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The Role of Union Parishad on Development of Chittagong Hill Tracts: An Empirical Study

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ABSTRACT

What role does Union Parishad (UP) play in the development of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)? And how does the UP play role for development of inhabitant of the region of CHT? These questions became relevant and so much related after signing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, 1997. The CHT and its local governance are quite different than any others region of the state; there have two local governance systems: general local governance system and special local governance system. Special local governance system in Chittagong Hill Tracts is on the basis of Chittagong hill tracts peace accord. Development is key issue in a post conflict society. The Union Parishad has the duty to do developing and review the development activities (The local government act 1993). The main objective of this research is to explain the role of UP in CHT region. It is a qualitative research based on both primary and secondary data which have been collected through opened and close ended questionnaires from the people and elected leaders of Shuvolong UP of Rangamati. The study found that the UP plays strong role in local level on development sectors; UP provides pure drinking water by pipe line to the people, along with VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) and VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) to vulnerable group in specific time. UP has sanitation program for healthy life of the define area of union parishad and others sectors of UP; infrastructural development, providing information, digital services centre, education and educational institutions etc. In spite of having some unavoidable challenges for playing role, UP is the most effective and responsible development institution that works at grass-root level.

Key Words: *Role, Union Parishad, Development, Chittagong Hill Tracts*

Introduction

The CHT was vast conflicting area before signed Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, 1997. During the conflict, at least 8500 people had been killed, 1200 women were raped and over 90000 people were forcefully evicted by the parties of armed conflict (khan, 2018: 22). Both the sides have recognized the need for protecting the characteristics and attaining overall development of the region considering Chittagong Hill Tracts as a tribal inhabited region (Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, 1997). The preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development (the constitution of Bangladesh, article 59, 2, C) the local government bodies play in an important role in the overall development of the country. The UP members, since the people elect them, play in very important role in delivering civic facilities to villagers (Siddique, 2005). The National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts, on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, on behalf of the inhabitants of Chittagong Hill Tracts, has reached the following agreement in four parts (A, B, C, and D). The People's Republic of Bangladesh Government took measures for the development of The CHT ".....and to expedite socioeconomic development process and to preserve and respect the rights of all the citizens of Bangladesh and their development" (Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, 1997). According to Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, (section 9; b) The Council shall supervise and coordinate local councils including the municipalities. Union Parishad has constitutional and legal power for development of local area. There are two types of local bodies in the CHT; general local body and special local body; on the basis of Chittagong Hill

Tracts Accord. The constitution of people republic of Bangladesh, Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, the union parishad ordinance (2001) entrusted power to develop. Post Conflict reconstruction and economic devolvement are the key issues in war-ravaged society (khan, 2018). The Union Parishas has the duty to do development activities and review the development activities (The local government act 1993). The Union Parishad is the government's stakeholders of local level: What role does Union Parishad (UP) play in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)? How they are playing role? And who are leaders of local level? These questions raised on the bases of above discussion.

Historical Background

The CHT was an autonomous region under the Mughal Empire and remained so during the British colonial period (khan, 2018: 20) The Chittagong Hill Tracts, comprising three districts (Rangamati, Khagrchari, and Banderban), is geographically an isolated region of Bangladesh. It is surrounded by the Indian states of Tripura on the north and Mizoram on the east, by Burma on the south and east, and by Chittagong District on the west. With 5,093 square miles of surface area, the Hill Tracts constitutes 10% of the total area of Bangladesh, A land of hills and forests (Al ahsan and chakma, 89: 961). The legal background of Union Parishad: The village chaukidar act 1870: The district magistrate was empowered to appoint to panchayet consisting of 5 persons of the Union Level. These bodies were created solely to maintain laws and order in the villagers. The Local Government (Union Parishad) ordinance was promulgated in 1983. The ordinance of 1983 divides the functions up into 5 categories: Civil functions, Police & Defense functions, Revenue & General Administrative functions, Development functions, Transferred functions. The local government (Union parishad) ordinance, 1993, consisted of one chairman, 9 members (3 elected from each ward) and three women members from three reserved seats elected by the up chairman and members. The local government (Union parishad) ordinance, 2009, introduced same structure in different functions. There are 110 functions of the UP listed in Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009. Clause 47 of the Act listed four basic functions: Administrative and infrastructural functions, public security, people welfare and local economic and social development. There are two type of local governance in the CHT: 01. General: rural area and local area. 02. Special local governance, like regional council, this thesis will discuss about rural level of local governance.

