



**Research and Development Collective (RDC)**

**Head Office**

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Secretariat of the, Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples and Minorities (IPM  
Caucus)  
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RDC's Legal Status /Registration  
Registered as a Trust (Regt. No. iv/36 dated 19.11.1996)  
Registered as an NGO (Regt. No. 2763 dated 22.01.2013)

## WHEN ESTABLISHED

**Research and Development Collective (RDC)** was formed in January 01, 1996 as a Trust body aiming at finding the true circumstances of diverse peoples and marginalized human beings of the country and beyond. In 2013, RDC was registered with the NGO Bureau and has since been working as an NGO. **RDC** has an Advisory Board of 5 eminent citizens and a General Body of 25 members. RDC's Trustee Board consists of 11 members.

## WHY ESTABLISHED

**RDC** has experienced that some peoples' rights are denied because they are different from the mainstream with regard to either their ethnicity or culture, language, religion, occupation, governance mechanism, geography, behavior etc. Therefore, RDC has felt that the existing situation of these

**Founder**  
**Professor Dr. Mesbah**

peoples in terms of *Socio-Economic Deprivation, Educational Problems and Obliteration of Heritage and Culture* deserves full attention in order to ensure their human rights and right to adequate standard of living. RDC believes that the fundamental rights and human rights as enunciated by the United Nations should be ensured for these disadvantaged peoples or communities for their socio-economic development and therefore, is committed to work for that.

**RDC** works with various stratum of peoples and organizations from those at the grassroots and going up to national level and internationally recognized personalities and institutions. RDC also takes various initiatives to sensitize mass people of the country on issues that are core to our history and cultural roots.

**Contact Person**  
Zannat-E-Ferdousi  
General Secretary

## **Vision**

RDC seeks elimination of poverty and stands for a life with dignity of the marginalized, disadvantaged and the oppressed peoples of Bangladesh.

## **Mission**

RDC works to uphold the fundamental rights and human rights of the poor, marginalized, disadvantaged and the oppressed peoples, with special focus on *Indigenous nationalities, Dalit communities, Women and Children*. RDC seeks to develop national harmony through ensuring justice and peace.

## **Objectives**

- To explore and analyze facts and figures identifying socio-economic, cultural and politico-administrative issues those creating disparity and disorder, and promotes ways for prevention and rectification.
- To support and advocate for the rights of the poor, disadvantaged and the oppressed for their socio-economic development.
- To sensitize and advocate for prevention of all forms of discrimination and human rights violation against women, children, indigenous peoples and the *Dalits*.
- To promote justice and peace.
  - To promote and project diversity and equal citizenship.
- To sensitize and advocate for constitutional recognition of the Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

RDC has an Advisory Board of 5 eminent citizens. It runs by a Trustee Board of 11 members and it has a General Body consisting of 25 members.

Advisory Board	
Prof. Sarder Amirul Islam , Chief Adviser	
Adivasi leader Ms. Nerola Tonsong	
Mr. Manjur Rashid	
Mr. Arshad Siddique	
Trustee Board	
Professor Mesbah Kamal	Chairperson
Mr. Abdul Majid Mallick	Vice Chairperson
Ms. Zannat-E-Ferdousi	General Secretary
Ms. Farhana Haque	Treasurer
Mr. Rafiqul Islam	Trustee
Ms. Shereen Khan	Trustee
Mr. Abu Naser	Trustee
Professor Monirul I. Khan	Trustee
Prof. Dr. Khaleda Islam	Trustee
Dr. Arifatul Kibria	Trustee
Mr. Asadullah Sarkar	Trustee



## MAJOR WORKING AREA

### RESEARCH

RDC conducts researches on various issues on ethnic communities, marginalized and oppressed peoples. Research focus include defining historical background, exploring their tradition and culture, life and livelihood, ownership of land and property, feasibility of bilingual education system, assessing their socio-economic conditions, access to resources and services, human rights issues, gender equality, women empowerment, environment etc.

### POLICY ADVOCACY

RDC organizes general advocacy as well as policy advocacy programs which involve seminars, symposiums, workshops, round-table conferences, press conferences, meetings, campaigns and special day observance with participation of people from all categories (Community representatives, GO, NGO, Donor & Civil Society Members, Academics, Media Personalities, and Socio-Cultural & Political Activists). RDC also organizes protest programs in specific incidences of social and communal aggression and human rights violation.

### ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS

RDC also implements long-term action research projects which is generally a combination of research, policy advocacies, mass media communication activities (audio, visual and print media) for promoting human rights of the disadvantaged people.

#### SOURCE OF FUNDING

ILO, OXFAM, CHTDF –UNDP, Christian Aid, Action Aid, HEX, Save the Children, UNESCO, CARITAS, HELP- AGE, World Vision etc.) NGOs (BRAC, CAMPE, BNPS, Ashroyetc) and government bodies (NHRC, NILG, CHT Affairs Ministry, Cultural Affairs Ministry etc.

## DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATION

RDC believes in knowledge dissemination as one of the effective methods of sensitizing, raising awareness and changing mindset and, therefore, emphasizes publications of research reports and proceedings of seminars, workshops and discussion sessions. Till date RDC has produced 36 publications. RDC makes every effort to document details of events / programs / research works through photography as well as video. It has a well-equipped audio-visual recording lab with facilities of sound recording and editing.

### DR. ABDUL GAFUR RESOURCE CENTER

RDC has a small-scale Resource Centre (Dr. Abdul Gafur Resource Center) rich with information. It is equipped with a *Library* compiled of more than 5000 books; *Oral History Archives* that contains speeches and interviews of important people, recording of various programs and interviews and FGD of community people and a *Documentation Center* that contains Study Reports, Field Reports, Paper Cutting, Photographs and Videos. The Resource Center is accessed by Development / NGO workers, Donors,



## PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND MINORITIES

RDC has been serving as the Secretariat of the *PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES* (IP Caucus) since its inception in 2010 which has been working for the establishment and promotion of Indigenous peoples' rights in Bangladesh in constitutional and legal framework. The Caucus is playing a key role to push forward the demand for constitutional recognition of the Indigenous peoples. Following the 11th National Parliament Election on December 30, 2018, RDC facilitated reformation of the of the IP Caucus and renamed as *Parliament Caucus for Indigenous People and the Minorities (IPM Caucus)* in order to expand the IPM Caucus to address human rights issues of the other minority groups. The reformed Caucus is composed of an Advisory Group which include the Chief Advisor and 14 members; Caucus Convener and 8 Caucus Members; 3 Technocrat Members; and 4 Community Representatives.

The IPM Caucus is one of the more appropriate and powerful bodies for influencing the government policy level. RDC involved the IPM Caucus in all its project activities particularly related to ethnic people and other minority groups.



**REFORMATION OF IPM CAUCUS**  
**12 MARCH 2019,**  
**NATIONAL PARLIAMENT MEMBERS CLUB**  
**AUDITORIUM**



**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**14 MARCH 2019,**  
**NATIONAL PARLIAMENT MEDIA CENTRE**

## RDC's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS

- "High Level Policy Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples' Rights: ILO Conventions 107 and 169 for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Bangladesh", funded by ILO, 11 January 2022.
- "High Level Policy Dialogue for Promotion and Protection of Rights of the Ethnic Minorities in Bangladesh" RDC, funded by Human Rights Program, UNDP, Dec 2018 - Nov 2019
- "Combating Discrimination against Ethnic minorities and Excluded Groups: through Right based Advocacy and Right Claiming Actions", funded by UNDP. Oct 2017 - Sept 2018
- "Promoting Enhanced Participation and Empowerment of Dalit Communities in Bangladesh with an Evidence Base for Realization of Dalit Human Rights and Entitlements", funded by European Union through Christian Aid, Bangladesh. April 2015-March 2018.
- "Combating Discrimination against Indigenous Peoples", funded by Christian Aid, Bangladesh. March 2014 - February 2017.
- "Building Capacities on Indigenous and Tribal People' Issues in Bangladesh: Rights and Good Practices" Funded by ILO. 2009-2013

