

Seminar
Notice **Concealed Identity and Situation of
Indigenous communities in Bangladesh****Speaker****Professor Sadeka Halim***Professor of Sociology, University of Dhaka**Former Information Commissioner, Bangladesh***Date and Time: 01 June, 2022, 3:30 pm****Venue: Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
DD 27/D Salt Lake, Sector-1, Kolkata-700064****Abstract**

Bangladesh demonstrates a rich spectrum of multiculturalism due to the existence of 45 indigenous communities. The indigenous people (IP) constitute 1.8 percent of the total population of Bangladesh, who are yet to achieve the constitutional status. Most of the IP resides in the plain land districts and about one-fifth in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The talk would touch on the current state of IP in Bangladesh against the context of the debates on identity formation, constitutional silence, use of customary land, natural resources, status of women, and so forth. For the IP their struggle mainly revolves around land issues. The customary system of land ownership in indigenous communities is ignored by national-level policy makers and seen as static and socially regressive. Further, non-recognition in the constitution and not having information on IP in line with their ethnic identity lead to a discriminatory understanding of IP's customary laws and hinder their inclusion in development. The talk emphasizes the need for securing the socio-political fundamental rights and giving the IP proper space in the constitution to address plurality of the citizens' context-specific rights.

All are welcomeA handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Achin'.

Achin Chakraborty
Director, IDSK