

Ethnicity, Globalization and Social Change: An Exploratory Study among the Santals in Northern Bangladesh

Abstract

The Santals are one of the oldest ethnic communities in Bangladesh, with a rich cultural identity rooted in collective living, polytheistic customs, and agriculture. Despite this long history, the community continues to be socially and economically marginalized, as well as underrepresented in both academic discourse and policymaking. The study aims to understand socioeconomic and cultural changes within the Santal community in Bangladesh, focusing on the impacts of ethnicity and technological shifts in the context of globalization. It will analyze how these changes impact the ethnic identity, culture, and productive systems of Santal individuals and households. An exploratory mixed-methods approach will involve in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation, case studies, and field surveys with selected Santal communities in the Joypurhat and Naogaon districts of Bangladesh. This study's findings will contribute to future research initiatives, policymaking, and development efforts to enhance inclusion, resilience, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Keywords: Santal, Ethnicity, Globalization, Social Change