Comparative Study of the Predictors of Socio Economic Status between Manipuri and Khasia Ethnic Communities in North Eastern Region of Bangladesh

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author NP designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors MSM, MA and SA managed the analyses of the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study is to find out the predictors of the socio-economic status of the ethnic community (Manipuri and Khasia) in Bangladesh. The study analyzed a total of 113 (82 Manipuri & 31 Khasia) respondents from Manipuri and Khasia community purposively selected from Sylhet district. The information was recorded in a pre-structured questionnaire. Socio-economic status of the Manipuri and Khasia community was identified using self-developed Socio-Economic Index. A binary logistic regression model was fitted to determine the influencing factors responsible for the socio economic status of both communities. Family type, age at first marriage, and contraceptive use were the predictors of Socio-Economic Status for Manipuri community and income & contraceptive use were the predictors of Socio-Economic Status for Khasia community. In Khasia community, this research highlighted that those who had higher income and used contraceptive were having good socio-economic condition. On a different, joint family maintaining good

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socio-economic status than single family in the Manipuri Community. The Manipuri women who were married at late age or over than 18 years age and used contraceptive for family control were maintaining good socio-economic condition. Among all the responsible factors, contraceptive use was found to be highly significant predictors regulating the socio-economic status of both communities. Finally this study suggested that government can take a strong initiative for the provision of contraceptive use to improve socio-economic status of both communities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The majority of Bangladesh's 142.3 million people are Bengalis but approximately 3 million are indigenous peoples belonging to at least 54 different ethnic groups speaking at least 35 different languages. These peoples are concentrated in the north, and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in the south-east of the country [1]. The indigenous ethnic groups are the pride of Bangladesh. They enriched the country by their distinct culture and activities. The indigenous ethnic groups in Bangladesh are as follows. Bawm, Biharis, Bishnupriya, Banal, Bediya, Bhumij, Bagdi, Chak, Chakma, Dalu, Garo , Gurkha, Hajonj, Jaintia, Khasi, Khajons, Khumi, Khyang, Koch, Khatriya Barman, Kharia, Karmakar, Khondo, Khumi, Kole , Lushai, Meitei, Mundas , Mros (Mrus or Moorangs), Marmas, Manipuri, Munda, Marma, Mahato, Malo, Mahali, Muriyar, Musohor, Mandi, Oraon, Patro, Pangkhu, Pahan, Rohingyas, Rajbongshi, Rakhain, Rajuar, Rai, Santal, Tripuri, Tanchangya, Turi [2]. The main ethnic groups in the plain lands of Sylhet are Khasi, Manipuri, Garo, Patro, Bishnupriya and Tripura, although ECDO non-formal research has indicated that there are approximately 30 different indigenous communities living in Sylhet region. Among these groups, the Manipuri and the Khasi are the largest in population. Each group has distinct linguistic and cultural practices [3].

Gain and others [4] reported in their research area, Manipuri in Kamalgonj are better than other plain land indigenous people in Bangladesh. They also found that one third of the Manipuri people's economic situation was in worse position where they were living from hand to mouth. As an ethnic group Manipuri people have their distinct language and cultural practice that influences their everyday life. Their children struggle to receive education at schools which follow the majority language and cultural system. Despite these barriers, Manipuri people are conscious about the value of education. Although the rate of higher education is not satisfactory among the Manipuris, their literacy rate is higher than national statistics [5]. As the Khasia are the indigenous community, they are living in Bangladesh for long years. They have been a part and parcel of our economy and culture. The Khasi are the only communities in Bangladesh, who still strictly follow a matrilineal system. They have a matrilineal family composition and a matrilocal abode structure [6].

Land is vital for the Khasis in Bangladesh, Costa and Dutta [7] highlighted that a few of the Khasi punjis have their own cultivable land, but most of the Khasi villages do not formally own the land for their betel leaf plantation. Betel leaf is only available in the hilly forests of Sylhet. Their lifestyle is related to betel leaf production. Approximately 75.5 percent of the Khasi are involved in betel leaf cultivation. Shikdar, Biswas & Mollick [8] mentioned major findings on the condition of Khasia people. The socio economic condition of Khasia people is not so good. Education is low among ethnic groups. This is particularly evident in the Khasi community where education of children rarely progresses past primary level. The cause of these problems can be attributed partly to the remoteness of ethnic community villages; there are no secondary schools located nearby. Language also creates a problem as many lessons are conducted in Bangla and not the mother language. There is very little awareness about the threat of HIV/AIDS within ethnic communities, and the general education rate is very low which limits the understanding on HIV/AIDS and connected issues. Employment problems are prevalent throughout indigenous communities. Socio-economic status is the vast concept that is the replica of the position of individual or community in the society or country. Covering the social and economic aspects, the socio-economic status is defined as the position that an individual or family occupies with reference to the prevailing average standards of cultural possessions, income and participation in community activities [9]. Socio-economic status of the Manipuri and Khasia indigenous ethnic

community will expose their position in the society.