Chittagong Hill Tracts

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) the only extensive hill area in Bangladesh lies in southeastern part of the country, bordering Myanmar on the southeast, the Indian state of Tripura on the north, Mizoram on the east and Chittagong district on the west. The area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is about 13,184 sq km, which is approximately one-tenth of the total area of Bangladesh. (Banglapedia, 2015).The CHT formed a single district until 1984, when they were divided into three districts: Khagrachari District, Rangamati Hill District, and Bandarban District. Topographically, the Hill Tracts are the only extensively hilly area in Bangladesh (Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Archived, 2008).

Objectives

This thesis paper has examined the role of Union Parishad in CHT and the challenge does UP face? At same time it has identified the demographic variable and characteristics of CHT Union Parishad Leaders.

Literature Review

The local government bodies play in an important role in the overall development of the country (Siddique, 2005). According to Bangladesh Constitution, (chapter 03, article: 59) (1) “Local government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law. The Council shall supervise and coordinate local councils including the municipalities. The Chittagong hill tract (CHT), the home of 13 indigenous ethnic minorities, occupies almost one-tenth land of Bangladesh (khan, 2018, 20) The CHT was vast conflicting area before signed Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, 1997. During the conflict, at least 8500 people had been killed, 1200 women were raped and over 90000 people were forcefully evicted by the parties of armed conflict (khan, 2018). Both the sides have recognized the need for protecting the characteristics and attaining overall development of the region considering Chittagong Hill Tracts as a tribal inhabited region (Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, 1997). Elite representatives of various tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts describe their respective tribes as nations. In the pre-colonial period they were semi-independent and, at times, independent nation (al & Chakma, 1989). Development aid to Bangladesh has, both directly and indirectly, not only added to continuing militarization of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and human rights violations, but also to a systematic destruction of the mode of production, way of life and culture of the Jumma people (Janneke, 1997). Under the framework of the Constitution of Bangladesh and keeping full and firm confidence in the sovereignty and integrity of Bangladesh, to uphold the political, social, cultural, educational and economic rights of all the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts region and to expedite socioeconomic development process and to preserve and respect the rights of all the citizens of Bangladesh and their development (Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, Dhaka, 2 December 1997). (Barkat et al, (2009) conducted important analyses on CHT and plain land ethnic minorities, which identify an achievement gap between national poverty reduction and other ethnic groups’ experiences. According to constitution of Bangladesh, The state shall take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities (khan, 2018).

Kamal (2005), The author of the book; *Local Government in Bangladesh* discusses history and evolution of local government in Bangladesh, structure, composition of local government with financing system, relations of national and local government and how the central government control the local government by institutional, financial and administrative instruments, as a local government’s part union parishad has been discussed by the author in different part of the book, and finally the book identified the leading issues and major challenges of local government of Bangladesh; The concept of local government application in Bangladesh, Constitutional and legal basis of local government, development and functions of local government, power structure, direct and indirect election, local government election on party lines, women representation, role of parliament members in local government etc.

Adnan (2004). The main analytical aim of the book is to provide an analysis of the causes of poverty among the hill people. And identified the causes of poverty; migration, land alienation and ethnic conflict in the hill tracts of Bangladesh. Adnan seeks the answer in a political economy analysis of the hill tracts with an emphasis on process mediated by the market, state and other economic and political institutions. He stated that power relations and exploitative relations play a major part herein.

Razy and Haque (2018). The authors claim that the Union Parishad is the most responsible and successful local service provider. This study examined how well the UPs are currently

adhering to the laws and guidelines required to support the socioeconomic development of rural residents. The analysis concludes that the chosen UPs' states of governance are insufficiently robust. Despite having an excellent framework of regulations to manage the socioeconomic development of rural populations, there is still a significant gap between policies and practices in the UPs.

