CHAPTER-VII

GENERAL OBSERVATION

All over the world there are various groups of people and for their survival they are engaged in various occupations. It is necessary for the maintenance of their livelihood which includes food, dress, shelter, health, education and so on. It is the fact that for survival yet many of the people depend on primitive economy like hunting, gathering, shifting hill cultivation, terrace cultivation, pastoralism etc whereas many people depend on modern economy and in between there are so many groups of people. In this regard the hunting gathering, pastoralism, various types of agriculture, jobs in various sectors, business, trade, labour work etc are treated as the prime economy of the people. Economy is an integral part of the human life. It plays a very significant role to form the culture and social structure of human society. Apart from various psychological needs, material wants are very essential for fulfilling the demand of daily requirements. To get these or fulfill their demands, people depend on various occupations. Such occupations are very much related to the nature and it depends a lot on the availability of natural resources. Besides these human being can develop new types of economy by applying their knowledge.

Every community has its own way to meet its basic needs for the existence of its members failing which they are threatened with extinction. As example for survival the ethnic groups like Inuits, Jarwa, Onge, Chenchu etc depend on hunting gathering; Toda, Kahasa on pastoralism; many depends on shifting hill cultivation, terrace cultivation, settled cultivation etc. Moreover there are so many people who depend on various occupations for maintaining their livelihood. It is the fact that due to various reasons like natural calamities, environmental degradation, socio-political crisis, terrorism, modernization, globalization and so on the traditional occupation of various groups of people may get changed. Such adverse situations insecure and even sometime destroy their sources of earning as well as occupation which may create a serious crisis on their life and livelihood. Therefore the opportunities of earning may not be very simple for all the people as it is very much influenced by different adverse situations and even those may
threaten their survival. Under such situations only for survival many of the said people have to be engaged in various hazardous occupations like stone crushing, working in tobacco industry, mining works, brick industry etc as they had no alternative. Such occupations could adversely affect the health situation and other developmental perspectives of human being. Meanwhile due to lack of other better alternative occupation and only for survival the concerned people are forced to get engaged themselves in those types of occupation.

The present study has been conducted in Balasan colony on the Rajbanshi families who came from Bangladesh and other districts of North Bengal. Earlier they were settled agriculturist. However the changing situations forced them to associate with the stone based occupation. They were forced to get displaced from their ancestral settlements due to socio-political turmoil and other socio-economic reason. They were traditionally agriculturist and each family had their own cultivable land. The Rajbanshis had their own cultural tradition, social norms and customs. They were primarily concentrated in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal and Rajsahi, Jashohar, Dinajpur of contemporary Bangladesh. However, in the context of an earlier study I came to know that a section of Rajbanshi people who were mostly migrated from Bangladesh further became resettled in the Balasan colony which was adjacent to the Siliguri town of Darjeeling district. They were engaged in the stone based occupation and were dwelling on the vested land of the river bed. They were living in different adverse situations. Their agricultural land, settlements were either grabbed or looted during the socio-political turmoil in Bangladesh. Due to lack of any alternative economic resource and only for survival they engaged themselves in a hazardous occupation like the stone based work. The overall situation of the said people had attracted me to know about their situations in detail. In this regard various issues raised up to my mind. They lost all of their properties in most of the cases, their land were forcefully grabbed during the socio-political turmoil in Bangladesh and due to various reasons most of the studied families came to the Balasan river bed as an illegal and undocumented migrant. Were those situations affected their traditional socio-cultural practices, if yes then to what extent and how? Does displacement had any detrimental impact on their traditional occupation and socio-economic life, if yes then at what level and how? During the study they were engaged in a hazardous occupation i.e. the stone based work, was it
sufficient for maintaining their livelihood? If not then was it creating any problem in their daily life and what were those? They were living on the vested land of the river bed but whether the place was appropriate for settlement? They were compelled to come here illegally as resourceless and roofless in condition; had it forced most of the family members to get engaged in the studied occupational pursuit? If yes then how long at what extent? Only for survival they engaged themselves in a hazardous occupation like stone based work, is it any way affecting their livelihood, if yes then how and at what level? They were the undocumented and illegal migrants, thus could they have the security of basic human right attributes or they were debarred from it? In an overall aspect how they were adjusting and adapting with this new environment and changing situation?

The above issues significantly attracted my attention and to know about them in detail the studied area i.e. the Balasan colony has been selected. To conduct the study the families who were engaged in the stone based occupation had been selected. The study was mainly done on the basis of primary data collected through empirical field work by applying anthropological research methods. Such issues are discussed below in detail-

The present study has been conducted among the families who were associated with stone based work in Balasan colony. All of them belonged to the Rajbanshi community and in earlier they were associated with agricultural occupation. However due to certain socio-political and socio-economic crisis they were forced to get displaced and became roofless and resourceless. In search of livelihood and occupation they came in Siliguri and found the scope of stone based occupation. The Balasan river bed provided them the place of resettlement and opportunities of a new occupation against manual labour. Gradually they became affiliated with the stone based occupation and it became an integral part of their daily livelihood. Among them all of the family members were associated with the stone based work. Due to displacement numerous changes can be noticed in their life and livelihood. In every aspect they had to adjust with different inconveniences because they had no other alternative. Most of them were dwelling in the studied area as an undocumented migrant as they had no document of Indian citizenship like voter identity card, ration card etc. They could not even thought to leave their settlement and occupation because in elsewhere they would not get any minimum
scope of livelihood. Thus within the studied settlement they became compelled to struggle for their survival.