### MAJOR RESEARCHES/STUDIES



- “Significance and importance of education movement of 1962” (Ongoing) commissioned by Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh.
- Endline Study on “Child Bride to Bookworm (Christmas Calendar 2019), Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh” (Ongoing) supported By Plan International, August 2023 – Till date.
- “Language Movement of 1952: Context Analysis and Assessment of the Role of Bangabandhu” (ongoing) commissioned by Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh.
- “Institutional Development of Centre for Development Innovation and Practices (CDIP): An Investigative Research”(Ongoing), sponsored by CDIP
- “Liberation War of Bangladesh: Sector 2 and Sector 11”, commissioned by Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh, March-June 2023
- “Youth Scoping Study” funded by CARE Bangladesh August-October 2022
- Study on “Social Tolerance among the Youth of Bangladesh: Understanding the Thought Processes and Factors Affecting the Social Tolerance of the Youth”. A study commissioned by BRAC and supported by UNDP, July-December 2022
- External Evaluation for “Strengthening the Role of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for People Centered and Sustainable Development continuation” Funded by Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), June - August 2021.
- Baseline Study on “Child Bride to Bookworm (Christmas Calendar 2019), Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh” supported By Plan International, March 2021 – May 2021.
- Baseline Survey on Gender-Responsive Education and Skills Program in Chittagong Hill Tracts supported By BRAC / Global Affairs Canada (GAC), September – October 2020
- Partnership for Impact Guide (field research and literature review) and training to CSOs commissioned by PLATFORMS FOR DIALOGUE (P4D)-Strengthening Inclusion and Participation in Decision Making and Accountability Mechanism in Bangladesh, funded by British Council/European Union, September 2019 – June 2020
- Context Study Baseline -Platforms for Dialogue (P4D): Strengthening Inclusion and Participation in decision-Making and Accountability Mechanisms in Bangladesh. Supported by British Council, Funded by EUD. Dec 2017 - May 2018
- Evaluation Study on “Promoting the rights of Older People and Influencing Policy through Cultural Campaigning and Media Work Project (DCI-HUM-2013/311-821)”-February-April 2017, Supported by Help Age International Bangladesh. Funded by European Union.
- Evaluation Study on “Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP)-Gazipur”- November-December 2016, Supported by CARITAS.
- Endline Evaluation on “Research & Synthesis of Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) standards in Bangladesh” - July- September 2016, Supported by World Vision.
- Research on “National Dalit Survey” – May-July 2016, Supported by Christian Aid.
- Research on “*Present health and educational situation of Dalit women regarding CEDAW Charter*” - April 2015, Supported by National Human Rights Commission.
- Research on “*Land Alienation Process of the Indigenous Peoples of North-West Bangladesh: The Case of Nachole*” September 2014 Supported by Christian Aid.
- Evaluation on “*Early Childhood Education Project (ECEP)*” May 2014, Supported by Save the Children.
- Research on “*Base-Line and Perception Survey on Electoral Process*”, January 2014, Supported by Asia Foundation.
- Research on “*Perception Study on Women Empowerment, Maternal Health, Education and Agriculture*” September- November 2013, Supported by BNPS.

- Research on *“Exploring Synergy between Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009 and Customary Practices of Ethnic Minority Communities in Bangladesh”* June to October 2013, Supported by VSO in association with NILG.
- Evaluation Study on *“Making Education Gender Responsive and Preventive to HIV/AIDS -Phase 2”*, Sep to Dec 2012, Supported by BNPS.
- Study on *“School Drop-out of Girls and Reproductive & Maternal Health Services: Status and Local Needs in Selected Electoral Constituencies”*, April-June 2012, Supported by BNPS.
- Research on *“Coherence between Customary Practices of Selected Marginal Ethnicities and Formal Governance System in Chittagong Hill Tracts and North-West Bangladesh”*, Dec 2011 to April 2012, Supported by VSO in association with NILG.
- Research on *“Mapping of Multi-lingual Education in Bangladesh”*, Oct-Dec 2011[Final Submission May 2012], Supported by UNESCO.
- Research on *“End line Survey of Amader School Project (ASP)”*, Oct-Nov 2011, Supported by Concern Worldwide.
- Research on *“Assessment of supplementary materials of BRAC Education for Ethnic Children (EEC)”*, Sep 2011, Supported by BRAC.
- Study on *“Oral Literature of Indigenous Community”* June 2011, Supported by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.
- Research on *“Facilitation for Impact Assessment on Life Skills and Education for Adolescent Development”*, Jan- March 2011, Supported by USC Canada-Bangladesh.
- Study on *“Lawsuits in Madhupur Forest”*, Apr-Oct 2010, for Oxfam.
- Study on *“Ethnographic Profile of Indigenous Communities”*, March 2009, Supported by Oxfam GB.
- Study on *“Project Assessment of 8 Partner Organizations of IPCBP Oxfam-GB - Assessment of Anogroshor Gono Unnayan Prokolpo (AGUP)”*, October 08 - February 2009, Supported by Oxfam - GB
- *“Exploring the Challenges and Potentials of UP Standing Committees: A Case Study on Local Governance in Bangladesh”*, March 2008.
- *“Adivasi Perception on Fish / Aquaculture and Aquaculture Related Activities – A Socio-Cultural and Anthropological Study of Adivasis in the Northern and North-West Region of Bangladesh”*, 2007-08, Supported by BFRF
- Research on *“Budget and Adivasis – ADP allocation for the Adivasis: A Macro analyses”*, 2008, Supported by Oxfam GB.
- Research on *“Poverty Profile of Dalits in Bangladesh”*, 2007, Supported by ManusherJonno Foundation,
- Research on *“Marginalization Process of the Adivasis. In Northwestern Bangladesh Obstacles to Main Streaming through Empowerment”*, 2007, Supported by CARITAS.
- Research on *“Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Communities: National and International Dimensions”*, 2006, Supported by ActionAid Bangladesh.
- Research on *“Situational Analysis of Agricultural Labor Wages in Selected Areas of Bangladesh”*, 2005, Supported by ActionAid Bangladesh.
- Research on *“Feasibility Study of Bilingual Education Project for Garo, Santal and Chakma Communities”*, 2004-05, Supported by BRAC Education Program,
- Research on *“Comparative Study between L1 User and Bangla User Learners in Preparatory Phase”*, 2004, Supported by BRAC Education Program.
- Research on *“Education and Language Needs of the Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh”*, 2003-04, Supported by BRAC Education Program.
- Study on *“Private Sector Capacity & Involvement in Water Supply”*, 2003-04, Supported by NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation.
- Research on *“VDC and WDC in the Local Power Structure: Present Situation and Future Outlook”*, 2003, Supported by DASCOH.