Hasan & Rahman (2014). According to the authors, local governance is increasingly seen as an essential component of growth. Given that the majority of international constitutions declare certain aspects of local administration, it has become even more significant. Furthermore, a nation cannot grow all of its areas without the full participation of its citizens. Local organizations guarantee and promote grassroots participation. Additionally, it provides individuals with the chance to influence policy and better implement decisions that benefit them, which ultimately advances sustainable development. Bangladesh also has a local government system since it was strongly mandated to construct one by the country's Constitution at the time of its adoption. Additionally, they note a number of changes pertaining to Bangladesh's municipal government when a new administration is in place. Thus, the provisions of the Constitution have remained a pipe dream until recently. The establishment of local government while upholding constitutional principles can expand democracy at its foundation. Therefore, the time has come for the relevant authorities to take a more proactive approach to establishing local government in accordance with the constitutional framework and promoting good governance throughout society.

Schendel et al. (2001). The topic of this essay is socio-cultural innovation in southeast Bangladesh's hills. The region's remarkable ethnic diversity has always amazed visitors. The author of this research stated that the current perspective on social structure and processes in the hill is too stannic and fragmented, and that a more integrated approach should take its place. The paper analyzed the data for the persistence of various tribe groupings. It employed the idea of ethnic identification as a social notion rather than a psycho concept.

Panday (2011). The purpose of this essay is to advance knowledge of Bangladesh's local power decentralization process. More precisely, the goal of this article is to investigate if the decentralization process has included the much-needed autonomy. The results of the study indicated that, in the name of decentralization, the political leadership of Bangladesh has implemented a number of reforms aimed at altering the composition of Local Government Institutions (LGIs), despite the Constitution's recognition of the development of a robust and autonomous local government system. Nonetheless, the primary goals of the majority of the reforms have been to bolster their support in the relevant political arena. Consequently, it was not possible to build these schools as centers of development where individuals would possess the authority to keep an eye on and manage their constituency.

Theoretical Framework

The most responsible and successful organization for delivering services at the local level is Union Parishad (Haque and Razy, 2018). The national development as a whole is significantly influenced by the local government entities. Since the people elect the UP members, they are crucial in providing the villagers with municipal amenities (Siddique, 2005). Because Union Parishad is an institution and elected officials are an agency, structure-agency theory can account for both the UP and its leaders. Emile Durkheim's structural functions theory, which defines structure as recurring patterns that either limit or influence the options and choices accessible, was modified for this study. The ability to act independently and make one's own decisions is known as agency. Individual behaves in a

liberated agent or in a way that is prescribed by the social order. According to Emile Durkheim, the establishment of hierarchy and structure is necessary for society to even exist. Karl Marx, on the other hand, stressed that the majority of people in a community can suffer as a result of the social structure. "Structure" in these two cases can relate to both tangible (economic) and cultural (customs, traditions, and ideologies) aspects. (1977, Bourdieu). In classical sociology, the structural approach which placed a strong emphasis on the value of society structure ruled. Theorists observed distinctive features of the social environment that were not explained by the mere sum of the persons involved. Durkheim was adamant that the collective possessed unique emergent qualities and saw the need for a science to address this emergence.

Methodology

The method of this research is qualitative, based on both primary and secondary data. Purposive sampling method has considered; on the bases of interview of formal and informal leaders, officials and people; by using open and closed ended questions. In-depth analysis of interview has been presented in this research. Development: used as functions of UP and UP leaders that has entrusted by legal basis. This thesis has not been explored the name of respondents for security and ethical cause.

Two types of sources have been considered for data collection:

1. Primary sources; interviews
2. Secondary sources

Methods have been used to collect primary data. They are:

1. Survey,
2. In-depth Interview

The survey was conducted through open and closed ended questionnaires from both selected leaders and general people. In-depth interviews and open discussions were held with the leaders of the Local Government Representatives, local organizational leaders, teachers, journalist, official and both pahari-bangali people.

