



**THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN  
TOBACCO CULTIVATION OF BANGLADESH:  
FEW CASES IN NORTHERN BANGLADESH**

**465268**

**M.PHIL THESIS  
BY**

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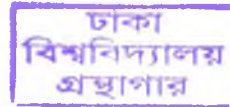
# **The Involvement of Children in Tobacco Cultivation of Bangladesh: Few Cases in Northern Bangladesh.**

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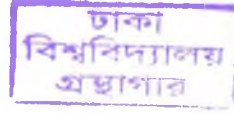
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## Declaration

The materials embodied in this thesis are original. This work has not been submitted in part or full for any other diploma or degree of any other university or institution.



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**Muhammad Ashraful Alam**

## **ABSTRACT**

In Bangladesh, tobacco is cultivated since eighteen century. Bangladesh ranks 21<sup>st</sup> among the 125 tobacco growing countries around the world (Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR, 2002:15). Worldwide, 33 millions workers are employed in tobacco growing and early stages of processing of the tobacco and 100 millions workers are involved in all stages of the tobacco production. Of them nearly 90 millions belongs to the developing countries (Eldering, 200:7). Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. From seed sowing, irrigation, harvesting, post harvesting, leaves drying, bundling, even to selling children are actively involved. The growing tobacco is threatening the health of their families, their lands, and their local eco-system. Tobacco farming increases poverty and economic underdevelopment of individual farmer as well as families, communities and countries.

This study entitled ‘The Involvement of Children in Tobacco Cultivation of Bangladesh: Few Cases in Northern Bangladesh’ was undertaken to explore the nature of children involved in tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh. The study area was Kalkeot village of Jaldhaka Upazila under Nilphamari district located in the northern part of Bangladesh. The participant observation was the principal method of investigation. Along with this a number of qualitative methods such as; informal interview, focus group discussion, checklist and case study technique were also used as tools for collecting in-depth information for this research. Most of the information collected from the field was qualitative in nature. Purposively, 156 children were selected for face to face interview from the age group of 6 to 18 years of age. Total number of 6 focus group discussions were conducted from the working children. SPSS, tabulation, frequency distribution and classification were used for data analysis as statistical tools. The field work period was four

months from February 2011 to March 2011 and October 2011 to November 2011.

The research area Klakeot is an agricultural based community and tobacco cultivation is common there for a long time. There are 1003 households along 4603 population. There are 836 children between 0-5 years, 639 children between 6-11 years and 592 children 12 to less than 18 years of old. The literacy rate is very poor in this village. The research findings on the age of the children is that, the highest number of tobacco working children follow under the category of 11-15 years, which is 57.7 percent of the total study population. In the study area, out of 156 respondents, only 95 children go to school and 61 do not attending school.

Regarding gender, 66 percent children are boys and 34 percent children are girls, who are working in tobacco field in different stages of tobacco cultivation. The majority of the family's yearly income is Tk.51000 to Tk.75000. It is an important finding that shows the working time of the children in tobacco cultivation. It was found that 32 percent children are worked 3 to 4 hours in a day in tobacco field. It is very unfortunate that 28 percent children are worked 7 to 8 hours, 19 percent children are worked 5 to 6 hours and 8 percent children are worked 9 hours in a day during the tobacco cultivation season. The children, who currently study at different classes, work before school time and after getting back from school. Sometime, they did not go to school for the work load. The highest number of 11 days and above that is 5.1 percent children are absent in school in tobacco season. The children, who did not go to school they work in tobacco field whole the day.

Tobacco is a labour intensive crop. Mostly women and children work in tobacco field. Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation is a very long, strenuous, time-consuming, labor-intensive and risky activity. As in other agricultural

sectors, child labor is prevalent, particularly in the poorer areas. Often the whole family is involved in the cultivation and harvesting process. Children provide one third of labour at peak period. In the study area kalkeot village, children are contributing their labour and innocent hands to produce tobacco in all most all of the tobacco growing stages. Most of the children are involved in - preparing tobacco nurseries, building tobacco drying sheds, sowing tobacco seedlings, watering tobacco fields, transplanting tobacco seedlings and tilling tobacco ridges, fertilizing tobacco plants, weeding tobacco crops, plucking tobacco leaves, collecting tobacco from field and bring them to house area.

After collecting tobacco from the land, the leaves are dried surrounding the house area. At that time its bad smell burnout the whole area. Even children and others family members are sleeping under the same roof as their toxic harvest in that season. At home level mainly the work is processing up to selling. Women and children are mostly doing the works. Most of the children of study area do the works- hanging tobacco leaves on poles in tobacco drying sheds, smoking tobacco leaves, grading tobacco leaves, tying tobacco leaves in bundles and finally selling tobacco in market. Most of the children do the above hazardous works at field and home both. Specially, the children are being pulled from school to work and women going to sleepless to process tobacco.

Tobacco itself is considered to be unhealthy and dangerous for the producers as well as consumers. In the study area, women and children are more exposed to fertilizers and pesticides during planting growing, toxic tar from green leaves. Tobacco producing is threat for the health of the farming families, their lands, and their local eco-system. The common symptoms of health hazards are vomiting, weakness, headache, skin disease and dizziness due to tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation and poverty are linked in several ways. Due to tobacco cultivation children are missing their school and their innocent childhood.



Although this particular study does not reflect the total scenario of child labour in tobacco cultivation of Bangladesh, but the findings of study identified the children's suffering from tobacco cultivation and as well as the dreadful impact on the society as a whole.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

WHO	: World Health Organization.
UNICEF	: United Nations Children’s Fund.
ILO	: International Labour Organization.
CRC	: The Convention on the Rights of the Children.
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals.
GTS	: Green Tobacco Sickness.
FCTC	: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
UNO	: Upazila Nirbahi Officer.
UH&FPO	: Upazial Health & Family Planning Officer.

## GLOSSARY

- Srome niojito shishu : Child engaged in labour.
- Sromojibi shishu : working child
- Chhinnomul shishu : Street child
- Kobiraj : Traditional hiller.
- Quack : Village doctor (unregistered doctor)
- Akal shomoy : The period when people remain jobless and no income.  
It is well known as Monga or Akal shomoy of the northern part of Bangladesh. The duration is Ashin to Kartik and Falgun to Baishak months of Bangla year.
- Para : Small part of village.
- Furkania Madrasha : Religious education institute where only read 'Quran'.
- Ebtedai Madrasha : eligious education institute but also read general education curriculum and it is as the level of primary education.
- Nasha : As like bidi, made by tobacco leaf and children commonly smoke.
- Bigha : Used for indicate land amount. One Bigha is equal 33 decimals.
- Rabi Season : Farmer cultivates tobacco during mid-October to mid-March.



## CHAPTER-I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Proposition

Children's participation in various forms of economic activities can be the root of many forms of deprivation of children, particularly in the low income countries (Katikaneni 1998:1). It adversely affects the children's physical and mental development, which will have a long term negative impact on the society as a whole. Child labor is a global phenomenon. Whether a country itself has child labour or it imports goods made by the hands of children, every nation is somehow implicated in the process. Child labour is also not only a problem in the South Asia, but also found in many developed countries (ibid,1998:1). In developing countries, children's activity results not only in deprivations faced by children, but also in the perpetuation of poverty. Such link will, of course, depend on the type and intensity of children's work. It is not by accident or choice that children get involved in the production of tobacco. The system is designed so that a tenant has no choice but to involve his entire family in the production of tobacco (Eldring, 2000:40).

Worldwide, 33 millions workers are employed in tobacco cultivation and early stages of processing of the tobacco. About 100 millions workers are involved in all stages of the tobacco production. Of them nearly 90 millions belong to the developing countries (Eldering, 200:7). Tobacco farming involves severe, arguably irreversible costs to farmers and their families. Some of these costs of tobacco farming are child labour, bonded labor and environmental degradation, all leading to worsen and perpetuate the conditions of poverty of the farmers. Tobacco farming costs increases poverty and

1. Here children refer to child labours involved in tobacco cultivation in the study area.

economic underdevelopment of individual farmers as well as families, communities and countries. Tobacco farming is one of the major causes of deforestation. A recent study show that an environmentally critical situation is emerging in more than 30 countries and Bangladesh is among the leading ones with highest percentage of tobacco related deforestation (Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR, 2002:15). Worldwide, the commercial cultivation of tobacco is dominated by a few multinational companies and represents the bulk of agricultural exports and foreign income for many poor countries. Tobacco cultivation is a very long, strenuous, time-consuming, labor-intensive and risky activity. As in other agricultural sectors, child labour is prevalent, particularly in the poorer areas. Often the whole family is involved in the cultivation and harvesting process.

The profitability of tobacco emerges from the fact that most farmers economies on the high cost of labour by using their family labour. Since this labor is free, they do not feel pinch of the high cost of labor. Several studies shows that more than 50% of the labor comes from children and women of the farm families (ibid,2007:7). Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. From seed sowing, irrigation, harvesting, post harvesting- leafs drying, bundling, even to selling- in every stages children are actively involved. The tobacco leaves collected from field affects children and others family members due to its toxic nature and smell. For this reason, the children suffer from different health problems. 2

The tobacco cultivation is closely related to health hazards. The growing tobacco is threatening the health of families, lands, and local eco-system. Women and children are more exposed to fertilizers and pesticides during planting growing, toxic tar from green leaves during harvest, and fumes from kilns during curing. It is also ill health and birth defects from handling

2. This is more or less common in the study area.

agricultural chemicals and tobacco leaf. Children and adults working with tobacco often suffer from green tobacco sickness, which is caused by dermal absorption of nicotine from contact with tobacco leaves (WHO,2009: 6). Common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, weakness, headache and dizziness and may also include abdominal cramps and difficulty breathing, as well as fluctuations in blood pressure, heart rates and birth defects from handling agricultural chemicals and tobacco leaf. In addition, there are many occupational hazards in the tobacco fields while tobacco farming is not unique in its use of child labor, the particular hazards posted by tobacco cultivation place these children at increased risk of injury and illness. The product itself is considered to be unhealthy and dangerous for the producers as well as consumers. Tobacco use is leading cause of preventable death, and is estimated to kill more than 5 million people each year worldwide (ibid,2009:7). Most of the deaths are in low-and -middle income countries. If current trends persist, tobacco will kill more than 8 million people worldwide by the year 2030, with 80% of these premature deaths in low-and middle-income countries (ibid,2007:8). The gap in deaths between low-and-middle income countries and high-income countries is expected to widen further over the next several decades if do nothing. By the end of the century, tobacco may kill a billion people or more unless urgent action taken (ibid,2009:11).

Poverty and tobacco is a vicious circle. It is the poor and the poorest who tend to smoke the most. There are estimated 1.3 billion smokers worldwide. Of these, 845 live in developing and transitional economy countries (WHO,2004:24). Tobacco contributes to poverty through loss of income, loss of productivity, disease and death. There are several ways in which tobacco increase poverty at the individual, household and national levels. For decades, the tobacco industry has encouraged countries and families to grow tobacco, claiming that it will bring them prosperity. For many households, the reality is quite different. The earnings from tobacco are barely enough to cover their costs, yet they continue to grow it because there is often little support for the

crops. Tobacco contributes to poverty not only through the money wasted on its purchase, but also through lost educational opportunities. The use of child labor in the tobacco fields is common practice in many tobacco producing countries. Among the poor families who depend on tobacco, children work in tobacco farms or factories from a very early age, missing out on vital educational opportunities that could help lift them out of poverty. Thereafter, tobacco is the fact that it provides a guaranteed market and ready cash.

In Bangladesh, tobacco is cultivated since eighteen century. Bangladesh ranks 21<sup>st</sup> among the 125 tobacco growing countries around the world (Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR, 2002:15). Bangladesh is predominantly a rural country with 84.8 percent of the population living in rural areas. Agriculture is the main economy of Bangladesh but about 60 % of the rural population is landless. About 47 percent of the population is under 16 years of age. About 75 percent of children below the age of 12 years are malnourished. In Bangladesh, there are about 56 million labourers and 62.2 percent of them are working in agricultural sector (ibid,2002:16). About 1.6 million children are working in agricultural sector, which is 63 percent of the total child labour in Bangladesh (ibid,2002:16). Bangladesh accounts for about 0.4% of the total volume of tobacco produced in the world. Tobacco contributes less than 0.01% to the GDP of Bangladesh (ibid,2002:8). In terms of employment, tobacco accounts for about 0.6% of the agricultural labour force and less than 0.5% of the total labour force (ibid,2002:8). The major tobacco companies in Bangladesh are British American Tobacco, Dhaka Tobacco, Abul Khair Tobacco, Nasir Tobacco, KB Group Tobacco, RB Group Tobacco (Akter,2010:9). As a labour intensive crop, mostly women and children are working in tobacco cultivation.

Development agencies, donors and multinational agencies are increasingly recognizing that tobacco is much more than a health issue. While epidemiological research continues to connect tobacco use to numerous serious health problems, economic research now shows that tobacco can exacerbate

poverty among users, growers, workers and nations. Tobacco control, rather than being a luxury that only rich nations can afford, is now a necessity that all countries must address.

The present study deals with the involvement of children in tobacco cultivation of Bangladesh. It was undertaken to explore the nature of children involvement in tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh. We have chosen Kalkeot village of Jaldhaka Upazila under Nilphamari district for the purpose of present study. Purposively, 156 children were selected for face to face interview from the age group of 6 to 18 years of age. The participant observation was the principal method of investigation. Along with this a number of qualitative methods such as; informal interview, focus group discussion, checklist, case study and key informant technique were also used as tools for collecting in-depth information for the research. Most of the information collected from the field was qualitative in nature. SPSS, tabulation, frequency distribution and classification are used for data analysis as statistical tools. The field work period was four months from February 2011 to March 2011 and October 2011 to November 2011.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.2.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to explore and understand the nature of children involvement in tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh.

### **1.2.2 Specific Objectives**

Besides, the specific objectives are:

1. To examine the intensity of child labour in tobacco cultivation.
2. To identify the children's sufferings from this cultivation.

3. To know the children's views about tobacco cultivation considering gender discriminates.
4. To know the views of duty bearer like parents, guardians, villagers, local leaders.
5. To visualize such a hazardous child labour.