There were many researches done on socio economic condition of ethnic community but no one exactly shows the predictors of socio economic status. In this study, there was given endeavor to find the predictors of the socio-economic status of ethnic community.

However the specific objectives are:

- To investigate the factors responsible for the socioeconomic status of Manipuri and Khasia ethnic communities of Bangladesh.
- To assemble a comparison on the socio-economic status of those two ethnic communities.

The framework of the research is divided into four parts. First one is "Introduction" where discussed the issue like literature review, statement of the problem and objectives of the research. Second one is "Material and Methods" where discussed the method of sampling, data collection, analysis etc. Third one is "Result and Discussion" where discussed the result and discussion based on the result. Last part is

"Conclusion and Recommendation" where overall conclusion were made on the major findings and recommendations were made based on the finding of the research.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sylhet division which is the most populous place of the Manipuri and Khasia indigenous ethnic community located in the north eastern region of Bangladesh. From the Sylhet division two upazillas namely Sylhet Sadar and Gowainghat were selected purposively on accounts of availability of a large number of respondents; easy accessibility and good communication facilities. Respondents of 113 ethnic ever-married 15-49 aged females of these upazillas were selected randomly. Data were collected from the selected respondents through the direct interview with structured questionnaire during the period from January to May 2016. The study utilized self-developed index and SPSS (Version 20.00) for analyzing purpose. Self-developed Socio-economic index (SEI) was constructed based on the collected data to measure the socio economic status on the basis of index of Maity [10].

Table 1. Socio-economic index for Manipuri community and Khasia community [11]

Socio-economic index for 82 Manipuri respondents										
Serial No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SEI Value	0.98	0.88	1	0.98	0.83	0.81	0.84	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.94
Serial No	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
SEI Value	0.94	1	1	0.84	0.92	0.91	0.81	0.77	0.85	0.84	0.96
Serial No	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
SEI Value	0.93	0.96	0.91	0.71	0.91	0.79	0.81	0.96	0.82	1	0.92
Serial No	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
SEI Value	1	0.94	0.89	0.75	0.98	0.80	0.98	0.96	0.83	0.82	0.79
Serial No	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
SEI Value	0.75	0.82	0.90	0.79	0.79	0.93	0.84	0.93	0.83	0.82	0.98
Serial No	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
SEI Value	0.88	1	0.98	0.83	0.81	0.84	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94
Serial No	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
SEI Value	1	1	0.84	0.92	0.91	0.81	0.77	0.85	0.84	0.96	0.93
Serial No	78	79	80	81	82						
SEI Value	0.96	0.91	0.71	0.91	0.79						
Socio-economic index for 31 Khasia respondents										
Serial No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SEI Value	0.44	0.64	0.96	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.64	0.62	0.56	0.67	0.63
Serial No	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
SEI Value	0.62	0.86	0.59	0.64	0.59	0.64	0.78	0.82	0.59	0.67	0.74
Serial No	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
SEI Value	0.61	0.69	0.68	0.71	0.58	0.69	0.62	0.74	0.61		

Source: Author's Research, 2016

2.1 Tools and Techniques

Univariate analysis, Bi-variate distribution, Binary logistic regressions were performed through SPSS (Version 20.00).

2.2 Variables

Socio Economic Index is the dependent variable and it is made dummy by assuming median value of socio economic index (SEI) as benchmark.

1 = Good (socioeconomic status); 0 = Not good (socioeconomic status)

The SEI value equal or over than median SEI value is termed as Good (1) and otherwise Not Good (0). There are 11 independent variables drawn from social and economical background in this study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Manipuri Community

To find out the determinants of socio economic status, a Binary logistic regression model was fitted. Age at First Marriage, income, family type, contraceptive use, and occupational status were considered in regression analysis. Family type, age at first marriage and contraceptive use were found significant from the fitted logistic regression model.

3.1.1 Family type

Family type was statistically significant on socio economic status. The single family was 0.241 times less likely to be in good socio-economic condition than the joint family.

3.1.2 Age at first marriage

The respondents who married between 18 - 21 years old were 9.178 times more likely in good socio economic condition than the respondents who married in less than 18 years of age. The respondents who got married 21 years above were 12.491 times more likely to be in good socio economic condition than the respondents who got married in less than 18 years of age.