- Research on *“Assessing Major Development Needs of Santals in Bangladesh”*, 2003, Supported by Royal Norwegian Embassy and Santal Mission Norwegian Board (SMNB).
- Research on *“Micro-Finance in Chittagong Hill Tracts”*, 2003, Supported by AusAid.
- Research on *“Emergence of Regional Council and Hill District Councils in Chittagong Hill Tracts and its Implications”*, 2002, Supported by PROSHIKA.
- Research on *“Histories of Unprotected Labor Processes in South Asia: A Karachi- Calcutta-Dhaka linkage”*, 2001-02, Supported by SEPHIS, International Institute of Social Studies, Amsterdam.
- *Endline Evaluation Report on “Small Farmers and Landless Laborers Development Project”*, 2001, Supported by United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and UNDP.
- Research on *“Resource Use by Ethnic Communities in the Coastal Zone”*, 2001, Supported by Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
- Baseline Survey on *“Indigenous Peoples of Northwest Bangladesh”*, 2000, Supported by RDRS.
- Research on *“Reaching the Poorest of the Poor: Revising NGO Approaches and Strategies”*, 1998-1999, Supported by Caritas, Bangladesh.
- Research on *“Impact on Shrimp Farming on Soil and Water Quality of Some Selected Areas in the Greater Khulna District”*, 1996-98, Supported by Nijera Kori and PROSHIKA.

## MAJOR POLICY ADVOCACIES

- Roundtable Dialogue with Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples & Minorities and the daily Samakal to observe International Day for the World’s Indigenous Peoples, scheduled for 3 August 2023.
- Seminar with EMK Center and National Coalition for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to observe International Day for the World’s Indigenous Peoples, scheduled for 14 August 2023
- National Level Advocacy for National Coalition for Indigenous People (NCIP), 22 Oct 2022 at Gonosastho Nagar Hospital at Dhanmondi, Dhaka supported by Gonosastho Nagar Hospital
- National Level Advocacy for National Coalition for Indigenous People (NCIP), 23 August 2022 at CAMPE, supported by CAMPE
- Dialogues on Rights and Protection of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities, 17 August 2022 at CIRDAP Auditorium, supported by HRP, UNDP
- Observing the International Indigenous Day 2022 with the United Nation’s proclaimed title *“Role of Indigenous Women in Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge”* at The Daily Star Auditorium, 07 August 2022 in Association with Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples and Minorities, and National Coalition for Indigenous People (NCIP), supported by Manuser Jonno Foundation (MJF).
- Policy Advocacy, *Nagorik Shampriti Shova*, 08 May 2019, supported by HRP, UNDP
- Policy Dialogue on *“Rights of the Indigenous People: Indigenous languages and Land”* - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019, joint initiative with HRP, UNDP in observance of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2019.
- High Level Policy Dialogue in Observation of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2018): Theme - *Migration and Movement* held on 07 August 2018, funded by HRP, UNDP
- High level policy dialogue with relevant ministries (Law, Land, Forest, parliament standing committee on land Issues and PM office) on Formation of Separate Land commission for plain land ethnic minorities and excluded groups 05 April 2018, funded by HRP, UNDP
- National Consultation on *“the Findings of a Survey and Gap Analysis on Dalit Human Rights”* CIRDAP International Conference Center (CICC), 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016., funded by Christian Aid, Bangladesh
- High Level Policy Dialogue on *Indigenous Peoples: Right to Education, Land and Livelihood”*, CIRDAP International Conference Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016, organized by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, facilitated by Research and Development Collective (RDC)& UNDP-NHRC.

