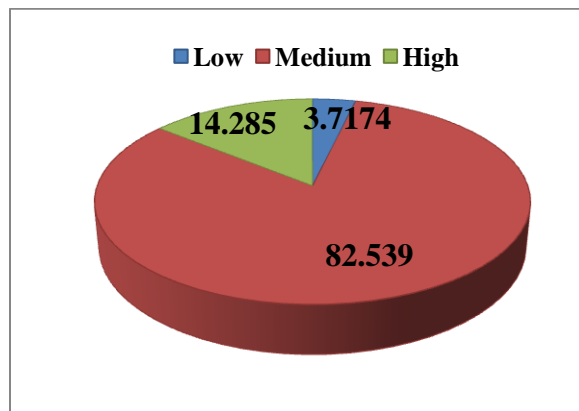


Figure 2
Livelihood status of the respondents.

The livelihood status of the respondents has been diagrammatically shown in Figure 2. Among the total respondents the majority (82.54 percent) of the respondents had medium strategy, while 14.28 percent had high and 3.72 of them had low category of livelihoods status. The reason might be as most of the people are small farmers and shifting work e.g. small shopkeeper, labour, van driver etc. So, most of the tribal people socioeconomic condition is medium. Hence, majority of them belongs to low to medium livelihood status category. Jayasree found that highest proportion 39.3 percent of tribal farmers have low livelihood status followed by medium 36.4 percent and high 24.3 percent livelihood status (Jayasree datta, 2014).

Relationship between selected characteristics of the tribal people and their livelihood status

Level of education, household land size, cultivable land size, annual income, sanitary system, drinking water, training experience, and credit received,

showed significant positive relationships (Table 2). Age showed significant negative relationship while family member showed non significant relationships with the livelihood status of the tribal people. Data found that education family size, annual income, fallow period, livestock possession, material possession and extension participation had positive significant relationship with livelihood status of the tribal people (Jayasree datta, 2014).

Table 2

Relationship between selected characteristics of the tribal people and their livelihood status

Selected characteristics of	Correlation coefficient ('r') with 61 d.f.
Age	-.337**
Level of education	.348**
Family member	.001
House land size	.269*
Cultivable land size	.401**
Annual income	.728**
Sanitary system	.376**
Drinking water	.285*
Training experience	.583**
Credit received	.677**

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

CONCLUSIONS

The study revealed that significant and positive changes were observed in a number of important livelihood areas of the respondents, which included: human, natural, financial, physical and social capital. So, it could be concluded that the planned interventions played a positive role in improving livelihood of the respondents of the study area. The findings of the study revealed that 14.28 percent of tribal people belonged to high condition livelihood, while 82.54 percent of tribal people belong to medium condition livelihood and 3.72 percent had low condition livelihood. Thus it might be said that more than fourteen percent of

the tribal livelihood remain under either high condition status indicating a grave scenario in tribal people. Age of the tribal people had negative significant relationships with their household food security status. Level of education, house land size, cultivable land size, annual income, sanitary system, drinking water, training experience, credit received had significant positive relationships with livelihood status.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Year-round income generation is vital for raising livelihood condition of the tribal people to their basic needs including access to sufficient food. Therefore, it might be told that through alternative income generation in addition to farming activities may be give support to improve their socio economic levels. In this regard concerned departments of government and NGOs can play a significant role. Technical supports like training and credit may boost off-farm income of the tribal people. Mere relief supports and safety net programs may not be viable option throughout the year or for several years. But these programs are effective in case of seasonal and climatic adversities. By all means their household income should be increased to livelihood conditions.

Government must have policies to generate activities for tribal people during climatic disasters and lean season of crop production. This may ensure their incomes to buy at least minimum demand fulfill.

REFERENCES

- BBS (2015). Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka.
- Chambers R and Conway R (1992). Sustainable Rural Livelihood: Practical Concepts for the 21st Century. IDS Discussions Paper 296. Sussex: Institute of Development Studies.
- Habib NI (2005). A Comparative Study on political and economic condition of tribal and non-tribal people of CHTs. Editorial page, The New Nation, Dhaka, 28 July 2005.
- Datta Jayasree, Gangadharappa NR and Biradar GS (2014). Livelihood Status of Tribal People Practicing Shifting (Jhum) Cultivation in Tripura State of North-East India. *Journal of Tropical Agricultural Research*, 25(3):316-326.
- Rahman, Siddiki, Khan. (2016). Impact of Credit on Tribal Livelihood and Food Security in Bangladesh. *Journal of Emerging Issues in Economics, Finance and Banking (JEIEFB)*(1).