3.1.3 Contraceptive use

Contraceptive use was statistically significant with socio economic status. The respondents who used contraceptive were 18.745 times more likely to be in good socio-economic condition than the respondents who didn't use contraceptive.

3.2 Khasia Community

To find out the determinants of socio economic index, a Binary logistic regression model was fitted. Occupational status, income and contraceptive use were considered in Binary logistic regression analysis as these variables were significantly associated with Socio-Economic Index. Among those variables, the significant factors affecting socio-economic status were contraceptive use & income.

3.2.1 Income

The respondents who had monthly income at Tk 12001-20000 were 3.295 times more expected to be in good socio-economic condition than the respondents who had monthly income less than Tk. 12000. Respondents who reported to have monthly income over than Tk. 20000 were 2.325 times more likely to be in good socio economic condition than the respondents who had monthly income less than Tk. 12000.

3.2.2 Contraceptive use

Contraceptive use was statistically significant on socio economic status. The respondents who used contraceptive were 6 times more expected to be in good socio-economic condition than the respondents who didn't use contraceptive.

3.3 Comparison between Manipuri and Khasia Community

The prominent factors that affecting socio-economic status of the Manipuri community were Family type, age at first marriage and contraceptive use while contraceptive use and income were the prominent factors that influencing socio-economic status of the Khasia community. The income and expenditure were high among the Manipuri respondents. At present, if anyone has standard income, he or she can spend more to live comfortable life i.e., those who were spending more were expected to maintain better socio economic status. Family type was slightly influencing the socio economic status of Manipuri community. It is noteworthy that socio economic status was highly influenced by the important demographic variable "contraceptive use" for both Manipuri and Khasia community.

Table 2. Differentials of socio-economic status for Manipuri community

Associated factors	Socio-economic status		Row total	Total	Chi-square value	P-value
	Not good	Good				
Access maternal care						
Have	36(43.9%)	46(56.1%)	82	82	Constant	
Not	0(0%)	0(0%)	0			
Standard toilet facilities						
Have	36(43.9%)	46(56.1%)	82	82	Constant	
Not	0(0%)	0(0%)	0			
Safe drinking water						
Have	31(42.5%)	42(57.5%)	73	82	0.557	.455
Not	5(55.6%)	4(44.4%)	9			
Basic electric facility						
Have	36(43.9%)	46(56.1%)	82	82	Constant	
Not	0(0%)	0(0%)	0			
Family planning decision						
Both	31(42.5%)	42(57.5%)	73	82	0.557	.455
Anyone	5(55.6%)	4(44.4%)	9			
Age at first marriage						
Less than 18	1(100%)	0(0%)	1	82	9.475	.009
18-21	12(75%)	4(25%)	16			
Above 21	23(35%)	42(65%)	65			
Contraceptive use						
Yes	18(34.6%)	34(65.4%)	52	82	4.978	.026
Not	18(60%)	12(40%)	30			
Family type						
Single family	11(61.1%)	7(38.9%)	18	82	2.773	.096
Joint family	25(39.1%)	39(60.9%)	64			
Educational status						
Illiterate	0(0%)	0(0%)	0	82	Constant	
Literate	36(43.9%)	46(56.1%)	82			
Income						
Up to Tk. 12000	20(100%)	0(0%)	20	82	40.374	.000
12001-20000	14(40%)	21(60%)	35			
Above Tk 20000	2(7%)	25(93%)	27			
Occupational status						
Husband and wife employed	32(41%)	46(59%)	78	82	5.373	.020
Anyone employed	4(100%)	0(0%)	4			

*p-values are based on Chi-square test. Within brackets add to row percentages
Source: Author's Research, 2016

Table 3. Determinants of socio-economic status for Manipuri community

Binary logistic regression analysis					
Associated factors	β	P-value	Odds ratio	CI for Odds ratio	
				Lower CI	Upper CI
Family type					
Joint Family[®]	-	-	-	-	-
Single Family	-2.102	.069*	0.241	0.043	2.167
Age at first marriage					
Less than 18	-	-	-	-	-
18-21	2.45	.022**	9.178	0.786	19.415
Above 21	4.95	.012**	12.491	1.118	25.458
Contraceptive use					
No[®]	-	-	-	-	-
Yes	2.312	.021**	18.745	1.689	101.365

*Note: [®] denotes reference category; * p<.10, and **p<.05 are the levels of significance*