### **1.3 Scope and Importance of the Study**

Bangladesh is one of the pioneer countries, who signed and ratified the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) in 1990. After than it is mandatory for Bangladesh to protect the children from any harmful circumstances and establish their rights for all level of children. Moreover, child labor is prohibited in Bangladesh under the Employment of Children Act, 1938; The Children (Pledging of Labor) Act, 1933; The Factories Act, 1965; The Plantations Labour Ordinance, 1962 and The Shops and Establishment Act, 1965. All these laws prohibit the employment of children below 14 years of age. But, in practical, there are thousands of children are working in varies hazardous works like- in garments industry, bidi factory, motor garage, work shop, helping auto rickshaw and bus, rickshaw and van pulling; they are use in sex working, trafficking, smuggling, arms caring, political conflicts are main (Islam,2009). Several studies have done above issues and published different articles and report on electronic and print media. In addition, government and NGOs have taken different initiatives to protect the children. One of the major causes is, this child labour is not visible like others. It is seen as other agricultural works. In Bangladesh, particularly in the rural areas, it is very common that children must do their household and agricultural activities and they are growing up on this environment. It is also seen as a part of socialization. The affect of tobacco cultivation there are not much studies available on children. A study on tobacco cultivation like this will open some spaces to understand the scenario of child involvement in tobacco

cultivation. This study helps the researchers and policymakers to formulate appropriate measure for the lesser involvement children in tobacco cultivation.

## **1.4 Methodology**

### **1.4.1 Methods Used and the Techniques of Data Collection**

Fieldwork is an integral part of anthropological research. This research was also the result of my intensive fieldwork in Kalkeot village of Nilphamari district located in the northern part of Bangladesh. The participant observation method was followed for the purpose of the research. The other techniques included informal interview, focus group discussion, household census, case studies, checklist used in this research.

In order to get socio-economic information of the study area, a simple household survey was conducted to collect socio-economic information of the respondents in the first phase of the field work. Case studies were conducted among parents, guardians, villagers and local leaders and among the children in order to collect detail information about child labour in tobacco cultivation. Total 6 focus group discussions were conducted from the working children.<sup>3</sup>

Purposively, 156 children were selected for face to face interview from the age group of 6 to 18 years of age. Total number of 6 focus group discussions were conducted from the working children. The information of the research population by gender, number and religion are shown in the bellow:

3. I conducted fieldwork in Kalkeot village under Jaldhaka Upazila of Nilphamari district in several phase in 2011.

Table-1.1: Study population by gender, schooling and religion:

School going children :			
Gender	Number	Religion	
		Muslim	Hindu
Boys	80	74	06
Girls	46	39	07
Total	126	113	13
Drop out / not going to school :			
Gender	Number	Religion	
		Muslim	Hindu
Boys	23	22	01
Girls	07	04	03
Total	30	26	04
Grand total children :			
Gender	Number	Religion	
		Muslim	Hindu
Boys	103	96	07
Girls	53	43	10
Total	156	139	17

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot Village in 2011.

In this case fieldwork diary has also been used to note all credentials, mistakes as well as information and notes done or collected during fieldwork. In the day of visualized world, researcher extensively used camera in collecting photographs and video for documentary of their tobacco activities prior to the permission.

Apart from using different qualitative methods and techniques, some quantitative and statistical methods and techniques has also been incorporated in the study.

#### 1.4.2 Sources of Data Collection

Data collection is one of the major tasks in conducting any research. Regarding this study, both primary and secondary sources of data have been used. This study is based on primary data through the collection of first hand



information from the study area. Besides primary sources, data have also been collected from the secondary source, which include journals, articles, books, statistical information, internet and daily newspaper to support the research work from the very beginning. Moreover, Central Library of Dhaka University, Library of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, ICDDR- Library, BRAC University Library, Library of Directorate of Agriculture Bangladesh, Jaldhka Upozila Agriculture Office, different government and NGOs office were the sources of secondary information. These secondary sources helped in the formulation of the concepts and background information on children working in tobacco cultivation.

#### **1.4.3 Techniques of Data Analysis**

To maintain the objectivity of the study findings and its systematic analysis, one of the most important task, is to properly organize the raw data from the field for analyzing them in a more interpretive way. Sometimes, data analysis is equated with statistical analysis, because the process of data analysis in a qualitatively designed research is more complicated and hence demands a strong care than performing typical statistically operations on the data. In search for a meaningful analysis these data are coded properly, transferred and processed through a machine, usually a computer and then these are recognized with help of statistical tools including classification, SPSS, tabulation and analysis, frequency distribution and percentage. These are all the steps and techniques that have been taken into account in the present study based on both primary and secondary data collection the results were interpreted with a fruitful qualitative and quantitative analysis of data.

#### **1.4.4 Phases of the Study**

The secondary information was collected from libraries, government offices, NGO offices etc during July 2010 to January 2011, it was 1<sup>st</sup> phase of

the research. The collected literature were reviewed and gathered in order to develop theoretical and methodological knowledge of the research. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase field work was started from February 2011 to November 2011 with the consultation of supervisor. February to March is the closing season of tobacco cultivation and October to November is starting season of tobacco cultivation. In the middle of the second phase have tried to find out the gap of data and cross checked all the information. In the second phase of the field work filled up all the gaps and verified the data. The field work was regularly monitored and supervised by the academic supervisor.

Since November 2011, the analysis of data started. Processing of data equipped with data editing, tabulation, data entry, analysis and report writing took place after the extensive field work. The analyzed data was then used to prepare descriptive cum explorative reports based on logical explanation on which to build objectivity as well as formulation of hypothesis. The field study report was prepared in February 2012.

#### **1.4.5 Selection of the Study Area**

The selected study area is Kalkeot village of Jaldhaka Upazilla under Nilphamari district located in northern part of Bangladesh. The aim of the present study is to assess the child labor in tobacco cultivation. In terms of criteria for the selection of the study area, some of the most rational and important points have been taken into consideration, mainly availability of tobacco cultivation and child are work in tobacco field. For the purpose of the study it has been carefully maintained that the selected study area must be fulfill the objectives and also support in collecting reliable and meaningful information as well as easy access to the study area.

## 1.5 Literature Review

The child labour in Bangladesh, like other parts of the world, is a common phenomenon. It is a common hypothesis in Bangladesh that child labour is mainly an outcome of extreme poverty. Poverty in its acute form in many families forces parents to put their children to work instead of sending them to school. Other than push factors in respect of employment of children in urban and rural areas, some pull factors such as employers preference to employ child worker also play a vital role. The present study, the tobacco cultivation and children involvement in northern part of Bangladesh encompasses many elements such as child, tobacco, labor etc. Therefore, the existing literatures relevant with the above topics are reviewed here. This will help us in gaining deep insight into the problem under study.

Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR (2002), *To Produce or not to Produce: Tackling the Tobacco Dilemma*. The study conducted to examine the macro level trends of tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh and factors that induce farmers to grow tobacco. The study conducted in two districts named Rangpur and Kushtia of Bangladesh where tobacco growth is very high. The researchers find that tobacco has the reputation of being a very profitable crop with few equally lucrative substitute like money loan, seeds, fertilizer and chemicals et. But it is damage that perceived reputation. Tobacco is not only are the materials input costs of producing high but it is also a high labour intensive crop. A single crop on an acre of land takes about 137 labour days. This contributes to reduce the net economic benefits, thereby rendering a number of other alternatives crops as more lucrative than tobacco. Most farmers do not feel the pinch of the high labour involved in tobacco farming as they use their own free household labour in the process. In cost-benefit studies, the imputed value of this free labour is, often, not considered. This free labour is mostly supplied by women and children of the household. They find from focus group discussions that during the harvesting season women do not even have time to

cook and the children some times have to miss school. About 47% of the total economic cost of labour is attributable to household labour. In Rangpur more than 52% of the total labour cost comes from free. This is in consonance with the region's low literacy level and high incidence of poverty which forces as many household hands as possible to toil in the fields.

Rushidan Islam Rahman (2005), *Children in Economic Activities in Bangladesh: Recent Changes and Determinants*; the research report shows the macro picture of children's participation in economic activities, working sector, status, and type of employment of children, reasons behind children's economic activity in household level, attitude towards children works. The study conducted by secondary sources of data. Children's participation in various forms of economic activities can be the root of many forms of deprivation of children, especially in the low income countries like Bangladesh. The major forms of such deprivations include lack of human development, lack of freedom and inadequate development of social values. Poor working conditions and exploitative terms of employment will adversely affect children's physical and mental health which will have a long term negative impact on the society as a whole. According to Labor Force Survey (LFS) and child Labor Survey (CLS) in 2003 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the report shows the child labour force of Bangladesh:

Table-1.2 Child Labour Force in Bangladesh

Source, Year	Number (000) of Economically Active Children			Children's Labor Force Participation Rate(%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1983-84 LFS	3782	3104	674	15.9	21.8	4.9
1984-85 LFS	3774	3098	676	13.3	21.5	4.7
1989 LFS	5979	3537	2442	19.3	21.7	16.6
1990-91 LFS	5923	3844	2079	19.3	22.9	15.0
1995-96 CLS	6455	3856	2599	18.7	21.6	15.7
2002-03 NCLS	4692	3372	1319	13.4	18.5	7.8

Source: Labor Force Survey and child Labor Survey, 2003.

He said, to understand the force operating behind children's economic activity, both supply-side and demand-side must be examined. Cultural and social factors some times lead to children's work even in noon poor households. Noon poor households can afford to send children to school and engage hired labor in family farm/enterprise. Still some of the families may encourage children to work in the family enterprise, at least on a part-time basis so that they learn the work. At the findings chapter, researcher told, poverty and lack of access to income generating assets is the root cause of children's economic work. Poor families allow children to engage in economic activity to ensure survival. Where as some noon poor households children engage in family economic activity, few noon poor household allow their children to get involved in paid employment. In the rural areas 4.7 and 1.9 percent of poor and noon poor households send children to paid work. In urban areas the percentages are 6.1 and 2.1 respectively. Children from poor households have access to only poor quality of schools. Given the poor quality of education and unattractive teaching methods, children lose enthusiasm about school and subsequently join economic activity.

Rahman, M M (2009); *Health Hazards And Quality Of Life Of The Workers In Tobacco Industries: Study From Three Selected Tobacco Industries At Gangachara Thana In Rangpur District Of Bangladesh*. This paper investigates the impact of tobacco on the health status and the quality of life of the tobacco industries workers in Bangladesh by examining the situation prevailing in three selected tobacco industries. This study analyzes data of 500 tobacco industries workers collected from a field survey from three selected tobacco industries at Gangachara Thana in Rangpur district of Bangladesh. Univariate, bivariate and multivariate logistic regression method were employed in analyzing the data. It is observed that largest percentage of workers involved in bidi making followed by gull and jarda processing. The sanitation facilities and the ventilation facilities provided by the industries are

not so well. Respondents who were working in the factory about 68% of them suffering from various kinds of lung diseases of them maximum suffering from asthma (32%) but interestingly only 5% workers said that in some times the factory give medical allowances some times but it did not fulfill their demand. Bivariate analysis shows that workers who did not use mask during their working period were nearly 5 times more developed the diseases. It was also found that workers socio-economic condition is not so well. Multivariate logistic analysis unveils that children and older persons were more vulnerable for such kinds of diseases and also as the duration of working in the factory increases the risk of diseases also increases. The other contributing factors for health hazards due to tobacco of the tobacco workers are found to be types of works, types of drug addiction, and average hours of work and duration of work in the factory. Mr. Rahman discussed it is observed that largest percentages of workers were illiterate and only a fewer portion of them having secondary level education. It is also found that majority of them involved in *bidi* making followed by gull and *jarda* processing. Regarding type of drug addiction of the workers we see that vast portion of them was smokers followed by gull and *jarda* users and majority of them said the reasons for involving in the tobacco industry due financial problems and unavailability of work. The sanitation facilities and the ventilation facilities provided by the industries are not so well. A pathetic scenario found in our study that those respondents who were working in the factory about 68% of them suffering from various kinds of lung diseases of them maximum of them suffering from asthma (32%) but interestingly the factory does not provide any kinds of treatment facility fro them only 5% workers said that in some times the factory give medical allowances some times but it did not fulfill their demand.. The finding reveals that workers who used mask few portions of them suffering from lung diseases than those who do not use the mask at all. The study also found that children and older persons were more vulnerable for such kinds of

diseases and also as the duration of working in the factory increases the risk of diseases also increases.

The study also unveils that as the duration of engaging in such hazardous work increases respondents risk of contacting with various types of lung diseases also increases, those respondents who were engaged in such types of work from 10 years and above they developed the diseases two times more than from the respondents who were involved in such type of work from less than 5 years. It was also found in our study that although the workers were doing such types of hazardous work their socio-economic condition is not so well; major portion of them lived in kancha and tinsheed house and the income gained from this employment is barely enough to sustain them, or is insufficient to meet the most basic of need (maximum workers monthly income lies below 2000Tk). From The logistic model it is appeared that education has strong positive association with the risk of contacting lung diseases. Well-educated persons know the harmful effects of tobacco on health. The educated workers are usually more conscious about the health hazards of tobacco and thereby encourage and help to use mask during working hours. The model also shows that those workers who did not use mask during their working period were nearly 5 times more developed the diseases than those who used the mask. The other contributing factors for health hazards due to tobacco of the tobacco workers are found to be types of works, types of drug addiction, and average hours of work and duration of work in the factory. In the conclusions researcher indicate several policy options: (a) the need for creation of awareness among the workers regarding causes of how they are being affected physically how could they are able to overcome the problems; (b) as the majority of the workers were illiterate investment in education for our children and initiatives for equality for women would help the poor to rise from their deplorable conditions in tobacco-related employment; (c) Tobacco Control Law should be modified to cover other types of tobacco products and to

increase their prices; (d) There is need to ensure the availability of health care centers and proper sanitation facilities by the industries.