Secondary data were collected by reviewing relevant research materials; book, journal, article, newspaper etc.

Study Area

The study area included one union from 121 unions of three Chittagong hill Tracts districts. 1 no. shuvolong union parishad is the study area of this thesis selected as purposive method, total area is 124.32 K.M. and population is 5892 (2016 estimate). Shuvolong is a typical hilly area of Chittagong Hill tracts. Most of the area is hilly and covering by the Kaptai Lake. Cultivation, fishing and local business are the main task of the people.

Sampling and Sample Size

Through purposive sampling method, the chairman, 01 general member, 01 member from the reserved seats, and the secretary from selected union, 04 organizational leaders and 92 general people (50 from pahari and others from Bengalese people) were chosen as respondents. One-third of the total respondents were women.

Union Parishad

With nine wards, the UP is the lowest tier of rural governance in Bangladesh. The UP will have twelve members total, three of whom will be women-only members. The chairman will

preside over the group. Every five years, the members and the chairman are chosen through direct election using adult suffrage. Candidates running for chairman and members must be citizens of Bangladesh, and their names must appear on the electoral roll of the relevant Union or ward. A UP has a five-year term that starts on the day of its first meeting following formation. The members of the Parishad are to elect three Chairmen from among themselves within one month of the Parishad's founding meeting. A reserved woman member of the panel must act as the chairman. Appointed by the deputy commissioner, a full-time secretary oversees each UP. Maintaining peace and order in the UP is the responsibility of five to nine chokiders/ mahalladers and one to two dafadars (Haque and Razy, 2018: 12). The Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009 enumerates 110 functions of the UP. The Act's Clause 47 enumerated four fundamental functions, and Schedule 2's Basic Functions section expanded upon these with 39 additional functions. The 13 functions of resource mobilization were specified in Schedule 4. The 54 functions of crime prevention were enumerated in Schedule 5. However, in actuality, UPs carry out four fundamental tasks, including (a) customarily community-driven tasks, (b) tasks for which they are granted resources, (c) tasks that various projects carry out within the UPs, and (d) customarily formal and informal dispute resolution (Rahaman and Ahmed, 2015).

Development

The concept of development is normative. The Oxford Dictionary defines development as either the act of developing or being developed, or as an occurrence that marks the beginning of a new phase in a situation that is changing. The progression of development, transformation, and advancement (Cambridge dictionary, 2013). Development is defined as both a definition of rural development and one of the legal functions of UP in this thesis. According to Moseley (2003), rural development is the process of enhancing the standard of living and financial security of those who reside in rural areas.

Role of UP

The role, used as a power/ function of UP and UP leaders that has have entrusted to the UP and UP leaders by the Union Parishad act 2009.

The role divided into:

1. Policy making role
2. Policy implementing role
3. Co-operating role with others; family planning office, NGO, UNDP and others social institutions.

Discussion and Findings

Two types of sources have been consulted for data collection:

1. Primary sources, and
2. Secondary sources

Various techniques have been employed to gather primary data. They are: 1. Focus group discussion; 2. in-depth interview; and 3. survey.

The chairman, members, members of the reserved seat, the secretary (of Shuvolong UP), and the general public Pahari and Bengali were given questionnaires as part of the survey. The Local Government Representatives' leaders participated in discussions based on both structured and open-ended questionnaires. Teachers and local journalists were the subjects of in-depth interviews and candid talks.

Examining pertinent research publications, such as books, journals, magazines, articles, and news articles, allowed us to gather secondary data.

Population study: Total population of Shuvolong-10515; Man-5417, Women-5098

Table-01: Population diversity in Shuvolong union

Ethnicity	Population
Chakma	7800
Marma	200
Tripura	15
Muslim	2369
Hindu	117
Others	14
Total	10515

Source: data collected from Shuvolong union

Table-1 illustrate that Population are divided up by ethnicity. With 7800 members, the Chakma ethnic group has the highest representation among Population, according to the data. After that, the Muslim ethnic group has 2369 Population, which also has a significant impact. A diversified Population is suggested by the lesser but noticeable voting numbers for the Marma and Hindu ethnic groups. However, Tripura and Others are comparatively underrepresented, which may be because of their smaller populations or other considerations. All things considered, this statistic highlights the ethnic variety within the electorate, with differing.

