



Terms of Reference

State of the Marginalised Study 2019

Background and Introduction:

Marginalisation is the outcome of deep-rooted attitude, values and traditional belief that pushes a group of people into a state of powerlessness resulting in poverty, inequality, deprivation and often desperation.

The Constitution of Bangladesh clearly states that all citizens have equal rights and no one can be discriminated based on gender, class, caste or ethnicity. Yet, people such as the minority population, persons with disabilities, sex workers, Dalits, etc. are subjected to pervasive discrimination that is often inter-generational. Years of discrimination makes them feel less important or less relevant than the majority population. Unfortunately, the State also has not been able to uphold the law of the land on their behalf as their cry for justice goes mostly unheeded. The BBS report of 2016 shows that the inequality between rich and poor has increased to an alarming level of 0.438 in Gini Coefficient. The report has found that the poorest 10 percent of the household population received 1.01 percent of the total national income in 2016 which was 2 percent in 2010. In comparison, the richest 10 percent of the population owned 38.16 percent of the national income in 2016 which was 35.84 percent in 2010. This means the rich and powerful people are growing in income and wealth day-by-day.

Human rights conception recognises that the ultimate task of human rights is protection and promotion of 'inherent human dignity'. Human dignity is universal, and therefore recognition and protection of individual's dignity is the quintessence of human rights laws and policies.

However, human dignity of the more vulnerable i.e. the marginalised, demands more attention and adequate treatment. The legal system aims to ensure respect for the basic rights of individuals, not because they are intelligent or particularly skilled or talented but just because of their human condition, or in other words because of their natural dignity.

Marginalisation is viewed as the inability of some persons or a group to use various societal powers and resources, and/or being treated unfairly than others by society and State mechanisms, leading to their exclusion and being side-lined in the society. This expression essentially indicates that the nexus of poverty, inequality and marginalisation is very strong and it needs proper attention from development endeavours.

There is a multidimensional aspect with social, economic and political barriers all contributing to the marginalisation of an individual or a group of individuals. People can be marginalised due to multiple factors like sexual orientation, gender, geography, ethnicity, religion,

displacement, conflict or disability. Poverty is both a consequence and a cause of being marginalised.

The marginalised and excluded people suffer the most human rights violations, such as violence, abuse, disrespect and lack of access to justice. This happens mostly due to negative attitude of society towards them, negligence of service providers, inaccessibility to basic entitled services, inadequate pro-people policies and programmes, lack of information about entitlements and related service provisions, and finally, dismal social status.

The marginalised people in Bangladesh are not a homogenous group, but diverse in terms of culture, religion, professional identity, ethnicity and physical as well as social dimensions. It is estimated that on 2015 there were at least 30 million marginalised people of different categories living in Bangladesh (Ref: State of Marginalised Report 2016 by MJF). These people are largely deprived of and excluded from access to many basic services, such as healthcare, education, *Khas* land, legal service and social security. They are quite often displaced forcefully from their own land. Their employment opportunities are very limited and their social identity and status are low. They often become victims of hostile socio-political conditions. Their demands are often ignored by the policy-makers, politicians and even by the mainstream population. The State of Marginalised Report 2016 by MJF found that employment opportunities and employment potentials are limited for the marginalised people; only 6.58 percent marginalised households are engaged in formal sector jobs; on an average 35.89 percent of the marginalised households experience food shortages throughout the year; 71.5 percent marginalised women face different forms of violence with an increased trend.

There is no specific index in Bangladesh to measure the marginalisation of different communities. Mexico was the first country to introduce an official multidimensional poverty measure; an index, which, in addition to considering the lack of economic resources, includes other dimensions that social policy must address. The methodology used by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL, Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social), Mexico, links two distinct perspectives in a single coherent conceptual framework: economic wellbeing and social rights. This identifies the poor as the population lacking both, sufficient economic resources and basic access to social rights (such as access to food, health, education, social security or dignified housing).

The two indexes of Canada are known as the Can-Marg Index (Canadian Marginalization Index) and On-Marg Index (Ontario Marginalization Index). These indexes seek to:

- Show differences in marginalization between areas
- Understand inequalities in various measures of health and social well-being, either between population groups or between geographical areas

The indexes are multifaceted, allowing researchers and policy and program analysts to explore multiple dimensions of marginalization in urban and rural Canada. Major Dimensions are residential instability, material deprivation, ethnic concentration and dependency.