Amigó, María Florencia (2010); *'Small Bodies, Large Contribution: Children's Work in the Tobacco Plantations of Lombok, Indonesia'*. The author described in the study that Tobacco was introduced into Java by Europeans in the early seventeenth century and it quickly became established throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Tobacco cultivation expanded during the eighteenth century, both through independent smallholders and under the Dutch colonial cultivation system. Because returns per hectare could be high and the amount of labour required significant, the use of hired labour was common during colonial times. This enormous demand for labour was met in the past by using forced labour or coolies or cheap labour, including that of children. Mainly children are working in study area- Planting seeds in seedlings, watering and fertilizing, tying up tobacco leaves to poles, supervising the kiln's brazier and untying tobacco leaves from the poles. They find that each tobacco kiln in full use requires a labour force of ten men, six women and twelve children. There are eighteen kilns in the village, which suggests a requirement for a total labour force of approximately 180 men, 108 women and 216 children, totaling 504 individuals. The proportion of this labour provided by children between 6 and 14 years of age is very significant. Taking into account the differences in the types of work they do. Based on the task structure, 216 children would be required if kilns were fully utilized; however, there are only 85 children between 6 and 14 years of age living in the hamlet. These figures give an indication of why so many children work in the tobacco plantations. The only way of producing tobacco with limited resources, in terms of both credit and labour, is to make use of the entire work force available at minimum cost. Children, who make up a substantial proportion of the population and are cheaper to hire take up paid employment when the demand for labour is very high, during the 6 months of the dry season. In addition, most children work fewer hours than adults do especially those of



primary school age, because the vast majority combine employment with schooling therefore more child hours are needed to complete the tasks assigned to children. As an example, the estimation that 4800 child work hours are needed to complete the task of tying up tobacco leaves for one kiln was based on considering that on average each kiln employs 12 children who work an average of 4 hours a day (after school) during 100 days. Children's cheap labour is the result of socio cultural factors combined with poverty, cash dependency and availability of paid work. Children are employed in the tobacco economy because their contribution is necessary. Tobacco is also part of a local economy that rests on household economies, which engage in both subsistence and market production. In the next section, I explore the implications and repercussions of children's work in other areas of the economy.

Khuda, Barkat-E (1991); *Child Labour in Rural Bangladesh: Some Findings from a Relatively Developed Village*, This is a research work based on empirical data collected from a village in Bangladesh. The village is agriculturally developed having mechanized system of irrigation and other facilities of agricultural input such as chemical, fertilizers and pesticides etc. The study is mainly concerned with working age of children, types of activities the children are engaged in, working hour of children and also the child labour and their productivity. The study is methodologically sound and analytically pinpointing through the use of simple statistical measurement. The study indicates that in the village under study children start their participation in light and unskilled activities at an early age, but they take up greater responsibility in respect of their activities when they grow in maturity. The analysis of the study shows that there is no relationship between economic status and employment of child labour. The author very rightly suggests that without raising the standard of living of the rural people and also without provision of schooling for the rural children the incidence of child labour can not be thought to get reduced.

Khaleda, Salahuddin (1981); *Aspects of Child Labour in Bangladesh: Some Reflectings*. The study is framed up on secondary data from a number of studies conducted earlier by different organizations/ individuals and with objectives to bring to force certain facts of the problem of child labour in Bangladesh and various forms it takes. The author presented the information in an excellent manner along with necessary statistical data. The study covered a wide range of areas such as the importance and demand of child labour in the rural economy; a comparative picture of working pattern of rural and urban children and discussion on consequences of the use of child labour along with some policy measures and recommendations. The study also highlighted some of the socio-economic and cultural determinants of non-participation and dropouts of children in education and importance of education for working children as well as. The findings also shows that cost of education, level of head of the family, distance of primary school also affect participation of children in primary school.

Ahmed, Alia, and Qusem M.A. (1991); *Child Labour in Bangladesh*. The study is probably one of the well articulated empirical studies ever attempted in the field of child labour in Bangladesh. The study is based on a survey of four villages in terms of development. The findings of the study contain the extent and pattern child work in village situation, division of child labour by sex and age, characteristics of rural labour market and rate of participation in school. The study also included the pattern of child work in slum area. Both quantitative and qualitative information has been used in simple and lucid language. The study has presented that an early age children become net producer for the family but no link in this regard, has been clearly explained with fertility behaviour. Thus it is not possible to know to what extent the family sized influenced by child labour and fertility behaviour.

The above mentioned literature helped me to develop conceptual framework regarding children's contribution in tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh.

## CHAPTER-II

### BACKGROUND OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN BANGLADESH

#### 2.1 Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is an over populated country in the world. A large proportion of the people are living below the poverty line. The import and usage of tobacco products are progressively increasing in Bangladesh. On global scale, Bangladesh ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in tobacco growing countries. Bangladesh accounts for about 0.4% of the total volume of tobacco produced in the world (Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR, 2002:8). Tobacco contributes less than 0.01% to the GDP of Bangladesh. In terms of employment, tobacco accounts for about 0.6% of the agricultural labour force and less than 0.5% of the total labour force (ibid, 2002:8). According to Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, about 10.4 million workers are engaged in *bidi* industries, in which many women and children are involved. National health data in Bangladesh revealed that tobacco use is a major public health problem with prevalence of 37% and imposes a huge burden on health care services with its associated mortality and morbidity especially coronary heart disease and cancer. Available data in the Bangladesh indicate a considerable and steady increase in tobacco consumption over the past three decades. The major tobacco companies in Bangladesh are British American Tobacco, Dhaka Tobacco, Abul Khair Tobacco, Nasir Tobacco, KB Group Tobacco, RB Group Tobacco (Akter,2010:8). Moreover, imports and manufacture of cigarettes are progressively increasing in this country. Within the country, the problems of environmental pollution are most acute in the surrounding areas of tobacco industries. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the Bangladesh National Law against uses of tobacco products passed in 2005. Under this law, government is supposed to help farmers to produce alternative crops. But so far, no such support has been given to the farmers.

Tobacco has been widely cultivated in Bangladesh since the 1970s. Though researchers have little official data, they say that tobacco cultivation has significantly expanded in recent years, with one local study estimating the growth at 68 percent from 2007 to 2009, with the current trend pointing even higher. As some parts of the world, Bangladesh might be an attractive destination of international tobacco companies. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the total land used for tobacco cultivation in 2007-2008 was almost 30,000 hectares, which yielded 40,248 tons. While steadily growing, such production uses only a fraction of the country's cultivable land (eight million hectares), and is still minor compared to the 32 million tons of rice produced in the same year. But official figures may not accurately capture the growing interest in tobacco farming. The original figure is five times higher than the government figure. Large groups of farmers in Bangladesh are switching from rice cultivation to tobacco farming, creating concerns about possible food shortages, according to the government and anti-tobacco lobbyists. Tobacco companies are recruiting farmers with free seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and whatever we need for cultivation. Many farmers later understand that it is not a profitable business but they cannot leave it as they cannot repay the loans they have taken from the companies. Tobacco companies buy the crop, guaranteeing a steady demand and prices. Farmers do not have to be worried about the sale of the products as companies take this from them.

## **2.2 Tobacco Cultivation Scenario of Bangladesh**

According to Year Book of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh-2009, the major tobacco cultivation area and amount of production are mentioned in the below-

Table- 2.1: Major Cultivation Area in Acre:

Year/Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rangpur	43950	47135	46180	44134	43345
Kushtia	19290	20595	18900	19200	22241
Bandarban	3320	4750	4820	3551	4667
Rangamati	595	600	660	701	687
Khagrasari	460	460	470	468	618
Chittigang	1150	775	765	208	160
Dhaka	2315	2110	2180	2198	2407
Jessore	1240	1200	1365	1356	2143
Total in Bangladesh	43950	78385	75860	72340	73808

Source: Year Book of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh-2009.

### Tobacco Production in Bangladesh

Table-2.2: Tobacco Production in Metric Ton in Bangladesh

Year/Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rangpur	19155	21340	20670	22642	20999
Kushtia	13985	17505	14305	14474	14985
Bandarban	1720	1580	1735	776	1100
Rangamati	265	290	340	413	400
Khagrasari	265	175	185	174	440
Chittigang	845	555	435	247	212
Dhaka	895	800	845	876	970
Jessore	415	185	445	461	964
Total in Bangladesh	37955	42710	39180	40248	40265

Source: Year Book of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh-2009.

Table-2.3: Types of Tobacco Product in Bangladesh

The different types of tobacco which produced in Bangladesh in 2008-09:

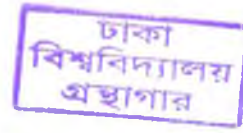
Types	Area in acre	Production in metric tons
Jati	15358	8437
Motihari	20308	9270
Virginia	37850	22277
Others	292	279

Source: Year Book of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh-2009.

### **2.3 Tobacco Cultivation in CHT**

Tobacco cultivation is posing a threat to the public health and the environment in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The tobacco cultivation area of CHT are Kaptai, Barkal, Rajasthali, Baghaichhari, Jurachhari, Longudu and Bilaichhari areas in Rangamati. Tobacco is also largely produced at Ruma, Lama, Alikadam, Thanchi, Nikhyangchhari, Rowangchhari and Sadar upazilas in Bandarban and at Dighinala, Mainee valley, Panchhari and Ramgarh in Khagrachhari. About 5000 farmers have cultivated tobacco this year in Bandarban alone. Besides, 2626 hectares of lands were brought under tobacco cultivation in Bandarban (2312 hectors), Khagrachhari (209 hectors) and Rangamati (105 hectors) last year. Last year, the total production was 5758 metric tones (MT). Of this, 5440 MT were produced in Bandarban, 209MT in Khagrachhari and 109MT in Rangamati ( May 21, 2009 Daily Star).

Tobacco cultivation depleted forests, aggravated food crisis in Chakaria upazila of Cox'sbazar and in Lama and Ali Kodom upazilas of Bandarban. The British American Tobacco Company and other national companies allured the local farmers to cultivate tobacco in their farm-fields, which were fertile and ensured food for the people. Tobacco farmers responded to the allurements and cultivated tobacco extensively in all the fields including the fertile river bank of Matamuhuri. The upstream of the river bank of Matamuhuri is entirely taken away by the tobacco companies to grow tobacco. The excessive use of the pesticide is flowing into the water of the river and leading to the deaths of the fish and other aquatic lives. Matamuhuri runs 80km before it reaches to Chiringa point; afterwards the downstream starts constituting the basin of the river. It is 40 km. The whole of the banks on two sides of the upstream (80km) is now taken over by the tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation in the upstream is polluting not only the river but destroying the environment, ecology and biodiversity of the basin. Farmers, fishers and salt producers are being seriously affected by tobacco production. Compared to the year 1998-99



tobacco cultivation has increased almost 540% in 2009 in Bandarban district in the year 2004-05(Statistical Year Book of Bangladesh, 2007). It has increased in recent years, although no official statistics is available. Tobacco is cultivated in 15,210 acres of land in Lama and Alikodom Upazilla of Bandarban districts. There are about 65,000 tons of firewood are used in each season for tobacco curing only in Lama and Ali Kodom area. It is impossible to keep any trace of trees in these areas with such heavy demand of fuel wood. Forest is gone, so is also the rest of the green, which are chopped down to use as fuel wood. In Chakoria upazilla under Cox's Bazar District 4283 acres of land went to the cultivation of tobacco in the year 2009.

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Although tobacco cultivation is strictly prohibited, the tobacco companies are doing brisk business, violating the rules. Besides, they motivate the farmers openly by offering incentives in cash and kind to cultivate tobacco. At least 60 to 70 thousand metric tones of firewood are being burnt in 2,000 tobacco processing kilns every year, causing depletion of reserve and natural forests, threatening environment and ecology in the hills, environmentalists CHT. Some 7000 farmers are involved with the tobacco farming in the CHT, sources at Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said. Most of the farmers in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari have been losing their interests in cultivating indigenous crops like paddy, banana, maize, sesame, cotton, potato, pumpkin etc as they became defaulters of loans provided by tobacco companies. In one calculation done by UBINIG, it was found that the cost of production is Tk. 49,635 (in 40 decimal of land), and the income received after selling cured tobacco leaves is Tk. 60,000. The net return is only Tk. 10,635. On the other hand, in the same amount of land, farmers cultivating a mix crop of potato and french bean (in Nayakrishi method without using any chemical fertilizer and pesticide) the cost of production is Tk. 16,000 and the selling price is Tk. 42,000. The net return is Tk. 26,000. Many farmers are showing interest to shift out of tobacco.

Farmers and labourers said that staffs of tobacco companies offer lucrative amount of money as loans to trap them. Sometimes the companies provide them with bank loans for agriculture along with tobacco seeds, fertiliser, polythene bags and high-powered pesticides like Diaconal, fertilizers of BSP, BAP, FMC and SOB and DDT powder (Akter, 2010: 11). British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) sources said that farmers receive bank loans as per the rules of Bangladesh Bank and each farmer gets Tk 6000 for an acre of cultivable land. But now, farmers have already been disappointed by the attitude of the tobacco company. Company allured the farmers to tobacco cultivation with money, but now they are saying that they are not going to pay what they used to do before. Company is announcing lower price for the leaves, violating their own promises of giving higher prices.

## 2.4 Tobacco Cultivation Process in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, tobacco is basically a *Rabi* season crop with sowing being done during mid-October to mid-December. From the day, the seeds are sown, it takes about 6-7 months to mature. There are about 60 different species of tobacco though the most popular ones are *Nicotiana Tabacum* and *Nicotiana Rustica*. In Bangladesh, various types of tobacco such as Dark Virginia Gold, *Motihari*, *Jati*, etc. are grown (Year Book of Agricultural Statistics of Bangladesh, 2009). Virginia is used primarily in the production of cigarettes while the non Virginia types are used in producing *bidis* and others products. There are regional difference in the method of cultivation depending on the climate, soil, fertility, plant species and the type of leaf desired. It is often termed as a weed because of its capability to sprout on any soil. Broadly the first stage of cultivation requires preparation of the seed bed, which involves deep ploughing of the soil, watering and weeding. Once the seed bed is ready, the seeds are sown and they remain there for about 4 days till the saplings are ready to be transplanted in the main field with wider spacing. While the crop is



on the field, considerable labour has to be spent on hoeing, weeding, irrigating and application of fertilizers and pesticides. It is such a crop that rapidly depletes the soil of minerals, requires large and frequent doses of fertilizers. About 300 kg or more of chemical fertilizers like Urea, TSP, zinc etc. are need. At a certain stage, the plants are topped or disbudded to get a better yield. When the leaves become yellow and wrinkled, it is plucked. After harvesting tobacco leaves, the curing or the drying process begins. It takes about 3 to 4 days for the leaves to reach the desired colour. It is an extremely labour intensive process requiring constraint monitoring of the temperature. Even sun curing which involves mostly women and children making bamboo sticks followed by threading of the raw leaves into these sticks is a very labour intensive process. Virginia varieties are mostly flue cured while *Motihari*, *Jati*, etc are sun cured. After the curing process, the leaves are packed into bundles and sold to the traders, middlemen, *bidi* and cigarette factories, zarda factories and other process tobacco manufacturers.