The Role of Union Parishad on Development:

Table-02: Main functions of Union Parishad and Respondents opinion

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Administrative and Infrastructural development	20	50	5	17	08
Public security	27	19	47	07	0
People welfare	39	28	20	09	04
Local economic and social development	24	31	29	08	10

Source: Field Survey 2023

(1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=strongly disagree, 5=disagree)

The viewpoints of the respondents regarding the primary purposes of Union Parishad are shown in this table, which is divided into five statements. Each statement relates to a certain function, and the percentages show how many respondents chose each opinion category (ranging from strongly agree to disagree) out of a possible five. According to the data, public security seems to be the role that causes the greatest division, with a sizable percentage of respondents highly agreeing (27) and strongly disapproving (7), about its efficacy. Though less divisive, attitudes on administrative and infrastructure development as well as people's welfare are also split. There appears to be a more sophisticated understanding of the role of local economic and social development, as evidenced by the surprisingly fair distribution of viewpoints on this topic. Overall, the data shows that respondents' satisfaction and unhappiness with Union Parishad's performance in several spheres of duty varies.

The role of Union Parishad on development:**Table-03:** Various Sectors of development conducted by UP

Sl	Sectors of development
1	➤ Digital Centre
2	➤ Providing Information
3	➤ Citizen Allowance, VGD ,VGF and TCB
4	➤ Water management
5	➤ Educational Sectors
6	➤ Sanitation
7	➤ Forestation
8	➤ Infrastructural development

Source: data collected from Shuvolong union

The chart lists the different development sectors that Union Parishad (UP) has worked on, as determined by a field survey that was carried out in 2023. Digital centre, information distribution, citizen allowances, water management, education, sanitation, forestry, infrastructure development, and upholding law and order are just a few of the many projects that fall within these areas. This wide range of industries reflects UP's multipronged approach to community development, which encompasses more specialized fields like digital centers and education as well as more fundamental ones like water management and sanitation. Initiatives like citizen allowances and VGD/VGF programs are included because they demonstrate UP's commitment to addressing socioeconomic welfare and reducing poverty. Overall, the list highlights the significance of holistic methods in local administration by highlighting UP's extensive role in promoting development and attending to a range of community concerns.

Digital Centre

Shuvolong Union Digital Centre: Shuvolong Union Parishad provided services for the people in various sectors; Government Form, Governmental Declaration. Birth/ death certificate (on line). Result of Public Exam, University Admission System, Computer Composes, E-mail, School/ college online registration, Agriculture information (online), Educational information (online), Health related information (online), Law related information (online), Citizen certificate, Visa application / processing, Job information (online), Warish certificate, Data entry, Official application

Table 04: percentage of services that digital centre provides according to respondents

Statement	Yes	No	No Comment
1. Government Form	74	19	7
2. Governmental Declaration	17	78	5
3. Scanning	51	40	9
4. Birth/ death certificate (online)	87	13	0
5. Photocopy	32	49	19
6. Result of Public Exam	59	35	6
7. Photo and print	27	48	25
8. University Admission System	21	71	8
9. Data entry	68	21	11
10. Computer Composes	57	19	26
11. Warish certificate	76	11	13
12. E-mail	42	18	40

13. Job information and form	25	43	32
14. School/ college online registration	9	24	67
15. Law related information	59	23	18
16. Agriculture information (online)	65	23	12
17. Citizen certificate	89	6	5
18. Health related information (online)	49	9	42
19. Official application	92	5	3
20. Visa application / processing	17	35	48

Source: data collected from office of Shuvolong UP and respondent's opinion

('Yes' indicates respondent received that service

'No' indicates respondent does not received that service

'No comment' indicates respondent do not have any idea about the service)

The percentage of respondents who stated they received different services from digital centers is shown in the table along with the responses from those who either did not receive them or did not provide feedback. Important conclusions show that a large number of respondents confirmed they have received services such as online birth/death certificates, citizenship certificates, and official applications. Services like government announcements, college admissions processes, and visa applications/processes, on the other hand, have lower utilization rates. Notably, a sizable portion of respondents indicated they had not received anything or had no comment to make, which may indicate areas where digital center services could be improved upon or expanded. All things considered, the data emphasizes the areas that require attention as well as the triumphs in the digital center's service supply, highlighting the significance of matching services to community needs and raising awareness and accessible for everyone.