- High Level Policy Dialogue on “Human rights of Tea Workers and Development of their Socio-Economic Situation”, CIRDAP International Conference Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016, organized by Research and Development Collective (RDC).
- High Level Policy Dialogue on “Adivasi and Budget”, CIRDAP International Conference Hall, 18 May 2016, organized by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, facilitated by Research and Development Collective (RDC) & UNDP.
- Human Rights Assessment on Plain Land Indigenous Peoples: National Level Sharing Meeting on Field Visit to Nachole in Chapai Nawabganj by the Facts Finding Mission, 23 December 2015, S.A. Samad Auditorium, Daily Star Bhaban, Dhaka. Organized by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, Facilitated by UNDP, NHRC & Research and Development Collective (RDC)
- High Level Policy Dialogue on “Status of the Implementation of CHT Accord”, CIRDAP International Conference Hall, 01 December 2015, organized by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, facilitated by Research and Development Collective (RDC)
- High Level Policy Dialogue on “Implementation of CHT Accord” on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014, Jointly Organized by Standing Committee on CHT Affairs and Parliamentary Caucus for Indigenous Peoples, Supported by UNDP, Manusher Jonno Foundation and European Union.
- Policy level Dialogue on “CHT Peace Accord Status: High Level Policy Dialogue Outcomes” on 9 May 2013, Supported by UNDP, European Union, CIDA, Danida and ILO.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

- International Conference on **Bangabandhu and His Legacy**, It has been organized by the International Institute of Peoples’ 12-13 December 2021 at Jahangirnagar University, in association with International Institute of Peoples’ History (IIPH) and the Department of History, Department of Archeology and Bangabandhu Institute of Comparative Literature & Culture of the Jahangirnagar University in association with Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad, Centre for Bangladesh Studies of the Rabindra Bharati University, India.
- International Conference on “Secularism, Democracy and Gender Parity in South Asia” 28-29 August 2016 at Nabab Nawab Ali Choudhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka, in association with MAKAIAS and India Bangladesh Foundation.
- International Symposium on “Bangladesh’s Engagement with India and Myanmar Relations” dated 12-13 April 2015, in association with MAKAIAS and India Bangladesh Foundation.
- International Seminar on “Chithipotre Shahitya O Samaj” on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, in association with Rabindra Bharati University.
- International Seminar on “Sub-Regional Tourism Circuit: Linking South and South-East Asia” on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, in association with Asian Confluence and Bangladesh Foundation for Tourism Development (BFTD).

## FACTS FINDING MISSIONS

- **18-21 March 2019**, by an 8-member team (5 IPM Caucus, 1 UNDP and 2 RDC) to investigate land rights violation by Julekhanagar tea garden owner against an ethnic village – Lakhaichora Duttabasti village under # 4 Sindurkhan and #8 Kalighat union, of Srimongol Upazila of Moulavibazar District.
- **23-24 November, 2019** by a 5-member Team (4 IPM Caucus and 1 RDC) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Investigation of Santal Village, Shahebganj Bagda Farm, Gobindaganj Upazila, Gaibandha District.
- **22-23 July, 2018** by a 9-member team (5 IPM Caucus, 1 UNDP and 3 RDC) to investigate Nahar Tea Garden's attempt to evict Khasi indigenous people from their ancestral land Aslong and Kailing Punji of Srimongol upazila of Moulavibazar district
- **11-12 November, 2016**, to investigate land rights violation against Santal Adivasi Community, Bagda Farmat Gobindaganj Gaibandha by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples and NHRC, facilitated by Research and Development Collective (RDC) & UNDP.
- **December 2015**, to investigate land alienation of Adivasis in Nachole, Chapai.

## RAPID RESPONSE

### 27 March 2019, Human Rights Violation against Landless Ethnic Minorities

A 6-member Rapid Response team visited Kagojkuta village, of Alompur union under Dhamraihat upazila of Nogaon District to investigate affected area and talked with the affected ethnic families subject to human rights violence.

### 19 January 2019, Violence against Women

The Rapid Response was conducted related to an incident of gang rape of a 22-year-old girl on in Birmapur Upazila of Dinajpur district followed by Press Conference on 24 January 2019 at 03.00 pm in Shagar-Runi Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Dhaka Reporters Unit to protest Violence Against Women and recent incidences of rape

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Ekattarer Shaheed Buddhijibi Muktizuddher Chetona Nirmane Dhaka Bishwabidyalay, published by Agamee Prakashani, 2022
2. Bangladesher Khudra JatiShotta: Shangkritik Boichitra (Cultural Diversity of Ethnic Communities in Bangladesh), commissioned by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, 2020
3. Ami Tomari Matir Kanya, Life and Struggle of Dalit Women, published by Protyasha Publications, 2018
4. আদিবাসী জাতি সমূহের নিরাপত্তাবিধান ও অধিকার সংরক্ষণের উদ্দেশ্যে বিধান করিবার লক্ষ্যে আনিতবিল [জাতীয়সংসদে উত্থাপনীয়], প্রকাশক আইএলও অফিস, ঢাকা এবং গবেষণা ও উন্নয়নকালেকটিভ (RDC), আগস্ট ২০১৫।
5. বাংলাদেশের আদিবাসী : জীবনসংগ্রাম ও মানবাধিকার, সম্পাদনায় মেসবাহ কামাল, উৎস প্রকাশন, ঢাকা, অমর একুশেগ্রন্থমেলা ২০১৫।
6. Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People: A Genesis of Parliamentary Advocacy in Bangladesh, published by Research and Development Collective (RDC), November 2014, supported by European Union and OXFAM.
7. Women's Political Empowerment, Maternal Health Care, Education and Agriculture, A Perception Study done by Mesbah Kamal and Shereen Khan, published by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), March 2014, supported by The Asia Foundation.