## 2.5 Global Scenario of Tobacco

According to the Food and Agriculture organization of the UN, tobacco leaf production is expected to hit 7.1 million tons by 2010 (WHO,2009). Every year 6.7 million tons of tobacco is produced throughout the world. The top producers of tobacco are China (39.6%), India (8.3%), Brazil (7.0%) and the United States (4.6%) (ibid,2009). According to Otanez, Marty (2008), a global picture of children, who works in tobacco fields in worldwide:

Table- 2.4: Child Labor in Tobacco Farming in Worldwide:

<b>Child Labor in Tobacco Farming in Worldwide</b>	
<b>Region</b>	<b>Facts</b>
Eastern Mediterranean	Lebanon: 25,000 children work in the tobacco growing sector
Africa	Kenya: A study of 50 farmers revealed that children are involved in tobacco growing in virtually all farms.  Malawi: 78,000 children as young as 5 years old in tobacco families clear fields, harvest tobacco, and perform a range of potentially hazardous tasks.

	<p>Mozambique: A tobacco-industry funded study reported that 80% of tobacco families used their children as young as 6 years old on tobacco farms.</p> <p>Nigeria: School age children harvest and help to cure tobacco, earning little or no money and are denied education.</p> <p>Uganda: Children from tobacco families are kept from school and sent to fields to weed, water, string and sew bunches of tobacco leaves together for drying in flue-curing barns.</p> <p>Tanzania: Children who weed and harvest tobacco experience nausea, vomiting and faintness due to nicotine poisoning as well as spine injuries from heavy lifting and repetitive strains.</p> <p>Zimbabwe: Children involved in weeding and planting tobacco suffer health problems from the use of the pesticide.</p> <p>Zambia: A tobacco industry funded study reported that over 6,000 children work on tobacco farms and performs tasks such as lifting heavy loads and working excessively long hours.</p>
European	<p>Kazakhstan: Children as young as six years old work in tobacco fields and experience malnutrition inadequate rest time, and little or no access to health care.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: Some schools have required students to harvest tobacco in fields on school grounds.</p> <p>Macedonia: Child labor is a major labor requirement in the cultivation of tobacco.</p> <p>Moldova: Tobacco farm families rely on child labor in the tobacco production process.</p>
Americas	<p>Argentina: 7% of the workforce is child labor (a total of 1.9 million children between 5 and 14 work) doing tobacco harvesting and other manual labor.</p> <p>Brazil: 200,000 farm families cultivate tobacco and many families make their children work in fields, exposing children to toxic chemicals and nicotine.</p> <p>Dominican Republic: A tobacco industry funded study reported that child laborers on tobacco farms have low performance and attendance levels in schools.</p> <p>Guatemala: 1.4 million children between 7 and 14 years old work, doing hazardous tasks in tobacco fields and in other sectors.</p> <p>Honduras: 241,000 children between 11 and 17 years old work, harvesting tobacco and performing hazardous jobs in other sectors.</p> <p>Mexico: In a study of 171 migrant working children in Nayarit State, Mexican researchers reported that 56 children (33%) were exposed to unacceptable levels of pesticides.</p> <p>Nicaragua: 18% of the workforce is child labor, harvesting tobacco and performing hazardous jobs in other sectors.</p>

	<p>United States: A 15 year old was fatally wounded in a tobacco field when the rear wheel of the tractor he was driving went over the edge of a ravine and the tractor rolled and crushed him.</p>
South-East Asia	<p>Bangladesh: 82% of 6 million child laborers work in agriculture, cultivating tobacco and monitoring drying barns at night for “free” and performing hazardous tasks on other crops.</p> <p>India: 225,000 children (8.4% of the total labor force) work in the bidi industry and suffer from poor psychosocial development and sever punishment for infractions committed while working.</p> <p>Indonesia: Child labor is common on tobacco plantations Children, mostly girls, cultivate tobacco and, if they are paid at all, earn \$0.60 a day, well below the legal minimum wage.</p> <p>Nepal: Children assist in tobacco cultivation on plantations.</p>
Western Pacific	<p>Thailand: Migrant children from Burma, Cambodia and Laos work in tobacco curing factories in Thailand.</p> <p>Cambodia: Overall, 45% of children aged 5-14 work. The majority of working children are employed in the agricultural sector, performing hazardous tasks such as stringing tobacco leaves.</p> <p>Fiji: In a tobacco industry funded study, researchers reported that 18% of children of tobacco farm families missed school due to harvesting, and 12% used backpack sprayers with toxic chemicals.</p> <p>Philippines: In a study funded by Philip Morris International, researchers reported that 16% of children plow, weed, cultivate leaf or assist adults in chemical spraying in tobacco fields.</p>

**Source:** Otanez, Marty (2008), Social Disruption Caused by Tobacco Growing.

The report also shows that the tobacco related deforestation rates are close to critical in worldwide with the exception of Europe. The production of one kilogram of tobacco consumers 20 kilograms of fire wood for curing, directly contributing to deforestation. Between ten and forty tons of dry wood are used to cure one ton of processed tobacco. According to Otanez, Marty (2008), the global data on deforestation are:

Table- 2.5: Tobacco's Impact on Forest Resources in Worldwide:

Environmental critically caused by tobacco's impact on forest resources in worldwide		
Region	Impact	Country
Eastern Mediterranean	Serious	Jordan, Syria
	High	Iran, Morocco, Tunisia
	Medium	Lebanon
Africa	Serious	Malawi, Zimbabwe
	High	Burundi, Tanzania
	Medium	Nigeria, Togo, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia
Europe	Serious	NA
	High	NA
	Medium	NA
Americas	Serious	Uruguay
	High	Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Dominican republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago
	Medium	Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica
South-East Asia	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Bangladesh, Pakistan</b>
	High	NA
	Medium	Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka
Western Pacific	Serious	China, Republic of Korea
	High	Philippines
	Medium	NA
NA, Not Applicable		

Source: Otanez, Marty (2008), Social Disruption Caused by Tobacco Growing.

## CHAPTER-III

### CHILD CONVENTIONS AND TOBACCO CONTROL CONVENTION

The Government key commitments towards children's rights at international, regional and national levels, and WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control are in the bellow:

#### 3.1 UN and International Conventions

Bangladesh has ratified the various international conventions :

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182).
- ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, (No. 6).
- ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 90).
- ILO Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stockers) Convention (No. 15).
- ILO Minimum Age (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 59).
- ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29).
- ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105).

The government of Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) in 1990. The CRC oblige the government to take steps with the maximum extent to reinforce and ensure the rights of child to survival, development, protection and participation. With regards to economic, social and cultural rights, signatory states are to under take all appropriate, legislative, administrative, and other measures to the maximum extent of their available resources. The convention is recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in

society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity. Some important article of the CRC are-

*Article 1*

For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

*Article 6*

1. States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.
2. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

*Article 7*

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

*Article 8*

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.
2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

*Article 27*

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

*Article 28*

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

- (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
- (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;

*Article 32*

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular:

- (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;
- (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment.

The declaration of ‘Achieving Health for All by the Year 2000’ also obligates the government to ensure that the rate of children deemed underweight shall not exceed 10 per cent of a country’s total child population. The Worst Form of Child Labour Convention No.182 was unanimously accepted and adopted at the ILO’s International Labour Conference in June in 1999 in Geneva. The Convention is accompanied by the Recommendation No. 190. Article 3, of the Convention, defines “the Worst Forms of Child Labour” as:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm health, safety or morals of children.

The Government of Bangladesh ratified this Convention in 2001, which obligates signatory states to ensure the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency (Article 1). Agriculture, alongside mining and construction is ranked as one of the most dangerous industries. A further concern particularly in agriculture is the lack of regulation. Some countries exclude agriculture from labour legislation or have lower requirements for



agriculture. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recognized this and has developed a comprehensive range of instruments to give guidance on working conditions in the sector. For example this includes Convention 11 on rights of association in agriculture, Convention 110 on plantations, Convention 141 on rural workers' organizations, Convention 169 on labour inspection in agriculture and Convention 184 on safety and health in agriculture.

Bangladesh is one of the 180 signatory nations to 'A World Fit for Children' declaration. Schooling should be the first step of the life of the children. They must have access to quality basic education, including free and compulsory primary education; ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities; and mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources. The World Education forum in Dhaka in April 2000 and the 'Achieving Health For All by 2000' framework obligate signatory states respectively to invest 6 per cent of GDP and 15-20 per cent of public expenditure in education (UNESCO), and at least 5 per cent of gross national product on health .

### **3.2 Obligation Under Regional Convention**

The Government of Bangladesh has also signed a number of regional declarations and conventions. These include the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia, held in January 2002, obligating states to uphold 'the best interest of child' as a principle of paramount importance (Principle 4, Article 111); the SAARC Social Charter, held in January 2004 to promote the rights and well-being of the child (Article V11); the Colombo Statement on Children of South Asia 2009, urging states to reduce malnutrition, improve water and sanitation, expand non-discriminatory access to free primary health and education services, enhance early childhood care and enhance child protection; and the Colombo Declaration of February 2011, which emphasises increasing public funding for capacity building and education, adopting comprehensive approach to social protection, promoting child sensitive social protection initiatives,

promoting development strategies, enhancing design and implementation efficacy of social protection programs and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of social protection.

### **3.3 Obligations Under Regulatory Framework, Policies and Political Agenda**

Article 20 of the Constitution of Bangladesh refers to work as a right and a duty and a matter of honour of every citizen who is capable of working. Article 15 of the constitution obligates the government to ensure through planned economic growth, the provision of basic necessities of life including, food, clothing, shelter, education and medical. The Constitution also guarantees compulsory and free primary education to all children and the elimination of illiteracy as a fundamental principle of state policy. Article 28 of the Constitution empowers the State to make special provisions for the benefit of children. In regard to public health, Article 18(1) of the Constitution stipulates that the state shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and improvement of public health. In order to address the vulnerability of children, the Constitution obligates the Government to make special provisions for disadvantaged and underprivileged children and women (Article 28,4). In regards to legal provisions, the constitution obligates the government to recognize equality before the law for all citizens and at the same time, their entitlement to equal protection under the law (Article 27).

As a result of various research studies, there was awareness of child labour in the 1990s within the Government and civil society and several initiatives to combat the problem were taken by the Government of Bangladesh. In 1990, Bangladesh became a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ensuing Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. In the same year, Bangladesh passed the Primary Education Act and, in 1993, it established the compulsory primary education system for children aged

6 years and above. At the same time, the Government adopted the National Children Policy and formulated the first National Plan of Action for Children (1991 - 96). The child labour problem was however, first identified in the second National Plan of Action for Children (1997 - 2002). In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government started the Food for Education Programme in 1993 with the aim to attract poor children and their families to primary education. With the setting-up of the Primary and Mass Education Division in 1992 and the Directorate of Non-Formal Education in 1996, the Government introduced another initiative to tackle the high drop out and low attendance rates in the formal school system.

In March 2001, the Government ratified ILO Convention No. 182 and that year, the Ministry of Labour and Employment initiated the development of National Policy on Child Labour. The Third National Plan of Action for Children (2005 - 10) addresses the issue of the worst forms of child labour and provides information on planned interventions for the next five-year period. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also implemented a USAID funded project aimed at the Eradication of Hazardous Labour in Bangladesh. Interventions under this project, which covers areas in Dhaka and Chittagong Municipal Corporations, included non-formal education and skills training for working children and micro-credit support to their guardians or parents.

The Government of Bangladesh through the Ministry of Labour and Employment has reviewed all fragmented laws related to child labour with a view to fixing a uniform age for admission to work and to prohibit their engagement in hazardous occupations. According to the Labour Act (2006) the minimum age for admission to work is 14 years and 18 years for hazardous work. Further, light work for children between the ages of 12 - 14 years is defined as non-hazardous work that does not impede education. Other laws that define the rights and protections due to children are:

- The Children Act (1974) and the Children Rules (1976);
- The Bonded Labour Act, 2006;
- The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act (2000);  
and
- The Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990.

In order to meet its constitutional obligations and realize the commitments made at the international and regional levels, the Government of Bangladesh has promulgated relevant acts and formulated policies and actions aimed at realizing children's rights. The Compulsory Primary Education Act 1990 provides base line legal authority for all children to be educated at least up to primary level. The children act 1974 ensures the protection of children, whilst the Births and Deaths Registration Act 2004 ensures that children have a name and a nationality.

In its Election Manifesto, the government committed to guaranteeing social justice, human rights and equal opportunities for all citizens, and in particular to gradually abolishing child labour from all sectors. The Prime Minister's statement at the 65<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on progress in attaining the MDGs, stressed the government's commitment to 'doubling the percentage of birth attended by a skilled health worker by 2015 ( from the current level of 24.4), reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancies, halve the unmet need the family planning (from the current level of 18 per cent) by 2015; and ensure universal implementation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Programme'(Planning Commission, 2010).

The National Child Policy 2011 recognizes poverty or insolvency as the major barrier to protect the children's rights and emphasizes initiatives to eliminate poverty, child labour and violence against children as well as initiatives that push for the provision of nutrition and health services. A special focus is giving to reducing school drop-outs. The National education policy

2010 targets the admission of all eligible children in primary school within 2010-11 and the elimination of regional disparities. The draft Health Policy sets out 15 objectives to ensure health services to all, particularly the poor, reduce malnutrition of children and mothers, reduce Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 that strives for reduction of all forms of child labour by 2015.

Vision 2021, the long term strategic document of the current government, also commits to ensure compulsory primary education for all adolescents and young citizens. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the government recognizes that the high drop-out rate in secondary education is primarily an outcome of poverty and child labour. It also recognizes the need to provide non-formal education particularly for disadvantaged children who do not have access to primary education. It emphasizes strengthening efforts to significantly reduce under-five mortality, infant mortality and maternal mortality within its planned period in order to achieve MDG 4 and 5. To set up an effective nutrition programme, the SFYP suggested undertaking the three yearlong 'Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) National Plan of Action 2009-2011.