Allowance provided by UP)

- The age allowance
- Disability allowance
- Widows allowance
- Fishermen's allowance

Table 05: Allowances

Allowance	Beneficiaries' number
The age allowance	291 (male-149 and female-142)
Disability allowance	193
Widows allowance	400
Fishermen's allowance	1700
Total	2584

Source: field survey 2023

VGD, VGF and TCB provides by Shuvolong:

Table 6: VGD, VGF and TCB

VGD (a monthly food ration of 30 KG of rice for women)	326
VGF(10 KG rice two times in a year as per government allocation)	500
TCB(Rice at low price)	1243

Source: field survey 2023

The table lists the many allowances that the Union Parishad (UP) offers, together with the total number of people who receive each benefit: Vulnerable Group Development (VGD): 30 kg of rice per month is provided to 326 individuals as a food ration for women, VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding): 500 recipients receive 10 kg of rice twice a year from the government, TCB (cheap rice) and 1243 people benefited.

Water management

A critical problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is the acute scarcity of clean drinking water, which is made worse by stone quarrying, deforestation, and drying up natural springs. By installing tube wells and conserving monsoon rainwater, local governments hope to address this, but obstacles still exist because of the challenging topography and low groundwater levels. In order to obtain clean water, the locals, especially the tribal women often have to travel great distances and risk being contaminated by unclean sources. In order to reduce the region's water scarcity and stop waterborne illnesses, quick and long-lasting remedies are required.

Educational Sectors

According to the Local Government Division, the primary role of UP in the education sector is to support and collaborate with the growth of elementary schools, oversee their operations, and inspire individuals to promote literacy. We are attempting to comprehend the protective significance of education in every person's life, according to respondent 01. Pre-primary education comes in two flavors: Para Kendra and pre-primary school. We give financially struggling as well as gifted students support. Aside from that, the impoverished pupils receive school meals, educational resources, and clothing. Nearly fifty SSC applicants received books at no cost from the UP Chairman. We accept either wealthy and underprivileged students into our schools and colleges without charging monthly or admission fees; UP pays these costs directly to the educational institutions. More pre-primary and primary educational facilities should be established in our area, according to UP.

Table 7: the educational institutions developed Shuvong Union Parishad

Educational Institutions	Number
Para Kendra	43
Pre- primary School	20
Primary School	24
Secondary School	05

Source: field survey 2023

In summary, the Shuvong Union Parishad has developed a total of 92 educational institutions, comprising: 43 Para Kendra centers, 20 pre-primary schools, 24 primary schools and 5 secondary schools

Sanitation

"Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and feces. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal." (www.who.int). Respondent-2, said about sanitation, Sanitary or Sanitary Latrines have been distributed to various religious institutions and families including the school, madrasa, church from the Union Parishad, so that people cannot venture there for sanitation. Approximately 100% people are in this area under the sanitation program and 3 rings with 1 slap has been given to all family by UP. Various NGOs and government programs of sanitation are

implemented by the Union Parishad nicely. But p-9 replied that they didn't get any sanitary latrine materials from UP, P-6(Head master of school) said that we have only one sanitary latrine for 200 students and 5 teachers, we applied for more latrine but yet not get. Although they has the responsibility due to law; Ensure provision of health services at the Union Health Centers, supervise family planning related activities and services and monitor the same. Arrange for supply of safe drinking water and promote sanitation program. But UP chairman, said we tried our best during our capacity.