8. Mapping of Multilingual Education Programs in Bangladesh, Published by UNESCO Dhaka and SHIKHON Program of the Save the Children, Dhaka, 2014.
9. Coherence between Customary Practices of Selected Marginal Ethnicities and Formal Governance System in Chittagong Hill Tracts and North-West Bangladesh, Utsa Prakashan, Dhaka, 2013, supported by Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO).
10. Lawsuits in Modhupur Forest, supported by OXFAM.
11. Bangladesher Adivasi: Ethnography o Gabeshona, Vol. III, [Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh: An Ethnographic Research, Vol III], (Research Publication in Vernacular), Utsa Prakashan and Bangladesh Adivasi OdhikarAndolan, Dhaka 2010.
12. 'Mrittu Nai, Nai Dukho- Ache Shudhu Pran': Nasreen Huque er Prati Nibedita Baktritamala, ActionAid, Dhaka, April 2008
১৩. বিপন্নভূমিজ : অস্তিত্বে ও সংকটে আদিবাসী সমাজ, বাংলাদেশ ও পূর্ব-ভারতের প্রতিচিত্র (*Endangered Offspring of the Soil: Indigenous People's Existence at Stake, Reflections on Bangladesh and Eastern India*) - ২য় সংস্করণ, অ্যাডর্ন পাবলিকেশন, ঢাকা ২০০৩, মেসবাহকামাল, আরিফাতুল কিবরিয়া, জান্নাত-এ-ফেরদৌসী।
১৪. আদিবাসী জনগোষ্ঠী, বাংলাদেশ এশিয়াটিক সোসাইটি, ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭, সংকলন : মেসবাহ কামাল, জাহিদুল ইসলাম, সুগত চাকমা।
১৫. অশ্রু-সাগরে মিলিতপ্রাণ, মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আদিবাসী ও চাজনগোষ্ঠী, উৎসপ্রকাশন, ঢাকা ২০০৮, মেসবাহকামাল, জান্নাত-এ-ফেরদৌসী।
১৬. নিজভূমে পরবাসী : উত্তরবঙ্গের আদিবাসীর প্রান্তিকতা ডিসকোর্স (Alien In Own Land : The Indigenous Peoples of North Bengal), দিব্য প্রকাশ, ঢাকা 2006। 2001, মেসবাহকামাল, ঈশানীচক্রবর্তী, জোবাইদা নাসরীন।
17. Unbroken Silence: A Participatory Study on Indigenous Society of North-Western Bangladesh, Research and Development Collective, Dhaka 2006, Mesbah Kamal.
18. Reflections on Diversity and Citizenship: Bangladesh and Beyond, Shrabon Prakashani, Dhaka, 2005, Mesbah Kamal.
19. Santal Community in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects, Dhaka, 2005, Mesbah Kamal.
২০. বিপন্নভূমিজ: অস্তিত্বের সংকটে আদিবাসী সমাজ, বাংলাদেশ ও পূর্ব-ভারতের প্রতিচিত্র (*Endangered Offspring of the Soil: Indigenous People's Existence at Stake, Reflections on Bangladesh and Eastern India*) (ঢাকা ২০০৩), মেসবাহ কামাল, আরিফাতুল কিবরিয়া।
২১. পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম : সংকট ও সম্ভাবনা , গবেষণা ও উন্নয়ন কালেকটিভ (RDC), ঢাকা ২০০১ ও ১৯৯৯, মেসবাহ কামাল, শারমিন মুখা।
২২. ক্ষুদ্র ঋণ : বাংলাদেশের অভিজ্ঞতা, সমাজ চেতনা পাবলিশার্স, ঢাকা ১৯৯৯, মেসবাহ কামাল।
২৩. শ্রেণী দৃষ্টিতে বাংলাদেশের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ, ঢাকা, ১৯৮৪, মেসবাহ কামাল।
২৪. মাঠের মানুষ মাটির লড়াই, উৎস প্রকাশন, ঢাকা, ২০০৮, মেসবাহ কামাল।
২৫. ছল, সাওতাল বিদ্রোহ দিবস উপলক্ষে প্রকাশিত পত্রিকা।
২৬. বৈচিত্র্য বৈভব : জীবন, জনপদ ও ঐতিহ্য ত্রৈমাসিক, ৬ষ্ঠ বর্ষ, ৩য় সংখ্যা, জুলাই-আগস্ট ২০১৫।

## PIONEERING WORKS OF RDC

### SUPPORT TO CHT ACCORD, 1997

CHT Accord was signed on December 02, 1997 between the government of Bangladesh and the Parbattya Chattagram Jono Samhati Samity (PCJSS) leading to the end of two decades of bloody unrest in the CHT. RDC fully supports the efforts to resolve the ethnic problem of the country through peaceful means and celebrates the day every year and advocates for the implementation of the Peace Accord through seminars, workshops, discussions, press conferences, public gatherings and publications.