All the above national policies and plans would indicate that Bangladesh is strongly committed to promoting the welfare of children. In order to align the commitments made to the global and regional communities, Bangladesh has adopted relevant domestic laws, policies and strategies. Given these normative and political underpinnings, it is imperative to examine whether these commitments are reflected through the allocation and utilization of public resources. The following chapter presents an analysis of the Bangladesh national budget from the perspective of children's rights and seeks to establish whether there is any rhetoric-action gap.

### **3.4 National Child Labour Elimination Policy**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has finalized the National Child Labour Policy in 2010. The definition and age of working children; Classification of working children and child labour; education, health and nutrition of working children and focus on how to reduce child labour etc. discussed in this policy. The government also established a Child Labour Unit and a National Child Labour Welfare Council under the leadership of Labour Wing of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

### **3.5 The Definition and Age of Working Children**

In the National Child Labour Policy, the terms 'child' and 'adolescent' have been defined differently, in different national and international documents, even in the legal instruments of Bangladesh. As age is the decisive factor in determining the definition of a child, it would have been better if a uniform age of a child-adolescent could have been fixed. Indeed so has been the demand from different level of the society. The variations in the age of our children under different legal instruments are due to their distinct physical and psychological development than those of the developed countries. The variations also exist due to ensuring of multi-dimensional rights of a child or an adolescent. The Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (Act XLII of 2006) also defines the 'child' and the 'adolescent' on the basis of age. As per section 2(8) of the Act, a person who has attained the age of 14 but below the age of 18 is considered to be an 'adolescent' and as per section 2(63), a person not attaining the age of 14 is defined as a 'child'. Except that the definition of 'child labour' or 'child labourer' can not be traced from any public or private document. Therefore the term 'child' and 'adolescent' as defined by the Labour Act 2006 (Act XLII of 2006) shall be referred to in all discussion of child labour. According to this definition, the labour provided by child would be known as 'child labour'. In that case, it is not desirable to use the term 'child

labourer' to indicate 'any person in labour' rather the term 'child engaged in labour'(srome niojito shishu) or 'working child' (sromojibi shishu) should be used in this regard.

(Source: Bangladesh Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010).

### **3.6 Classification of Working Children and Child Labour**

a. Child labour is commonly found in two sectors in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010):

1. Formal Sector: namely factories and industries, commercial organizations, communication and transportation, ship breaking etc.
2. Informal sectors: namely agriculture, livestock, fishery, household work, construction work, brick breaking, pulling of rickshaw or *van*, day labouring, *Chhinnomul Shishu* (street child) etc.

b. As per existing legal provisions, children are usually engaged in different establishment and occupations or work under six broad categories (Bangladesh Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010):

1. Trainee
2. Substitute
3. Casual
4. Apprentice
5. Temporary and
6. Permanent workers.

### **3.7 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic, is the first treaty negotiated by the member states of the World health Organization using

the power under the organization's Constitution. It is the pre-eminent global tobacco control instrument, which contains legally binding obligations for its Parties, sets the baseline for reducing both the demand and supply of tobacco, and provides a comprehensive direction for tobacco control policy at all levels. The treaty's governing body, comprising all Parties, is the Conference of the Parties (COP), an intergovernmental entity that services the effective implementation the treaty. To address tobacco use's complex set of determinants, the WHO FCTC negotiators included both supply and demand reduction measures in the text. The core demand reduction provisions in WHO FCTC are contained in Articles 6 and 8-14, entitled:

Article 6. Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco.

Article 8. Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke.

Article 9. Regulation of the contents of tobacco product.

Article 10. Regulation of tobacco product disclosers.

Article 11. Packaging and leveling of tobacco products.

Article 12. Education, communication, training and public awareness.

Article 13. Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

Article 14. Reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation.

(WHO, The Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009).

In 2003, The Government of Bangladesh has signed in WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and in 2004 the government has ratified the Convention.



## CHAPTER-IV

### SOCIEO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

#### 4.1 About the Study Area

Bangladesh is predominantly a rural country with 84.8 percent of the population living in rural areas (Nahar F and Chowdhury AMR, 2002:15). About 47 percent of the population is under 16 years of age. 75 percent of children below the age of 12 years are malnourished. In Bangladesh, there are about 56 million labours and 62.2 percent of them are working in agriculture sector (ibid,2002:16) About 1.6 million children are working in agriculture sector, which is 63 percent of the total child labour in Bangladesh (ibid,2002:16). The Rangpur, Nilphamari, and Kushtia districts of Bangladesh are fertile land for tobacco cultivation. Now Chittagong hill tracts area is more attractive place for tobacco cultivation. Where as, tobacco farming is more than twice as labor-intensive as Bangladesh's next-most intensive crop, rice. Tobacco, being a crop that rapidly depletes the soil of its minerals, requires large and frequent doses of fertilizers and pesticides. These products are often sold by the farmers to the tobacco industry at the start of the growing season and condemning the farmers to a vicious cycle of indebtedness.

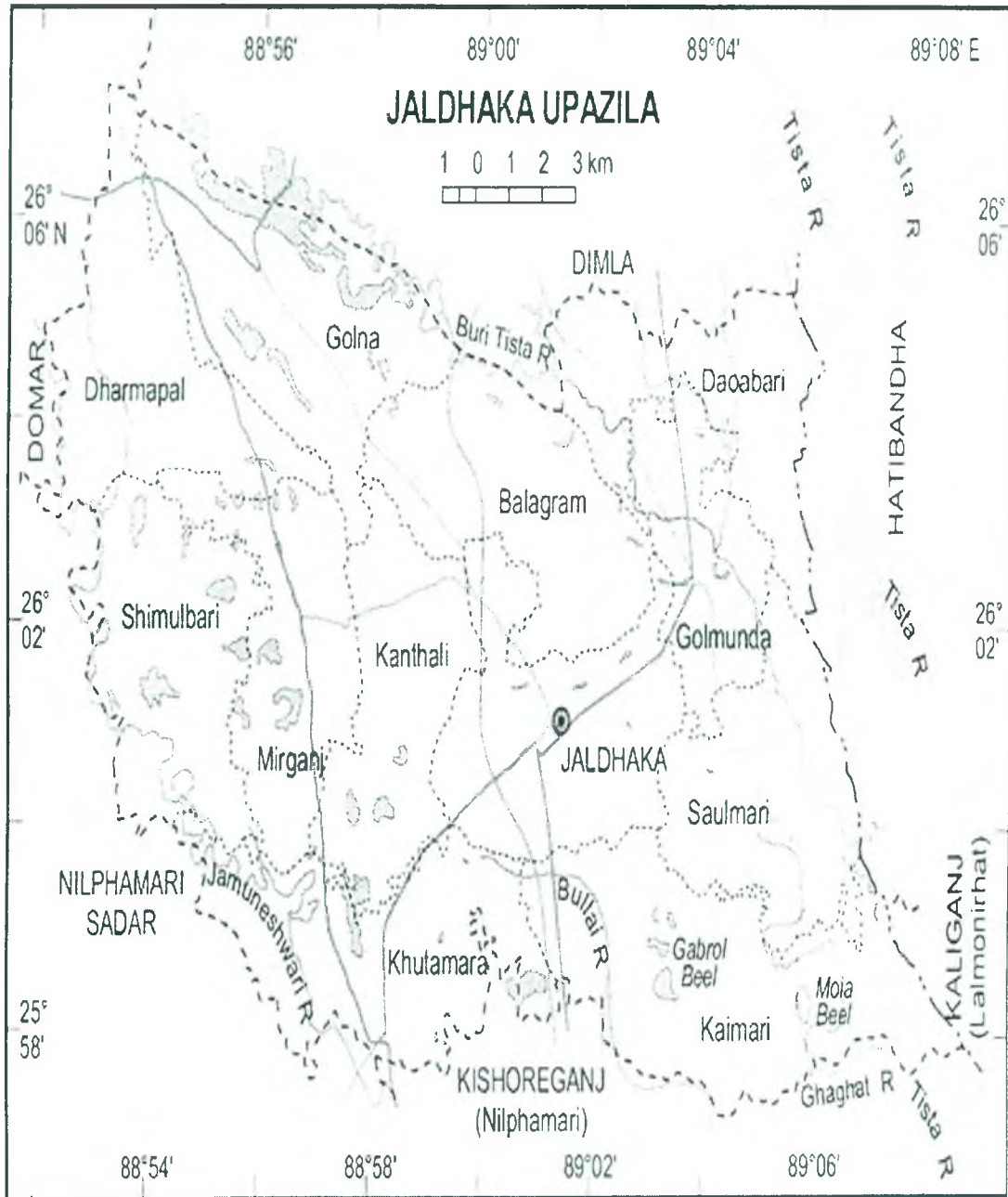
Kalkeot village of Jaldhaka upazila under Nilphamary district was selected for the purpose of the present study. The Jaldhaka Upazila is 306.30 sq. km. along with 11 Union Parishad and 1 Powrashaba. The area is famous for tobacco production. Some northern districts of Bangladesh are well known as 'Monga' area. Majority of the people of these areas have been suffering from lack of food and unemployment for the few months of a year. 23079.72 hectors of lands are used for cultivation and about one fourth of it is used for tobacco cultivation (Upazila Agriculture Office, Jaldhaka, 2011). Agriculture is the main income source of 47.03 percent people and 34.43 percent are agriculture labour. There are 39.48 percent are landless and 56.45 percent are

small farmers. The overall literacy rate is 18.4 percent, male 26.5 percent and female 9.8 percent of them (Upazila Agriculture Office, Jaldhaka, 2011).

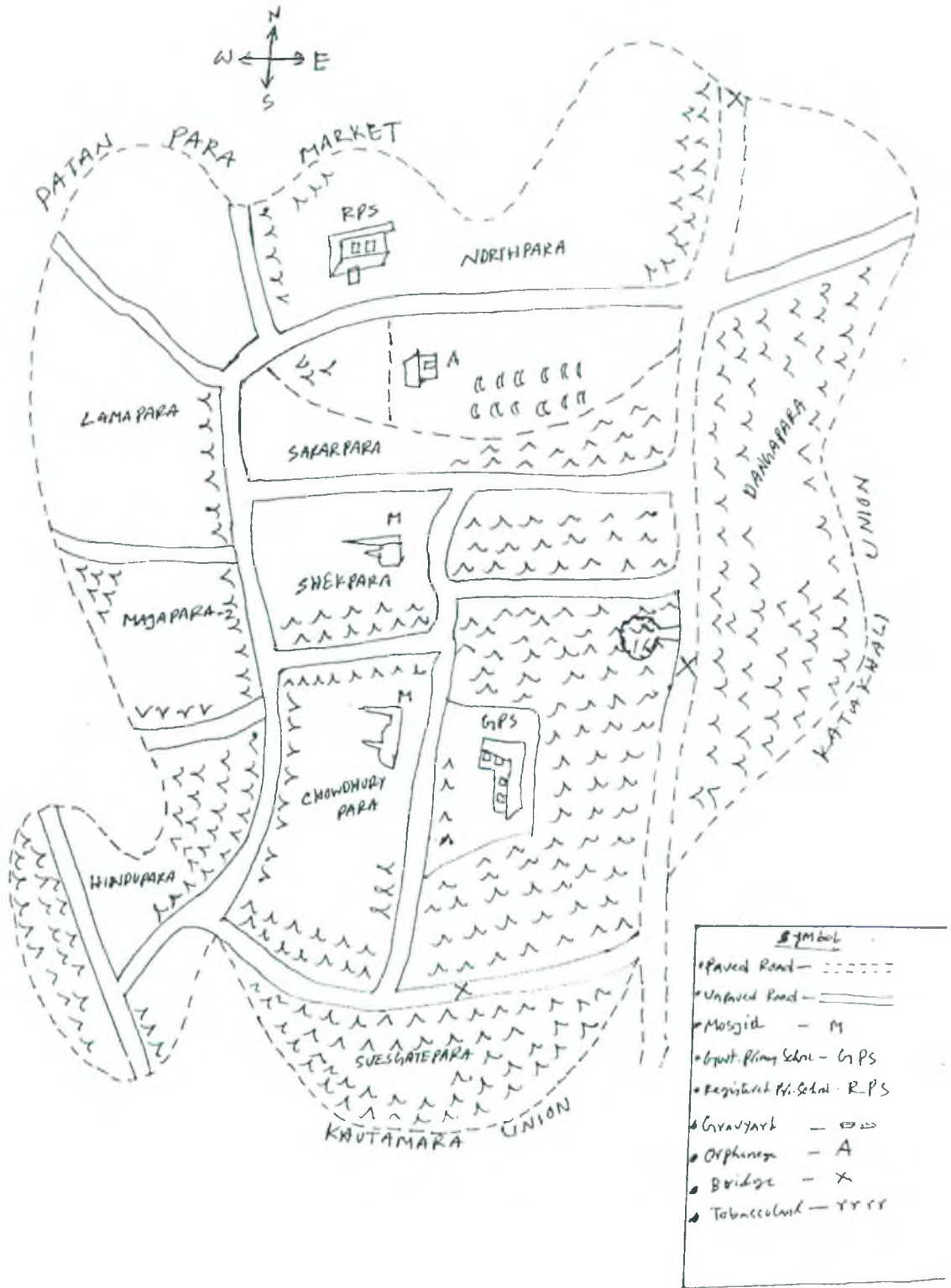
### Map of Bangladesh



### Map of Jaldhaka Upazila, Nilphamari



Map of the Study Area



## 4.2 Geographical Background

The village Kalkeot is under Mirganj Union Parishad of Jaldhaka Upazila. It is about 10 km. far away from Nilphamary district town. It is one of the poorest villages of Jaldhaka Upazial. The area of the village is 4.38 square km. Majority of the people are poor farmers. Literacy rate is very low. According to some villagers, *kal* means bad or dreadful and *Keot* means 'go away'. Once upon a time there lived a number of traditional healers (kobiraj) and they used to protect people from dreadful things. That's why the village was known as kalkeot. There are living Muslim and Hindu community people. This is a low and high land mixed area with some plain land. The main agricultural product is paddy and tobacco. The temperature is very hot in summer and very cold in winter. The main mode of communication is *Van* and Bicycle. A number of villagers and children go one place to another on foot. There are one government primary school, one registered primary school, one *Ebthedai* and one *Forkania* Madrasha in this village. There are two village markets- Mirganj and another is *Chawdhury Hat*, which are famous for tobacco selling. Both the markets are 4 km from village. Some features of the study area are shown in the following table.