Table 08: Sanitation program provided by UP

Word No. of Shuvolong Union										
Events	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Total
Sources of water (pipe)	17	8	7	10	15	7	6	7	40	117
Safe water use (family)	104	96	127	121	175	48	136	74	121	1107
Healthy latrines use (family)	103	84	179	121	153	48	69	58	121	936

Forestation

Respondent- 2 discussed that, various forest plants, medicinal plants, fruit seedlings are distributed in local people but there is no project for housing in the area. Water crisis in CHT is a common problem during the dry season. But the situation has worsened over the last few years due to deforestation across the region, we try to ensure forestation in our region but influential parties destroyed the tress in the hilly areas. Government did not provide budget for providing forestation program to UP.

Infrastructural Development

Union Parishad plays an important role in various sectors. For example: Construction of roads culvert, masjid, mandir, church, drains, and repair, establishing educational institutions, to make sanitary latrine for poor family and educational institutions. Transportation system, drainage system and also the construction of the dam system, infrastructure by UP in the local level said respondent-1.

Table 09: Infrastructural development and Institutional facilities:

Name	Number
Para Kendra	43
Pre- primary School	20
Primary School	24
Secondary School	05
Cyclone Shelter	01
EPI Outrich Sides	03
FWC	01
Community Clinic	03
NGO	01
Total	101

Source: Collected from Secretary of Shuvolong Union Parishad

Problems do Union Parishad face in the development process

As UP plays role on development of CHT. Though Union Parishad faces problem and challenges in the development process. Of these, the following deserve special mention that has been described below on the basis of respondent's opinions,

Hilly Area: Due to a hilly area UP didn't work properly to develop road commutation system in the UP area.

Forest Area: one-third land of shuvolong union under the supervision of forestry, that's why UP did not take any step to do in that area.

Inadequate finance: It is the most serious problem faced by UPs. The UP implements some major developments projects with annual govt. grants. The government also permits UPs to levy taxes and fees on a limited number of resources. Owing to various factor, UPs do not, or are unable to, fully exercise their taxation powers. On the other hand, due to delays in the release of grant funds by govt. UPs cannot perform their functions properly.

Non-cooperation of members: this factor sometimes becomes a serious barrier. Every UP has project committee for undertaking various development projects. But most of the times, UP remain absent from the scene.

Lack of training: the success of the Parishad in discharging these functions depends on the capability and efficiency of UP functionaries such as Chairman, members and secretaries. In order to make them effective, training in relevant skills is must. Unfortunately, Training available to them at present is rather inadequate.

Lack of technical staff: The UP constructs and maintains roads, bridges and culverts etc. as a part of its functions, but due to lack of technical staff, it cannot perform this function properly.

Conclusion

The Role of Union Parishad on Development of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been discussed in this thesis paper by using qualitative method and structure –agency theory. The Union Parishad has the duty to do developing and review the development activities (The local government act 1993). The local government (Union parishad) ordinance, 2009, introduced same structure in different functions. There are 110 functions of the UP listed in Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009. Clause 47 of the Act listed four basic functions: Administrative and infrastructural functions, public security, people welfare and local economic and social development. The study found that the UP plays strong role in local level on development sectors; UP provides pure drinking water by pipe line to the people, along with VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) and VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) to vulnerable group in specific time. UP has sanitation program for healthy life of the define area of union parishad and others sectors of UP; infrastructural development, providing information, digital services centre, education and educational institutions etc. And two-third of leaders of Union Parishad of Chittagong Hill Tracts elected from ethnic minorities according to Union Parishad election of 2011 of Bandarban and Khagrachari Districts and 2016 UP election of Rangamati District and one-third elected from bangalee. The thesis found that, what the legal functions of UP entrusted by the acts and regulations what UP actually do. The UP faces some unavoidable challenges in Chittagong Hill Tracts; CHT is typical hilly area, road transport system is very rare and sometimes impossible due to hilly circumstance, providing pure drinking water in summer session became difficult for lack of water. In spite of having some unavoidable challenges for plying role, UP is the most effective and responsible development institution that works at grass-root level.

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