

Research Study

Public services unreachable for the marginalised: TIB Study



Dhaka, 21 October 2021: Dhaka, 21 October 2021: Accessing public services is still a far cry for the marginalised in the country as they often face discriminatory attitudes while seeking government services, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) study unveils today.

Besides, filing complaints doesn't help much as they fall victim to harassment and threat instigated by local public representatives and a section of government officials, finds the study.

The research also portrays accountability mechanisms (hotline number, filing official complaints, meetings, public hearings, laws and policies, etc.) designed by the government are not inclusive of the marginalised as their language proficiency, financial ability and technological literacy was not taken into account while putting the systems in place.

Qualitative in nature, the study titled 'Access of Marginalised Communities to Public Services: An Assessment of Accountability Mechanisms' was conducted between October 2020 and September 2021 to assess the state of access to and exercise of the existing institutional accountability system by the marginalised people, namely indigenous communities, acid attack survivors, Dalits, tea workers and transgender communities.

During the launching event of the study, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Marginalised people are being deprived of the development and government services of the country and unable to access the accountability mechanisms (such as laws) that can help end the deprivation (of the marginalised). As a result, their marginalisation is being accelerated. The key essence of the SDGs is-- Leaving No-one behind--, but now it seems to be a far-fetched dream. We, feel that the promise of a non-discriminatory state in our constitution is being trampled down."

Moreover, the study also reports that public officials have discriminatory mindsets against marginalised communities, which discourage members of these communities from resorting to the accountability mechanisms when their fundamental rights to education, health, land and safety are stripped off by communal forces or by the state itself.

Furthermore, the injustices prevail in accessing and protecting land owned by marginalised communities, as the government continues to remove indigenous people from their ancestral lands to preserve forests, while in reality, protected forests are the most often destroyed and overtaken by politically affiliated land-grabbers and industrialists.

The study also unveils that students from marginalised communities face racial discrimination from their classmates in educational institutions, and the authorities do not take appropriate action. Moreover, members of marginalised communities are not included in school governing boards, enabling discriminatory behaviour against indigenous communities and Dalit members of the society.

Alongside the report, TIB also put ten recommendations to curb discrimination against marginalised communities, of which the enactment of the anti-discrimination act is the most prominent.

For the full report and other relevant information, [visit](https://www.transparency.org)  **Marginalised Study - Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) ([ti-bangladesh.org](https://www.transparency.org))**

Position Paper

TIB calls for effective policies and investments, prioritises transition to renewable energy ahead of COP-26



Dhaka, 28 October 2021: As the global climate change conference, COP-26, begins with the aspirations of the effective implementations of the Paris Agreement, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has demanded the discontinuation of any further coal projects in Bangladesh to meet the global target of net-zero emission by 2050.

While presenting its position paper on the global summit through a press conference today, it has also asked for compensations in climate funding instead of loans in the Green Climate Fund (GFC) and demanded effective policies and investments in renewable energy.

During the press conference, TIB has presented data on how developed countries have failed to keep their promises while global moneylenders have hijacked climate funds for unethical business practices. TIB thinks that as the chair of the global Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh has a very important role to play in the summit and has called on the government to press for transparency and accountability in global climate financing and to demand the approval of GCF projects without any further delay.



On the other hand, the position paper also portrayed how Bangladesh, along with big players like India and China, have undermined the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and 15 other countries are planning on increasing fossil fuel extraction and consumption by 110% by 2030, of which coal consumption is expected to be the highest. Expressing concerns about 19 coal and LNG-based projects in Bangladesh including Rampal, Matarbari and Bashkhali, TIB has said Bangladesh is walking in the opposite direction. While the implementation of these projects would increase electricity production by 63 times, the additional 115 million tons of carbon emitted from these plants would make Bangladesh the highest coal polluting Asian nation by 2030. Pointing out these realities, TIB has called on the Bangladesh government to stop financing and approval of any further coal projects after 2021.

Speaking at the press conference, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “We cannot fall behind in the global race for renewable energy technology. We need a specific national roadmap for transitioning to renewable energy so that we can fulfil the international and local commitments.” He also called on the Bangladesh government to take steps to ensure sustainable climate financing and focus on national mandates as the lack of accountability and transparency in the GCF has deprived extremely climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh from attaining proper compensation and technical support.

Out of 14 recommendations for the government in the position paper, calls for blocking of the unethical lobbying of fossil fuel companies, transparency and accountability in climate financing, complete renewable energy dependency by 2050 and a definite roadmap for effective adaptation policies are the most prominent.

For more details, visit -

<https://www.ti-bangladesh.org/beta3/index.php/en/research-policy/98-position-paper/6349-cop-26>

Policy Stance

Recent communal violence is not an isolated incident; shun the traditional culture of political blame game and ensure justice: TIB

Dhaka, 19 October 2021: TIB expressed its grave concern over the communal violence centering the biggest religious festival Durga Puja of Hindus in at least 15 districts, including Cumilla, leaving at least six persons dead and hundreds injured.

In a statement today, it said, due to the political blame game, no justice has been ensured, hence, such incidents keep happening often.

In the statement, TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “We were surprised, the field administration, including the law enforcement agencies, have failed miserably to stop the week-long communal attacks on the Hindu community's temples, homes, businesses and livelihoods across the country. After the incident, thousands of accused were made in hundreds of cases; however, no real culprits have been identified so far, apart from playing the traditional political blame game. We see the repetition of the same incident in all the previous violent events.”

He said, the culture of impunity is making room for communal violence. Due to such political blame game and political patronage towards the communal group, the real culprits are getting away.

Coming down heavily on the step of closing all the mobile network service for 12 hours and terming it as ‘technical error’ while also broadcasting no news on media on the Cumilla incident, he also said, the situation would not worsen if the culprits had been identified earlier keeping aside the political differences and without hiding the real facts.

Expressing his concern, Zaman said, the involvement of leaders and activists of various political parties, including the ruling party, in the recent communal attacks in Ramu, Ukhiya, Nasirnagar, Sunamganj and other places does not dispel the fear that there is involvement of some vested interest and influential quarters behind every violence.

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