## 4.3. Physical Infrastructure of the Study Area

Table- 4.1: Physical Infrastructure of the Study Area

Area in Sq. KM	No. of Para	Govt. primary school	Reg. Primary school	Ebtedai madrasha	Forkania madrasha	Community clinic	Paved road in km	Unpaved road in km	Paved Tubewell	Unpaved Tubewell	Mosque	Temple	Village doctor	Quack/Kobiraj	Working NGO
4	11	1	1	1	5	1	1	4	135	724	7	2	3	2	5

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot, 2011.

#### 4.4. Population Scenario of the Research Area

Table-4.2: Population Scenario of the Research Area

Total Family (HH)	Population	Male	Female	Children 0-5 years	Children 6-10 years	Children 11-bellow 18 Years	People 18- 49 years	People above 49 Years
1003	4603	2355	2248	836	639	592	1898	637

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011

#### 4.5. Population Distribution by Para

Table-4.3: Population Distribution by Para

SL No.	Name of Para	No of House hold
1	Hindupara	168
2	Majhapara-1	159
3	Majhapara-2	186
4	Switchgatepara	46
5	Sheikhpara	88
6	Dangapara	57
7	Chowdhurypara	121
8	Dolapara	46
9	Uttarpara	131
Total		1003

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot, 2011.

#### 4.6. Social Festival and Religious Practice

By religion, the villagers are Muslims and Hindus. There are 7 Mosque and 2 Temples. The Muslim celebrate different religious activities and prayers like- Moharram, Eid, Eide-Miladunnabi, Was-Mahfil. The Hindu people celebrates different religious occasions particularly Durgapuja, Sharshathipuja,

Maghipurnima. Hindu and Muslim both enjoy Pohela Boishakhi Uthshab (Bangla Nobobarsha Festival). They also perform some social celebration. For example, after delivery, the mother first time eat her meal (Bhath) at Kolapatha (Banana leaf), it is call Puathy Bhath. The Hindu women do not cook at least three days during menstrual period. The farmers do not sow any seed on Saturday and Tuesday.

#### **4.7 Cultural Practice in the Area**

There is no remarkable place or event in the village, where the villagers can spend their leisure period. The mobility of the villagers is also limited. The women pass their leisure by gossiping. On the other hand, the men play card and pass their time in nearby *Patanpara Hat* (small Market place) or *Chowdhurypara Hat*. Due to poor socio economic condition, modern entertainment equipment is also very rare at house hold level. The people mainly seek pleasure from religious based different festivals.

#### **4.8 Food Habit of the Study Area People**

Majority of the villagers are living in poor condition. Agriculture is their main income source of income, but it is also limited. So, majority of the villagers has no scope to spend enough money for taking food for the family members. So, children suffer from malnutrition. Pregnant women also do not get sufficient food. So, they deliver underweight and malnourished baby. The main food of them is Bhath (rice). The rich family only takes three times meals, middle class people take two time meals- morning and night and poor people only take rice once a daily.

#### 4.9 Akal Shamoy- No Work

The bangla month Ashin-Karthik and Falgun to Baishak are mainly *Akal Shamoy*- their own opinion. The time is well known as Manga 4. These times the people do not find work in the area. They simply become workless. Majority of the poor male people live outside of the region, like Bogra, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chitagang and different places of the country for earning money. This time is very crucial time for them. This scenario is not only for Jaldhak Upazila, it is a common scenario for more or less active in the northern part of Bangladesh during this period.

#### 4.10. Health Practice of the Villagers

The health facility in the village is inadequate. There is no registered physician available in the village. Generally, the people only depend on village doctor and *kobiraj* (traditional healer). In this village, there have 3 village doctors and two *kobiraj* or *quacks*. A significant number of villagers go to *Kobiraj* for treatment. There are also one government field level health worker and one community clinic. But her activities are limited only for family planning and immunization program. There are some trained and untrained birth attendants. Majority of the delivery take place at home. The health situation of women and children is miserable. From the villager's opinion, they mostly suffer from diarrhea, fever and skin disease. If they face major problem, they go to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex or Nilphamari district hospital.

4. The period when people remain jobless and no income. It is well known as Monga or Akal shomoy of the northern part of Bangladesh. The duration is Ashin to Kartik and Falgun to Baishak months of Bangla year.



## CHAPTE R-V

### CHILD LABOUR INVOLVED IN TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN THE STUDY AREA

In this Anthropological study, data were collected from Kalkeot village of Jaldhaka Upazila under Nilphamari district. A total number of children 156 and 30 parents were interviewed using a checklist to explore children contribution in tobacco cultivation. The variables were parent's occupation, land uses for tobacco cultivation, family income, child education, child rights, child labour etc. The findings are presented as follows:

**Table-5.1.1: Age of the Respondents Children**

Age	Frequency	Percent
6-10 Years	54	34.6
11-15 Years	90	57.7
16-<18 Years	12	7.7
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

It is found that the highest number of children age 11-15 years are working in tobacco field, which is 57.7 percent. 6-10 years of age 34.6 percent and rest of 16-less than 18 years of old 7.7 percent children are involved in tobacco cultivation.

**Table-5.1.2: Children's Education Situation**

Student/not student	Frequency	Percent
Go to school	95	60.9
Not go to school	61	39.1
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

In the research area out of 156 respondents (5), only 95 children go to school and total 61 children whose age is school going but they did not go to school and majority of them are dropout. They could not complete primary as well as secondary level schooling.

**Table-5.1.3: Educational Level of the Children**

Education	Frequency	Percent
Class 1-5	93	59.6
Class 6-10	62	39.7
SSC and Above	1	.6
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

During the field work in Kalkeot village, out of 156 respondent's the table shows that most of the children that is 59.6 percent children education level is class 1 to class 5. than 6 to 10 class and only one children completed Secondary School Certificate .it is mentioned that from the respondent's children some are continuing study and some of them dropout from school after completing above class.

**Table-5.1.4: Gender of the Children**

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Boy	103	66.0
Girl	53	34.0
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above table shows that total 66 percent respondents children is boys and 34 percent children is girls who are working in tobacco field in different stages of tobacco cultivation.

(5) Respondents are children of the study area.

**Table-5.1.5: Religion of the Children**

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Muslim	139	89.1
Hindu	17	10.9
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

We can see from above table that out of 156 children 139 children is Muslim and rest of 17 children is Hindu. There are no any others religious community people in the study area.

**Table-5.1.6: Occupation of Children's Father**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Farmer	102	65.4
Day Labour	15	9.6
Small Business	32	20.5
Others	7	4.5
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

In the research area, due to agricultural based society majority of the people are depend on agriculture. The above table shows that highest number of children's father's occupation is agriculture that is 65 percent, 20.5 percent is small business, 9.6 percent is day labour and rest of the different occupation.

**Table-5.1.7: Educational Status of Children's Father**

Education level	Frequency	Percent
Literate	52	33.3
Illiterate	26	16.7
Up to class 5	28	17.9
Class 6-10	33	21.2
SSC and above	17	10.9
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

It is like other parts of the rural area of Bangladesh that the literacy rate is very poor among the farmers. In the research area it is found that large number of farmers only knows how to write their name only. The rate of illiteracy of respondent's father is 16.7 percent, studied at up to class 5 is 17.9 percent, 21.2 percent studied at class 6 to 10 and only 10.9 percent of the respondent's children father completed SSC and above.

**Table-5.1.8: Occupation of Children's Mother**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Housewife	147	94.2
Day Labour	8	5.1
Others	1	.6
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The table shows that majority of the children's mothers occupation is housewife. So, it is a common scenario of other parts in rural Bangladesh.

**Table-5.1.9 : Educational Status of Children's Mother**

Education level	Frequency	Percent
Literate	59	37.8
Illiterate	44	28.2
Up to class 5	29	18.6
Class 6-10	20	12.8
SSC and above	4	2.6
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The table is also shows as like the table No. 7.1.7 of education of the fathers, that education level of the mothers is very poor condition. Among them 28 percent mothers is illiterate, 37.8 percent mothers only know signature, primary education level is 18.6 percent, class 6-10 class education is 12.8 percent and only 2.6 mothers has completed SSC and above.

**Table-5.1.10 Patterns of the Children’s Family**

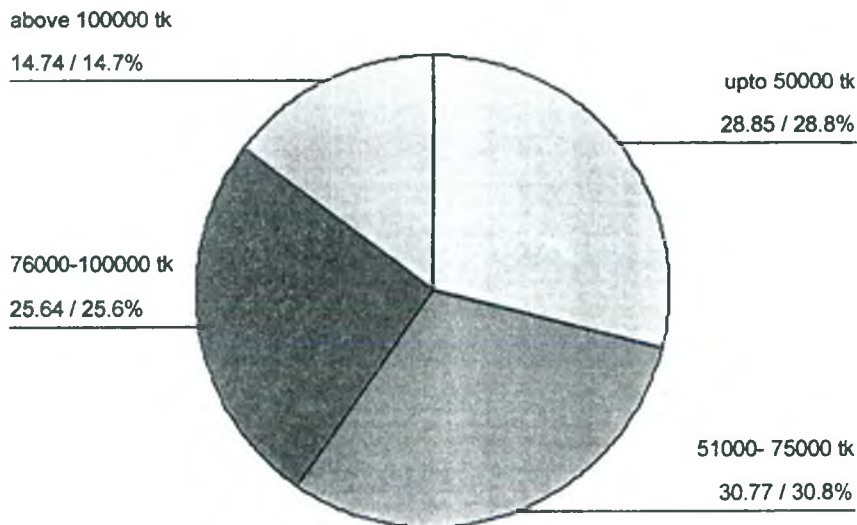
	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear Family	116	74.4
Joint Family	40	25.6
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above table shows that majority of the family is nuclear that is 74.4 percent and rest of the 25.6 percent is joint family. So it is shows the scenario of family pattern has broken out from traditional pattern of the living in Bangladesh.

**Figure 5.2.1 :**

**Total Yearly Income of the family**



Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above graph shows that the majority of the family’s yearly income is Tk.51000 to Tk.75000 that is 30.8 percent. 28.8 percent family’s in come is up to Tk.50000 annually. 25.6 percent family’s income is Tk.76000 to Tk.100000 and rest of the family’s income is above Tk.100000 that is 14.7 percent. So the research area majority of the people are living in poor condition.

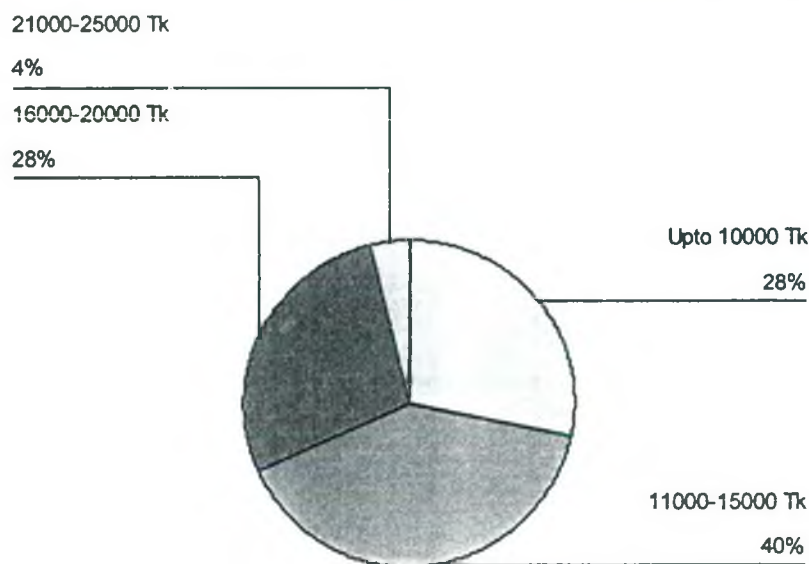
**Table-5.1.11: Yearly Income from Tobacco Cultivation**

Income from Tobacco	Frequency	Percent
Upto 10000 Tk	44	28.2
11000-15000 Tk	62	39.7
16000-20000 Tk	44	28.2
21000-25000 Tk	6	3.8
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

**Figure 5.2.2 :**

**Yearly Income from Tobacco of the Children's family**



Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above table and graph shows that the majority of the children's family's yearly income from tobacco cultivation is Tk.11000 to Tk.15000 that is 40 percent. Up to Tk. 10000 and the range of Tk.16000 to Tk. 20000 income families is percentage same that is 28 percent. And rest of the 4 percent family's income from tobacco cultivation is Tk. 21000 to Tk. 25000. So if we compare with total family income and the income from tobacco cultivation, we

find that the income from tobacco is not higher or not the remarkable. Whereas majority of the children's father's occupation is agriculture and obviously they earn from agricultural product or activities.

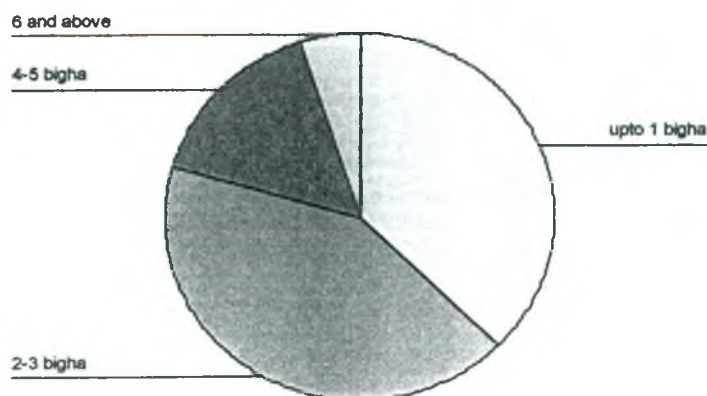
**Table-5.1.12: Total Land Used for Cultivation of the Family**

Total Land used for Cultivation	Frequency	Percent
Up to 1 bigha	58	37.2
2-3 bigha	66	42.3
4-5 bigha	24	15.4
6 and above	8	5.1
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

**Figure 5.2.3 :**

Total Land for Cultivation of the family



Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above graph and table shows that the highest number of 42.3 percent family have land to used for cultivation that is 2- 3 *bigha*. A significant number of the family has 1 *bigha* land for cultivation that is 37.2 percent. 4-5 *bigha* and 6 and above *bigha* land used for cultivation accordingly 15.4 percent and 5.1 percent. So we see the per capita family land is not up to the mark able. Majority of the people are poor farmer and they live in poor condition which is

link to the multi dimensional aspect like education, health, nutrition etc of the children particularly.