Different organizations in Bangladesh conduct a number of studies regularly trying to measure inequality based on some specific indicators. However, there is no index based on human rights like those in Mexico and Canada to measure the marginalization of different communities in Bangladesh. Against this backdrop, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) wants to initiate a study to develop an index of marginalization to measure the state of inequalities of the marginalised population of Bangladesh and explore the present state of the marginalised people of the country, so that the socio-economic and human rights situation of the most disadvantaged population comes to the forefront for development discussion, policy formulation, planning and implementation.

The study will be titled as 'The State of the Marginalised – 2019'. This study report will not only develop an index based on various socio-economic and human rights based proxy indicators, but also report the status of the marginalised communities in the country. Eventually, the report will contribute to monitoring the achievements of SDGs and 7th 5-year plan reflecting long-term social development targets of the country. The report will also help MJF, civil society organisations and development partners in formulating need-based, pro-poor programmes in Bangladesh.

Rationale of the Study:

It may be mentioned here that in 2016 MJF started the process of developing the State of Marginalised Report bi-annually. Meanwhile, the first State of Marginalised Report - 2016 was published in 2017. As part of the continued process the next study report is expected to come out in 2020 covering the status of some selected marginalised communities in 2019 (though delayed by a year, but expected to be published bi-annually from here on). This report will be the guiding document for programme planning, policy advocacy and progress monitoring for MJF and other development actors.

Objective of the Study:

Broadly, objectives of the study are to

- Develop an index based on Human Rights for selected marginalised communities so that this document can be reckoned as a reference material to understand marginalisation in Bangladesh
- To explore current situation of marginalised people through the developed index so that MJF can assess the changes in the lives of the people of the marginalised communities in every two years

The specific objectives are as follows:

- To conceptualise the issue of marginalisation with its diversity in relation to the communities concerned
- To select/identify socio-economic and human rights based variables and indicators
- To examine the empirical relationships of variables and combining of these items into an index
- To validate the index

- To explore the current economic, social, cultural, political and human rights situation of certain selected marginalised communities in Bangladesh in light of the newly developed index
- To identify the magnitude of deprivation, inequality, discrimination and exclusion of marginalised communities in Bangladesh
- To Explore determinant and manifestation of violence against marginalised communities
- To recommend strategic and policy options for improving security and enhanced rights of the marginalised communities

Methodology of Study:

It is important to note that marginalisation has political reality because it is linked to powerlessness, helplessness and exclusion in which marginal people are denied to control crucial aspect of their lives. In the marginalisation process, political economy has a significant contribution to make lives and livelihoods of marginalised people vulnerable. New indicators can be developed through consultation with experts in relevant field and concerned government departments to describe marginality and develop the index. The Consultant will be at liberty to decide any effective and efficient methodology in consultation with the group of experts in field of marginalisation.

This is why we expect that the Consultant (and the team, if applied) who will conduct the study has employed both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Data needs to be collected both from primary and secondary sources. Primary data has to be collected through quantitative field surveys with at least 3000 sample (proportionately distributed so that they will represent different marginalised community) and qualitative methods like Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Key Informant Interview (KII), Case Studies and Expert Interviews. Household survey is expected to be carried out using structured questionnaires to assess the status of the households and its members on various indicators of marginality. Focus group discussions can be done with the respective communities to explore the underlying causes of marginalisation in the country. Key informant Interviews would explore the explanation and opinion of the key service providers. In addition, some case studies have to be picked up from among the marginalised communities of special characteristics (e.g. persons with disabilities, sex workers, or any other community persons) that are otherwise difficult to capture through household surveys. These case studies will give the qualitative explanation of the quantitative data and in some cases would provide with scope of triangulation of findings from this study.

Secondary data regarding national level indicators can be collected from various published documents for comparison. A few examples of sources may be HIES Data, Planning Commission Data, Bangladesh Bank Data, World Bank Data, Oxfam's Data, etc.

Geographical Coverage:

It is expected that the geographical coverage will be some selected places from all over Bangladesh as well as representing communities depending on the nature and type of respective marginalised communities to be chosen for the study. However, it is also evident

that the finalisation of the geographical coverage will eventually depend on the research design to be formulated by the Consultant through participatory consultation process.