### BANGLADESH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT (BIPRA)

Research and Development Collective (RDC) has taken initiative to formulate *Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (BIPRA)* through a rigorous consultation process. The Act is now ready for presenting in Parliament. Parliamentary Caucus has taken initiatives to propose BIPRA Act on Indigenous Peoples Rights as a bill in the next Parliament Session. BIPRA will provide the legal framework that must be accommodated in the development programs, projects, and activities along with the following agendas:

- Recognition and protection of ancestral domain / land rights,
- Self-governance and empowerment,
- Cultural integrity,
- Social justice and human rights

### RECOGNITION OF ADIVASI AND DALIT FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Indigenous peoples as well as other marginalized sections of our society (e.g. Dalits, peasants, labors etc) actively participated in the liberation war of Bangladesh (1971) and many of them sacrificed their lives for the independence of our country. But unfortunately, their contributions have not been recognized in the History of Bangladesh. RDC took the pioneering role in organizing Reception Programs for the Adivasi and Dalit freedom fighters in recognition of their role in the liberation war.

### PROTEST AGAINST ECO PARK AND NATIONAL PARK PROJECTS

Eco Park and National Park Projects at Muroichara and Madhabkunda in Moulvi Bazar and at Modhupur Gar in Tangail possess threats to environment and local habitats that include indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. RDC joined hands with other like-minded organizations and the indigenous peoples in protest of these projects. RDC, along with others, organized rallies, press conferences and discussion sessions during protest to stimulate public attention. This led to postponement of Eco Park in Moroichara and temporary stoppage of National Park project implementation in Modhupur by the Government.

### ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The rights of the 75 Indigenous communities with a population of about 3 million (30 Lakh) are much talked about among cross-sections of peoples of the country now a days and RDC can claim that it has worked tirelessly for last 18 years to achieve that. The Adivasi issue has become a national issue in Bangladesh today. However, the policy makers are yet to act decisively on the issues of Constitutional Recognition of the indigenous peoples and their traditional land rights. RDC is committed to continue its work until the Adivasi rights are ensured.

## **ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS OF TEA-COMMUNITY**

Tea-workers and the Tea-Community of the greater Sylhet region is one of the most marginalized communities of the country. At present there are about 1,00,000 tea-workers living across different parts of the region, and the tea-community is comprised of about 8,00,000 people. These people have long been leading a life of great suffering including landlessness, lack of education and inadequate work opportunities. RDC took the pioneering initiative to reveal the distressed life of the tea-community through facilitating a National Seminar at Dhaka in February 2007 titled 'Life of Tea-Community: Degraded Humanity'. This seminar generated wide media coverage and public attention to their problems that prompted the government to form an Investigation Committee that visited several tea gardens in mid-February 2007 to investigate the situation. RDC intends to follow up the initiative taken by the government to ensure that tea-workers get the minimum national wage alongside other rights.

## **PROTEST AGAINST PHULBARI OPEN-PIT COAL MINING (2006)**

Open-pit Coalmining at Phulbari is a threat to environment with regard to loss of natural vegetation that may bring adverse effect on agriculture and lead to food shortage. The open-pit mining operation in Phulbari will dislocate around 5 lakh people including 50,000 indigenous in that area. RDC joined hands with other like-minded organizations and the local people in protest. RDC also facilitated organizing a national level discussion session on September 30, 2006 to protest against open-pit mining at Phulbari. Later the government asked Asia Energy to stop functioning there, but tension still continues as local people and the national campaign body on the issue, alongside several environmentalists, is demanding cancellation of the project.

## **CHALLENGING MAHALCHARI MASSACRE IN CHT**

RDC took the first initiative to actively protest the Mahalchari Massacre in CHT that occurred on 26 August 2003. 432 households of 14 Adivasi villages in Mahalchari upazila under Khagrachari District faced arson, brutality and murder that included men, women and children as well. Many women were also subject to physical violence and gang rape. News of that massacre did not reach rest of the country until RDC led a team of journalist and human rights activist to investigate the spot. Later RDC organized a press conference, facilitated protest rally at central *Shaheed Minar* and forming human chain in front of High Court. RDC made a documentary film, together with *Bangladesh Adivasi Forum*, titled 'Mahalcharir Kanna' (Cry of Mahalchari). The incident was broadcasted through national and international media including BBC. This led to the formation of a Parliamentary Investigation Committee and a Tripartite Committee (Govt. Donor and CHTRC representative) who made a door to door damage assessment. Later rehabilitation packages were provided by the Government and the United Nations to rehabilitate the affected Adivasis.