Table 4. Differentials of socio-economic status for Khasia community

Associated factors	Socio-economic status		Row total	Total	Chi-square value	P-Value
	Not good	Good				
Access maternal care						
Have	1(100%)	0(0%)	1	31	1.102	.294
Not	14(46.7%)	16(53.3%)	30			
Standard toilet facilities						
Have	14(46.7%)	16(53.3%)	30	31	1.102	.294
Not	1(100%)	0(0%)	1			
Safe drinking water						
Have	15(48.4%)	16(51.6%)	31	31	Constant	
Not	0(0%)	0(0%)	0			
Basic electric facility						
Have	13(46.4%)	15(53.6%)	28	31	0.444	.505
Not	2(66.7%)	1(33.3%)	3			
Family planning decision						
Both	14(46.7%)	16(53.3%)	30	31	1.102	.294
Anyone	1(100%)	0(0%)	1			
Age at first marriage						
Less than 18	3(100%)	0(0%)	3	31	2.700	.259
18-21	7(50%)	7(50%)	14			
Above 21	9(64%)	5(36%)	14			
Contraceptive use						
Yes	6(33.3%)	12(66.7%)	32	31	3.895	.048
Not	9(69.2%)	4(30.8%)	13			
Family type						
Single family	8(53.3%)	7(46.7%)	15	31	0.285	.594
Joint family	7(43.8%)	9(56.2%)	16			
Educational status						
Illiterate	6(54.5%)	5(45.5%)	11	31	0.259	.611
Literate	9(45%)	11(55%)	20			
Income						
Up to Tk. 12000	19(73%)	7(27%)	26	31	9.439	.009
12001-20000	0(0%)	3(100%)	3			
Above Tk 20000	0(0%)	2(100%)	2			
Occupational status						
Husband and wife employed	0(0%)	3(100%)	3	31	3.114	.078
Anyone employed	15(53.6%)	13(46.4%)	28			

*p-values are based on Chi-square test. Within brackets add to row percentages.
Source: Author's Research, 2016

Table 5. Determinants of socio-economic status for Khasia community

Binary logistic regression analysis					
Associated factors	β	P-value	Odds ratio	CI for Odds ratio	
				Lower CI	Upper CI
Income					
Up to Tk. 12000[®]	-	-	-	-	-
Tk.12001-20000	1.192	.015**	3.926	0.458	21.210
Above Tk 20000	1.185	.016**	2.325	0.319	19.787
Contraceptive use					
No[®]	-	-	-	-	-
Yes	1.792	.065*	6.00	0.893	40.306

*Note: [®] denotes reference category; * p<.10, and **p<.05 are the levels of significance*

4. CONCLUSION

Analyzing the above discussion, we come up with the conclusion that Manipuri community was doing better than the Khasia community. This may a result of the high literacy rate among the Manipuris. Not only that, the socioeconomic index for the Manipuri also demonstrated a better

percentage of good socioeconomic holders (42.68%) with contrast to Khasia (3.23%). Furthermore, a linear logistic regression model was fitted to identify the determinants of good socioeconomic condition of these two ethnic communities. Analysis made for Manipuri community exhibited three most significant factors i.e., family type, age at first marriage and contraceptive use responsible for the good socio-economic status of this community. On the other hand, the fitted regression line for Khasia community displayed two significant factors namely income and contraceptive use influencing their good social and economical state to the greatest extent. In particular, the demographic factor played an important role in the socio economic condition of ethnic communities. Specifically, contraceptive use was found to be the most prominent explanatory factor determining the socio economic status either it for Manipuri or Khasia community. Though contraception is not simply about avoiding pregnancy, Access to reliable birth control also allows women to space births which has measurable outcomes for their own health and that of their babies [12]. Moreover that, as income inequality grows families without access to reliable contraception are potentially at a greater disadvantage. Poorer children experience more health problems, live in more dangerous neighborhoods and have higher rates of delayed academic development [13].

5. RECOMMENDATION

Regarding all of these consequences, this study suggests that, along with socio-economic development, family planning programs with a special concern on the use of contraceptives and relevant health care seeking behavior among those ethnic communities might be taken into account by the government of Bangladesh. Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are given.

- Government can take a strong initiative for the provision of contraceptive use to improve socio-economic status of both communities
- Consciousness should be made to stop early marriage among the Manipuri community. Late marriage can significantly improve socio-economic condition.
- Income generating activities need to be enhanced to uplift socio economic condition of Manipuri and Khasia community. As a result, they can earn, be busy on work, take contraceptive to control family and be happy in life.
- Women should be given chance in job sector along with men. It will help to improve the socio-economic condition of both communities.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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