Key Competencies:

Competencies of the Consultant include:

- Proven experience in working with and knowledge of government, CSOs and NGOs in Bangladesh
- Excellent understanding on gender, gender-based violence, disability, relevant laws and policies and their implementation, context of marginality and capacity to synthesise information from different sources into a coherent document
- Excellent English writing communication skills, with analytic capacity and ability to synthesise the issues and relevant findings of socio-cultural and political economy of marginality for preparing a quality report
- Maturity and confidence in dealing with senior and high-ranking members of government, academic institutions, development partners and other relevant national and international institutions
- Capacity of forming a sound team composition of data collectors and management, those who are capable to catch-up language and culture of marginalised communities
- Proven quality in displaying sensitivity and adaptability to different marginalised community cultures, genders, religions and age groups
- Proven experience in relevant research work as well as the study subject

Time Period:

From February to September 2020.

Deliverables and Deadline:

The study is expected to start in February 2020 for an estimated duration of 120 working days spreading over 8 months. The working days will include desk reviews, consultation workshops, field work - interviews, data collection, analysis and draft and final report sharing.

The Consultant will submit an inception report along with final work plan with key milestones within a week of signing the contract; this work plan will be reviewed and approved by MJF. It is anticipated that the final report will be produced within 120 days after signing of the contract. While the draft report is produced, it should be shared with MJF and MJF will provide feedback on draft report within two weeks after receiving the draft report. During the whole period of the assignment, follow up meetings will be held between the contracted consultant/consulting firm and Manusher Jonno Foundation as possible.

Output and Reporting:

- A detailed work plan
- A draft inception report of not less than 10 pages should be prepared by Consultant. The inception report will set out Consultant's (and her/his team, if applied) competency and understanding of the task, the methodology and production of final report

- Data collection instruments (Documentation of the methodology including methods and survey tools, questionnaires, sampling, tools and final analysis) developed and finalized in consultation with Manusher Jonno Foundation
- A draft report submitted to MJF electronically presenting the major findings and include recommendations based on information gathered on said issues
- Original data set in case of survey is conducted with the selected households
- Presentation on draft report should be in English (preferably in ppt.)
- 2 copies of final report of the study (hard copy) in excellent English and soft copy of the final report including annexes
- Data set of quantitative, qualitative analysis and other relevant documents

Guidelines on Proposal Submission:

Responding consultants should prepare and submit a **technical and financial proposal** including proper business certificate, cover letter, work plan, CV of team members, evidence of similar work experience (National/International), Tax Identification Number/certificate by **23 January 2020**. VAT & Tax will be deducted at source as per government rules. 15% VAT can be shown in the proposal but Tax will be included in Fees.

There will be a **pre-bid meeting** at MJF Office on **16 January 2020 at 10:00 AM** to answer any queries of the potential consultants/organizations. Summary of the discussion will be published in MJF website along with the request for quotation circulation.

Please note that a presentation will have to be made before MJF team who will score according to set criterion and only the successful shortlisted consultants' financial proposal will be opened and negotiated.

Payment mode:

- Payment will be made in a/c payee cheque or through bank transfer on submission of invoice.
- 40% payment on submission of inception report and work plan, 30% on submission of draft report and rest 30% on submission of final report
- All costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal responding to this request for quotation (RFQ) will be the responsibility of the bidder and will not be reimbursed by MJF
- Tax and VAT will be deducted at source as per government rules. If any circumstances, any failure at the consultants' end happened, consultant will compensate those or refund the proportionate amount to MJF within a shortest possible time (to be decided mutually)
- In the event of a major natural disaster, war or major civil or political unrest this agreement may be renegotiated and jointly revised between the two parties recognising any consequent change in the environment for implementation

Termination of the Agreement:

Either party can terminate this agreement with a written notice within 20 (twenty) days from the date of signing this agreement. MJF reserves the right to unilaterally terminate the contract if:

- The consultant/organization cannot fulfil any clause of Terms of Reference

- The consultant/organisation cannot conduct 40% of work in due time

Ownership agreement: Any document, information or data entrusted to or produced by the Consultant/organization in connection with this assignment shall be strictly confidential and cannot be used by the consultant organization for any other purpose without the written consent of the MJF authority. This provision shall remain valid even after the completion of this assignment.

Note: Strict adherence to this guideline is encouraged and any deviation will not be acceptable to MJF Management. Submission should be sent through email to ramesh@manusher.org. For any query, please contact Shaikh Giasuddin Ahmed, Senior Program Manager - Research, MJF, Phone: +88-02-55040989-97, Ext: 208; Cell: +88 01715029318; email: gias@manusher.org.

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