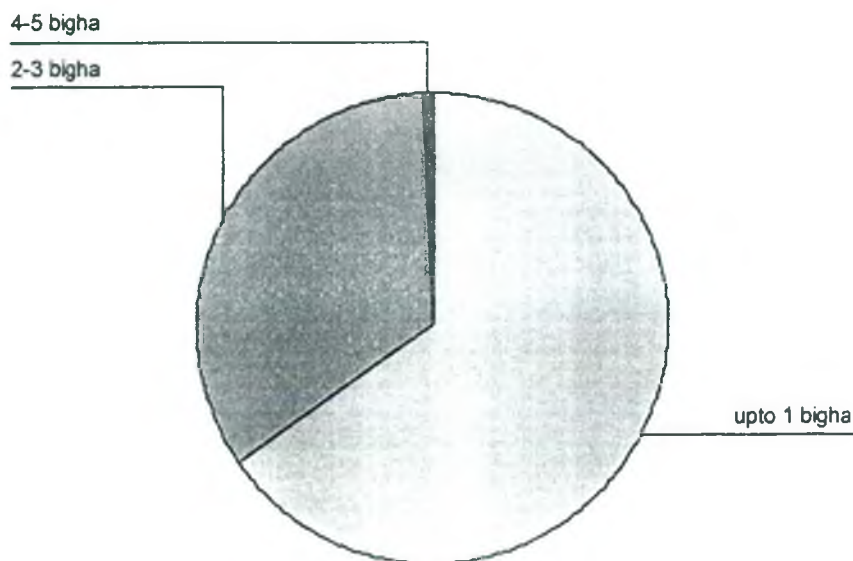
**Table-5.1.13: Total Land used for Tobacco Cultivation of the Family**

Land Used for Tobacco	Frequency	Percent
Up to 1 bigha	102	65.4
2-3 bigha	53	34.0
4-5 bigha	1	.6
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

**Figure 5.2.4 :**

**Total Land used for Tobacco Cultivation**



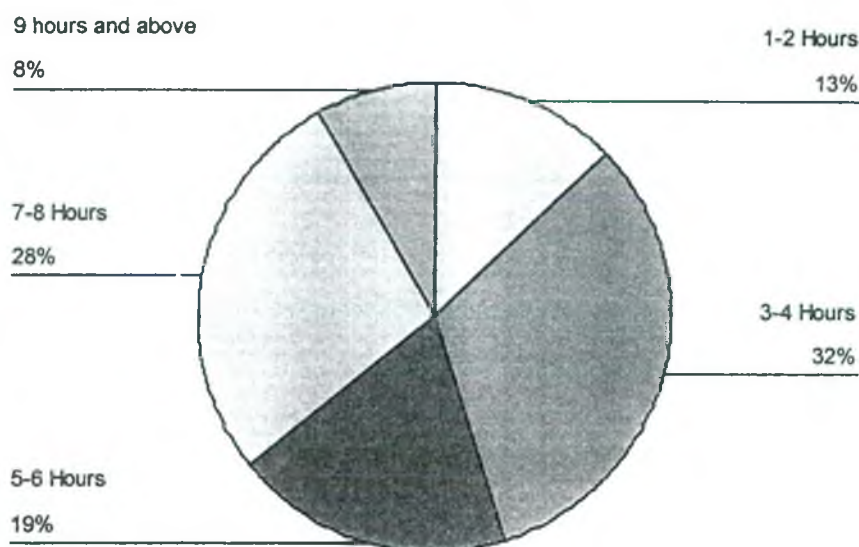
Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above table and graph shows that majority of the farmer cultivate tobacco in up to 1 *bigha* land that is 65.4 percent. 34 percent families cultivate tobacco in 2-3 *bigha* lands. So, if we compare with table of 7.1.15-Total Land Used for Cultivation of the Family, we see they did not cultivate tobacco in whole the land.



Figure 5.2.5 :

Total Working time of the children in Tobacco



Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

Table-5.1.14: Total Working Time of the Children

Working Hours	Frequency	Percent
1-2 Hours	20	12.8
3-4 Hours	50	32.1
5-6 Hours	30	19.2
7-8 Hours	43	27.6
9 hours and above	13	8.3
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

It is an important finding that shows the working time of the children in tobacco cultivation. We found from the graph and table that majority of the children work in tobacco cultivation in a day 3-4 hours that is 32 percent children. It is very unfortunate that 28 percent children work 7-8 hours in a day than 19 percent work 5-6 hours, 13 percent work in 1-2 hours and rest of 8

percent work 9 hours and above which is highest. The children who currently study at different class, they work before school time and after back from school even some time they did not go to school for the work load. The children, who drop out from school they work in whole the day when need.

Figure 5.2.6 :

Absent from school for tobacco working



Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

Table-5.1.15: Absent from School for Tobacco Working

Absent in School	Frequency	Percent
Not Absent	10	6.4
Up to 4 days	12	7.7
5-6 days	25	16.0
7-8 days	25	16.0
9-10 days	15	9.6
11 days and above	8	5.1
Total	95	60.9
Dropout	61	39.1
Total	156	100.0

Source: Fieldwork in Kalkeot village, 2011.

The above graph and table shows the average school missing of the children due to tobacco cultivation. Basically the children are absent in the period of tobacco leaf cutting and drying. We can see from above graph that the highest number of 11 days and above total 5.1 percent children absent in school in a season. On the other hand the highest 16 percent children absent in school 5-6 days and 7-8 days as a same in a season. Besides, 9.6 percent children absent 9-10 days and 7.7 percent children absent up to 4 days in season of tobacco cultivation. Another findings is only 6.4 percent children did not absent in school due to tobacco work which is almost low. On the table 39.1 percent children is drop out from school permanently. When I talked with Mr. Raihanul Islam, Head teacher of Kalkeot government primary school, he told school attendance rate is poor during the tobacco leaf cutting but it is not very significant because of student stipend. It is also seen student come to school late and back early during the season due to tobacco work he added.

### **5.3 Knowledge on Child Rights and Tobacco**

As in the other rural parts of Bangladesh, the children of study area also has limited knowledge on child rights, like child protection, developments, education, survival, child labour etc. From the view of school going children, out of 156 children, a very few number of children have knowledge on child rights particularly the upper age level of children according to national child policy. Some of them told the children age up to 10, some opinion is 12, another some children told up to 14 years. So, they think and belief that when children cross the above age he or she capable to do any work. When asked what type of work is harmful or hazardous for them, majority of the children both school going and who not go to school told agricultural work, tobacco cultivation, rickshaw polling and making bricks. Regarding tobacco, the children's view is, it is harmful for them, affecting their household environment, increase mosquito when tobacco drying at home, they suffering diverse way, children easily addicted to it. They have knowledge that the

tobacco leave are mainly use for producing cigarette, *bidi*, *zarda*, *gul* etc. majority of the children told tobacco is one of the key causes of cancer and tuberculosis.

#### 5.4 Children in Tobacco Field

Tobacco is a labour intensive crop, mostly women and children are working in tobacco cultivation as a member of household in research area as well as other part of Bangladesh and over the tobacco growing world. Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. From seed sowing, irrigation, harvesting, post harvesting leafs drying, bundling, even to selling- in every stages children are actively involved. Several of the study findings is more than 50% of the labor comes from children and women of the farm families. Tobacco cultivation is a very long, strenuous, time-consuming, labor-intensive and risky activity. As in other agricultural sectors, child labor is prevalent, particularly in the poorer areas. Often the whole family is involved in the cultivation and harvesting process. Children provide adjustable labor at peak periods and sometimes contribute to a third of labor input. In the study area Kalkeot village, children are contributing their small body and innocent hands to produce tobacco in all most all of the tobacco growing stages. Most of the children are involved in the following activities:

- Preparing tobacco nurseries;
- Building tobacco drying sheds;
- Sowing tobacco seedlings;
- Watering tobacco fields;
- Transplanting tobacco seedlings and tilling tobacco ridges;
- Fertilizing tobacco plants;
- Weeding tobacco crops;
- Plucking tobacco leaves;
- Tobacco leaf sun drying at field;
- Collecting tobacco from field and bring them to house area.

## **5.5 Children with Tobacco at Home**

After tobacco collect from the land, it's dry surrounding the house area. At that time its bad smell burnout the whole area. Even children and others family members are sleeping under the same roof as their toxic harvest in that season. At home level mainly the work is processing up to selling. Women and children are mostly doing the works. Most of the children of study area do the bellow works:

- Hanging tobacco leaves on poles in tobacco drying sheds;
- Smoking tobacco leaves;
- Hanging tobacco leaves from poles in drying sheds;
- Plaiting tobacco leaves;
- Grading tobacco leaves;
- Tying tobacco leaves in bundles;
- Selling tobacco.

Most of the children do the above mentioned hazardous work. If the imputed value of this free labor is taken into account, tobacco loses much of its profit margin. Specially, Children being pulled from school to work and women spend sleepless night to process tobacco. For this reason, the children are suffering from different health problems and it has a great negative impact on their growth.

## **5.6 No Scope to Play in School Play Ground**

According to the Child Rights Convention Article 31(1) States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. Article 31(2) States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for

cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity. So it is state party's responsibility to ensure the right of children recreation for their social and mental development. There are one government primary school, one registered primary school, three *Ebtheday* and *Forkania Madrash* where there is hardly any scope of games and recreation. All most in every institute has small play ground. The scenario of these play grounds is very disgraceful particularly in the season of tobacco harvesting. After cutting the tobacco leaves, it is necessary to dry in sun. So just after the cutting the leaves, it is dry in the all over the tobacco lands, nearby places, elsewhere even the school play ground by nearest tobacco producers. I have observed the scenario when gone to Kalkeot government primary school to talk the children. Some children of this school told there has no any instruments to play and cultural activities. They only celebrate and enjoy Independence Day, Victory day, World Mother's Language Day.

### **5.7 Tobacco and Children's Health**

The product itself-tobacco-is considered to be unhealthy and dangerous for the producers as well as consumers. In the study area, women and children are more exposed to fertilizers and pesticides during planting and growing, toxic tar from green leaves during harvesting. Tobacco producing is threat for the health of the farming families, their lands, and their local eco-system. When I take interview of Dr. Gawsul Azam <sup>6</sup>, he told me that tobacco cultivation is closely related to health hazardous. It is also the cause of ill health and the birth of a child is also affected by handling agricultural chemicals and tobacco leaf. Children and women often suffer from green tobacco sickness (GTS), which is caused by dermal absorption of nicotine from contact with tobacco leaves. The common symptoms of illness are vomiting, weakness, headache, skin disease

6. Dr. Gawsul Azam, Upazila Health & Family planning officer of study Upazila Jaldhaka.

and dizziness. It also increased risk of injury and illness of the tobacco working children. A significant number of children and women come to hospital during the harvesting period due to skin diseases, vomiting, headache, dizziness and difficulty in breathing. Majority of the children from school going and not going boys and girls both told they seriously suffer particularly when the tobacco leaves hanged at living room for part of processing of drying. They told that they could not take sufficient food due to bed smell. Whereas they are mainly go to *quack* or *village doctor* or *kobiraj* for any treatment. Besides, women are worst affected by tobacco cultivation by having adverse health effects, particularly in relation to their reproductive health. Women are facing miscarriage and gynecological problems.

### 5.8 Tobacco and Poverty

Tobacco and poverty are linked in several ways. In 2004, the World Health Organization chose the theme of tobacco and poverty for 'World No Tobacco Day'. tobacco could help 10.5 million malnourished children have adequate diets if 70% of it were spent on food instead, thereby saving 350 lives a day. In the study area majority of the family is poor. They live in poverty. The cultivation of tobacco is economically detrimental to the countries that produce it, especially those that are still developing. When resources are put into tobacco production, they are taken away from food production. Large amount of firewood, that could be used domestically for fuel and heating, are instead used for the curing of tobacco. A large percent of the profits from tobacco production go to large tobacco companies rather than local tobacco farmers.

## **5.9 Tobacco and Environment**

Tobacco production requires the use of a large amount of pesticides. Tobacco companies recommend up to 16 separate applications of pesticides just in the period between planting the seeds in greenhouses and transplanting the young plants to the field. Pesticide use has been worsened by the desire to produce bigger crops in less time because of the decreasing market value of tobacco. Pesticides often harm tobacco farmers because they are unaware of the health affects and the proper safety protocol for working with pesticides. These pesticides as well as fertilizers, end up in the soil, the waterway and the food chain. Coupled with child labor, pesticides pose an even greater threat. Early exposure to pesticides may increase a child's life long cancer risk as well as harm his or her nervous and immune systems. Tobacco is a crop that leeches nutrients, such as phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, from the soil at a rate higher than any other major crop. This leads to dependence on fertilizers. Furthermore, the wood for the curing of tobacco, leads to deforestation. Deforestation is a factor in flooding, decreased soil productivity and general climate change. The respondent's children and their parents told at that time increased mosquito alarmingly. They said that tobacco cultivation leaves have adverse impact on the soil fertility and once tobacco is cultivated its difficult to grow other crops on the same land. The root of tobacco tree usually penetrates nine inches deep into the soil whereas it's only four inches in case of other crops. As a result, the tobacco root badly affects fertility of soil. Food and water crisis is going to be severe in areas where tobacco cultivation is expanding. Tobacco companies are facing resistance from the farming communities in old plantation areas and are moving to fertile lands.