## RDCs PREVIOUS NETWORK

### **BANGLADESH ADIVASI ODHIKAR ANDOLAN (BAOA)**

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan was formed towards the end of December, 2003. The ethics of this organization was to protest and prevent sufferings and anguish faced by the Adivasis. It demanded equal citizen rights for the Adivasis, like the rights of other Bangladesh citizens as per declaration in the Bangladesh Constitution. BAOA supported the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord (1997). BAOA mainly focused on advocacy related activities; observance/ celebration of various national and international day / events related to indigenous peoples; developed and distributed IEC material. BAOA consisted of a Trustee Board of 11 members and an executive committee of 35 members.

### **NATIONAL COALITION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (NCIP)**

RDC took the initiative to form *NATIONAL COALITION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES*, to work for the indigenous peoples collectively and effectively. NCIP started its journey on the 15<sup>th</sup> January of 2009. A total of 318 member organizations have joined NCIP. There is a General Council taking single representative from each member organization and a few selected individuals. To accomplish the Strategy, it has 25 member's steering committee. Out of 25 members 10 members from regional committee and rest 15 members will be from central level. It is an umbrella organization for all networks, organizations and individuals working to establish the rights of the indigenous people on different issues.

### **BANGLADESH DALIT FORUM (BDF)**

*Bangladesh Dalit Forum* has been formed in mid-October 2007 as a coalition of the 10 Dalit (the scheduled caste) organizations, supported by ActionAid. It is a civil society organization and a platform of defenders of Dalit rights. BDF aims to establish the social, political and economic rights of the *Namashudras* in particular and other Scheduled Castes / Dalits in general. In addition, BDF intends to eliminate all forms of caste and communal discrimination and sufferings, and wants to establish a secular society where everyone will have the right to live with dignity.

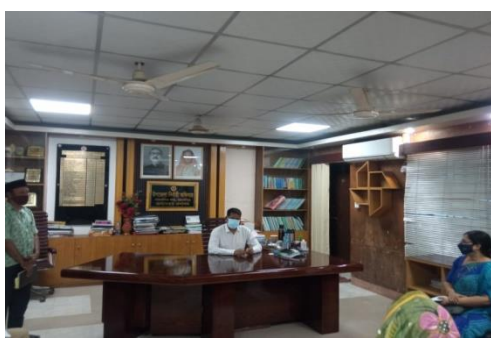
## PHOTO GALLERY



"High Level Policy Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples' Rights: ILO Conventions 107 and 169 for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Bangladesh", funded by ILO, 11 January 2022.



"High Level Policy Dialogue for Indigenous Peoples' Rights: ILO Conventions 107 and 169 for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Bangladesh", funded by ILO, 11 January 2022.



Taking interview at the house of Md. Saiful Islam, UNO, Mymensingh Sadar for External Evaluation for “Strengthening the Role of NGOs and Civil Society Organization (CSOs) for People-centred and Sustainable Development Continuation” supported by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) on June 2021.



Taking interview at GUK in Gaibandha for External Evaluation for “Strengthening the Role of NGOs and Civil Society Organization (CSOs) for People-centred and Sustainable Development Continuation” supported by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) on June 2021.



FGI in Comill supported by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) on June 2021.



Taking interview Deputy Director of Jamalpur Social Services Department supported by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) on June 2021.



Training session on “Child Bride to Bookworm (Christmas Calendar 2019), Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh” supported By Plan International, March 2021.



FGD with boys by Mrs. Zannat-E-Ferdousi Lucky in a baseline survey on “Child Bride to Bookworm (Christmas Calendar 2019), Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh” supported By Plan International, March 2021.



Taking interview for the baseline survey that is supported by Plan International on March 2021.



Taking KII for the baseline survey that is supported by Plan International on March 2021.



**POLICY DIALOGUE ON "RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND LAND"**  
4 AUGUST 2019, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2019.



FACTS FINDING TEAM IN A MEETING WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MOULAVIBAZAR - LAND RIGHTS VIOLATION BY JULEKHANAGAR TEA GARDEN OWNER AGAINST AN ETHNIC VILLAGE. 21 MARCH 2019



FACTS FINDING TEAM TO INVESTIGATE EVICTION OF KHASIS, BY NAHAR TEA GARDEN'S SRIMONGOL UPAZILA, MOULAVIBAZAR. 22-23 JULY 2018