### **5.10 Tobacco and Food Insecurity**

The present study reveals that cultivation of tobacco is becoming a threat to food security. Activists and the government say the trend could worsen food insecurity and shortages, given limited cultivable land. If a large group of farmers switch to tobacco cultivation, it might affect food grain production in Bangladesh. The country will face a severe food crisis in the near future, if tobacco cultivation cannot be stopped immediately. It is a simple equation. When farmers cultivate tobacco (December to March), this is also the time for paddy and winter crop cultivation. So, expanding tobacco cultivation will certainly cause food insecurity problem. Arable land is decreasing in Bangladesh. It will be a threat if the land is used for tobacco cultivation rather than the food cultivation. Bangladesh is losing 1 percent of arable land every year, in part due to erratic rains and land degradation, according to the UN World Food Program. The agency estimates 28 million people (20 percent) of the total population are ultra-poor and face chronic food insecurity (Unicef,2011). The government can have a similar program. But, first, it should formulate a law to prohibit tobacco cultivation on farmland. Ultimately, tobacco farming is not profitable. Though tobacco farmers earn a lot, they have to spend a lot for buying food.

## CHAPTER-VI

### CONCLUSION

Child labor in tobacco cultivation is a human right issue. The children are being pulled from school to work and women spending sleepless nights to process tobacco. Tobacco is a labour intensive crop, mostly women and children are working in tobacco cultivation in the study area as well as other parts of Bangladesh and over the tobacco growing world. Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. From seed sowing, irrigation, harvesting, post harvesting- leaves drying, bundling, even to selling- in every stage children are actively involved. The growing tobacco is threatening the health of their families, their lands, and their local eco-system. Tobacco farming increase poverty and economic underdevelopment of individual farmer as well as families, communities and countries. Food and water crisis is going to be severe in areas, where tobacco cultivation is expanding. Tobacco companies are facing resistance from the farming communities in old plantation areas and are moving to fertile lands.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) includes principles that protect children from exploitation. Bangladesh government is one of the signatory countries on CRC and The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention and also in different international and regional conventions. Government also committed its Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 and The National Child Policy 2011 to reduce child labour. Government should take legal action against the tobacco farming to save our innocent child as well as invaluable agricultural lands from decay and infertility.

Tobacco is a labour intensive crop, mostly women and children are working in tobacco cultivation in research area as well as other part of Bangladesh and also in the tobacco growing world. Someway, every child and woman of the farm families is involved in tobacco cultivation. Tobacco cultivation is a very

long, strenuous, time-consuming, labor-intensive and risky activity. In the study area Kalkeot village, children are contributing their labour and innocent hands to produce tobacco in all most all of the tobacco growing stages. In the study area, most of the children are involved in - preparing tobacco nurseries, building tobacco drying sheds, sowing tobacco seedlings, watering tobacco fields, transplanting tobacco seedlings and tilling tobacco ridges, fertilizing tobacco plants, weeding tobacco crops, plucking tobacco leaves, tobacco leaves sun drying at field and tobacco brings to house. It is very unfortunate that 28 percent children work 7-8 hours in a day than 19 percent work 5-6 hours, 13 percent work in 1-2 hours and rest of 8 percent work 9 hours and above which is highest. The children, who currently study at different classes, work before school time and after getting back from school. Sometime, they did not go to school for the work load. The highest number of 11 days and above that is total 5.1 percent children were absent in school in a season. The children, who drop out from school they work in whole the day when need.

This study did not provide an exhaustive analysis but it gave an initial indication that indeed attention needs to be paid to the issue of child labour in tobacco-growing in Bnagladesh and that the situation calls for actions to address the problem. Child labour harms their health, physical development and educational attainment as well as undermining community and economic development by harming future productive members of society. Tobacco-related child labor persists due to lack of enforcement mechanisms and weak national labour laws.

The findings of this study make the following suggestions to save the children from the bad effect of tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh.

- The study suggests that a national initiative for working towards generating safer alternative sources of livelihoods for tobacco workers.

- Government may play a major role in linking tobacco workers to alternative occupations and vocational trainings after assessing their interest and local market needs. There is a need for coordinated efforts by both the government and civil society to work for shifting tobacco farmers towards safer and viable alternative cropping and livelihoods.
- The Government of Bangladesh may take steps to enforce the provisions stipulated under the different Acts to reduce child labour.
- The taxes on all forms of chewing and smoking tobacco (raw, bidis, gutka, and cigarettes) may considerably be increased.
- The farmers should be made aware that employing child labour is a punishable offence.
- There is a need to educate farmers and children on the ill effects of tobacco cultivation. The health effects on particularly women and children from pesticides used, frequent fertilizer sprays, green tobacco sickness and should be highlighted.
- Tobacco farmers should be educated about alternative crops, which can yield greater income than tobacco, and involve fewer chemical inputs, less labour, and less health risk. In addition, farmers can also be encouraged to take up alternative economic activities like dairy farming, animal husbandry, horticulture etc.

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## CASE STUDY

### Case Study- 1:

Mr. Md. Sarwar Hussain, Age 39 years, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, He told that tobacco is a cash crop. So, farmer gets cash money from tobacco cultivation. And they cultivate the tobacco due to poverty. It is impossible for the children to do not work in tobacco field and processing, whose family cultivate tobacco. The children are involved in tobacco work willingly or force. He told tobacco work obviously prevent their development physically and mentally. The rate of tobacco use is more than other part of country due to availability this is his observation. Tobacco work is one of worst form of child labour and government prohibite d such work. Due to hazardous work it is very risky for their health.

He told that it is treated as a cash crop but ultimately it is not such a profitable crop. UNO also told that they try to build up awareness to cultivate other crops like different vegetables and rice, which also supplement family nutrition as well as selling. He shared his experience at the day of joining in Jaldhaka Upazila as a UNO, when he was entering in Jaldhaka Pawrashaba besides tobacco factory, he was feeling very uncomfortable due to bad smell of tobacco. He added it obviously affect our environment.

## Case Study- 2:

Mr. Dr. Gawsul Azam, Age 57 years, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer (UH&FPO), Upazila Health Complex, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, he told that tobacco cultivation is closely related to health hazards. It is also ill health and birth defects from handling agricultural chemicals and tobacco leaf. Children and women often suffer from green tobacco sickness (GTS), which is caused by dermal absorption of nicotine from contact with tobacco leaves. He told that the common symptoms of illness are vomiting, weakness, headache, skin disease and dizziness. He told it is also increased risk of injury and illness of the tobacco working children. Mr. Azam also informed me a significant number of children and women are come to hospital during the harvesting period due to skin diseases, vomiting, headache, dizziness.

He told, when tobacco is process at home children, women and all the family members are did not take Oxygen easily due to its bad smell. Due to tobacco processing children are more vulnerable and it is hamper their physical, mental and cognitive development, especially minor children of the family - he added.

### **Case Study- 3:**

Mr. Ehsanul Haque Sanu, Age 53 years, Mirganj Union Parishad Chairman, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, as like a development worker. The study area Kalkeot village is under his Miganj Union Parishad. He completed cent percent of child birth registration successfully and he provides the birth certificate from computerized data bank. He told that they try to birth register as early as possible after a baby birth. He declared his union as 'child marriage free' with the support of local administration. And it is also seen different display board as 'child marriage free' Union. He is very much committed to develop his Union.

When I asked about tobacco cultivation and children's work in tobacco, he told that it is of course hamper our land, environment and increase the sufferings of children. Practically tobacco did not play any role to reduce poverty but people cultivate it. He told that they try to aware the people to cultivate others crops than tobacco and the situation is day by day increase. Many farmers now cultivate different vegetables and other things than tobacco.

He told that due to tobacco cultivation children and women are suffer from multi way. Children did not go to school at right time and also absent in class during the pick time of cultivation. It is hampers their health and development. He told that child labour is prohibited. So, it is also prohibited for the children but they do it due to poverty. At the end of the interview he told that if the family come out from tobacco cultivation children will be free from it. Other than they will do it, willingly or forcefully.

#### **Case Study- 4:**

Mr. Mubarak Hussain, Age 54 years, Program Unit Manager, Plan-International Bangladesh, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari. Mr. Hussain has been working in this area more than 10 years as a social development worker. Plan-International Bangladesh has been doing excellent work for long time for the betterment of the children and their community as a child centred organization.

He told that tobacco cultivation must be prevent to development of the children. The children did not paid attention in their study during tobacco cultivation season. There are link to dropout from education and tobacco cultivation. The children of tobacco farming family work willingly or forcefully. They miss their innocent child hood due to tobacco work.

The bidi factories are providing loan in zero interest to the tobacco farmer. At the same time they confirmed them to buy their product. So, if the government or any agency provides any loan to the farmers they must be cultivate other crops and they may back from tobacco cultivation. Due to their poverty, loan and products selling confirmation they did not come out from the cycle of tobacco production.

He told that his organization Plan Bangladesh is demonstrates the area people to cultivate alternative crops. As the same time they are try to aware the community people about the danger side of tobacco cultivation. He told that they planning to give special attention how to reduce tobacco cultivation. He told that it is very important to aware the people about bad side of tobacco. He also told, the parents did not properly realise that it is hamper their children's development but they continue to produce for the economic benefit. At the end he told that it is hampers the environment and also health hazards for the farming family. He told government should stop to produce tobacco.

### **Case Study- 5:**

Mr. Raihanul Islam, Age 34 years, Head Teacher, Kalkeot Government Primary School, Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, he told that the school attendance rate is poor during the tobacco leaf cutting but it is not very significant because of student stipend. It is also seen student come to school late and back early during the season due to tobacco work, he added.

He told that it is common in the tobacco growing area that the student works in tobacco field before school time and after the school. So, it is very open that the children did not pay attention in their lesson at school as well as at home. So, it is unfortunate for the children, especially tobacco produce family.

He told it is a common phenomenon that children involved in tobacco work they like or not like. He informed me that he also did tobacco work in his childhood as a member of producer family. He also told that tobacco obviously dangerous for the children than others agricultural work.

### Case Study- 6:

Umme kulsuma is a 13 years girl. She reads in class seven in Mirganj High School. She is first girls out of 185 students in her class. She also got scholarship in class five. Her father is a small farmer. Agriculture is the main income source of her family. Her family cultivate tobacco in two *bigha* lands in this year.

When I took her interview, she was cutting tobacco leaf in her family land with her mother, father and brothers. She was doing her job very smoothly without any hesitation due to our presence. When I talk with her, it was school time and school was open that day. When I asked why you did not go to school today? She simply said ‘tobacco cutting’. I realised that she felt guilty her self due to school leave. But she was bound and used to do it. She informed me during the tobacco leaf cutting and drying period it is very common to leave school not only she also others tobacco farming family students. So, it is also common scenario that students attendance rate is very poor in the tobacco farming area school. Obviously tobacco hampers my study she told. Not only Kulsuma, it is for almost every farming family student. Kulsuma said that when tobacco is drying at home it’s bad smell hamper her study, did not silent sleep, did not take food easily and increase mosquitoes at home, at all it is very disgusting period for them. She told that tobacco work is their reality, they like or not, they are involved in seeding to selling tobacco. She told that they do hanging tobacco leaves on poles in tobacco drying sheds, smoking tobacco leaves, hanging tobacco leaves from poles in drying sheds, plaiting tobacco leaves, grading tobacco leaves, tying tobacco leaves in bundles and finally selling tobacco in market. Of course, others agricultural activities less hard than tobacco work, she told. She told that they minimise tobacco producing cost by providing self labour. At the end Kulsuma told that ‘tobacco produce is related to our survival. It is provides our food, our cloth, our shelter, our education and our demand also.’

## PHOTOGRAPH

**Photograph-1**



Kulsuma is a student of Class Seven. She is cutting tobacco leaves in her family land.

**Photograph-2**



Two young children are plating tobacco leaves in field for sun drying.



**Photograph-3**



The boy is cutting tobacco at morning before going to school.

**Photograph-4**



The girl plating tobacco leaves in field for sun drying before school time.  
Researcher is talking with her.

**Photograph-5**



A group of primary school students are crossing road nearest their school and both side is tobacco field

**Photograph -6**



This boy is plating tobacco in field without taking any food in morning.

**Photograph -7**



One farmer fertilizing in tobacco field

**Photograph -8**



The farmer giving pesticide and other chemicals in tobacco field

Photograph -9



All the family members are processing tobacco leaves, male and female smoking bidi.

Photograph -10



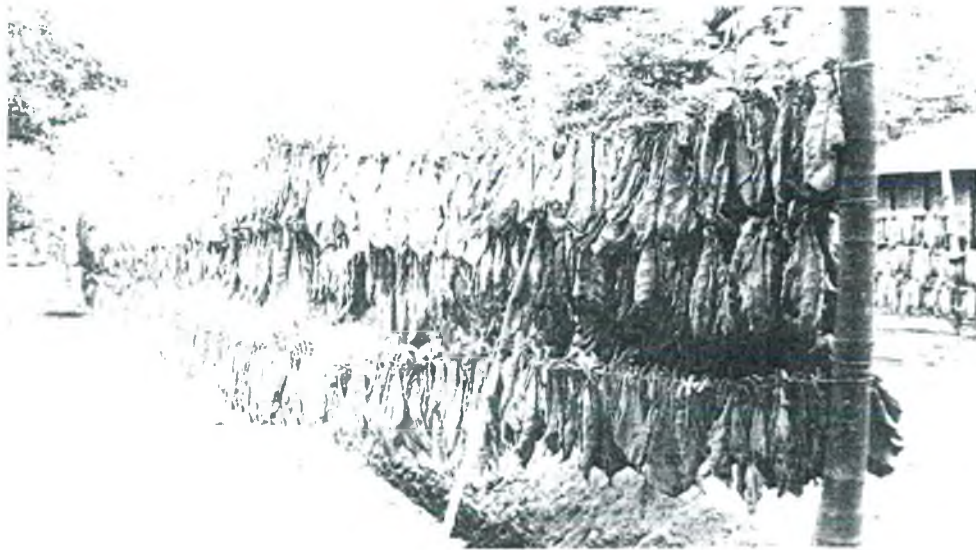
One woman and one girl are processing tobacco leaves for hanging, a baby is playing beside them.

**Photograph -11**



Every place is used for tobacco drying even in graveyard.

**Photograph -12**



Tobacco leaves are hanged for sun drying besides home.

**Photograph -13**



After sun drying, two little children are collecting tobacco bundle with their parents

**Photograph -14**



Tobacco leaves are processing in open field.

Photograph -15



The boy is going to market for selling tobacco.

Photograph -16



A farmer, preparing tobacco leaves for selling.

Photograph -17



Mirgonj is 'Child Marriage Free Union', The board is displayed by Union Parishad.