In earlier the studied people were associated with settled agricultural work. Land was their sole property and agricultural productions sustained their livelihood. Due to several factors they were forced to get displaced and due to displacement they became completely roofless and resourceless in condition. They had a very limited amount of cash in their hand and with that mere amount it was simply impossible for them to start a new occupation or to purchase a plot for resettlement. They had completely lost their previous economic security. For survival they selected the Balasan river bed because the vested land provided them a scope of resettlement without any financial burden. It became possible only through local adjustment and influence of local political parties. On the other hand the river based resources like stones, sand, boulders provided them an alternative economic pursuit and the scope of much needed income because such raw materials had a huge demand in different construction works of Siliguri and several neighbouring areas. Gradually they started to collect the river based resources and used to supply them according to the demand. The said work required only hard manual labour without any sort of capital investment. On the other hand the studied people had no other better alternative and it compelled them to became affiliated with the hazardous stone based occupation. Arduous manual labour was the only way of income in the studied occupation. It can be noted that for the sake of earning throughout the entire Balasan river bed a huge number of families were solely depended on the river based resources. Still a number of families were coming to the studied area for their settlement and occupation. Thus to generate the scope of better earning and livelihood an individual was supposed to became affiliated in the work as much as they could. Meanwhile more working hands were essentially required for better scope of earning. All the studied families applied their best possible level of capability to work and for the sake of survival they had to face severe struggle in every aspect of their livelihood. In the said occupation both male and female were equally involved. Even in most of the cases their children were also directly affiliated with the stone based work. The studied occupation had no age, gender biasness and they regularly remained involved in the arduous manual labour to conduct the stone based works. It can be noted that the lease of the river was taken by an
urban contractor. He used to select a few person from the studied community as the Sardars or local work organizers. The common workers used to conduct their work under the supervision of a particular Sardar. The Sardars used to pay the labourers according to their quantity of work. It can be noted that for survival and better scope of earning, all the concerned people had tried for every possible opportunities of work. Throughout the entire day they were compelled to do the work in a dusty and polluted working atmosphere. They started the work early in the morning and spent the entire day in hard manual labour without any leisure period. To earn a fold of rice they had hardly any scope to look after their physical well being or any other recreation. Inspite of such rigorous effort their level of monthly income were quite poor in condition. On that mere income a number of family members were directly dependent. The studied people completely had to depend on the expensive market based products in every aspects of their livelihood. Such mere income was a major hindrance for them to fulfill their common minimum livelihood requirement and it might have a greater impact on different aspects of their livelihood.

Livelihood of Human being is primarily related with the security of certain fundamental requirements like food, dress, shelter, education, health and those can get secured only under a strong economic backbone. However, economy of the studied people was quite poor in condition and as a result it might be difficult for them to maintain their livelihood as well. Food is the most essential requirement for human survival. In case of the studied families, before their displacement the agricultural productions, grazing land, domestication and other sources of economy provided them the security of regular food. However in the studied area there was no scope of agricultural work, domestication and rearing of game birds. Even the studied people had no scope of fishing from the Balasan river. For food they had to depend on the expensive market based products. Their poor income would hardly provide the scope to afford the required amount of food for their every family member. Even if the children demanded for more food then they had no scope to redress their hunger. The studied families somehow used to manage rice, pulse and vegetables as their regular food twice in a day. Only a few families could manage any type of animal protein in their diet even once in a week. It can be noted that during the pregnancy period nutritious diet used to become an obvious requirement for the expected mother. However the
studied families had not the economic capability to provide any sort of special nutritive food for their pregnant females. It is to be mentioned here that the studied people used to wake up quite early in the morning and within a very short period they used to get affiliated with their work. Before going to the work in some cases they used to have a little amount of food or otherwise in most of the cases they had to start the work in an empty stomach. During the busy working schedule they did not have any fixed time of lunch and even sometime they got the scope of lunch only in the afternoon. Mostly the concerned people and even their children used to have their lunch in the dusty and polluted river bed. However after the lunch they had the scope of food only in the dinner. Thus the studied people who were associated with arduous manual labour work used to remain hungry for most of the time. The mere amount of food might not be similar according to the requirement of the studied people and it could hardly redress their hunger. Even during the pregnancy period the female folk had to do hard manual labour work and mostly she used to remain in empty stomach.

In respect to dress of the studied people it was observed that most of them had only one set of dress. They used to wear it in their home as well as during the work. Often it used to get drenched by river water and it used to get dried on their body. They merely had any sort of winter garment to prevent the cold and chilling breeze of the river. Further, it was noticed that as they had only one set of cloth thus it became difficult for them to wash it properly because the alternative wearing were almost absent. Further due to economic scarcity they could hardly provide a new set of dress to their children even during festive days or in any special occasion. It can be stated that they did not have required amount of dresses even they had not the capacity to purchase a new set of dress for their every family members under such acute economic scarcity. Their mere income somehow provided the scope of living under different constraints and only by adjusting with those inconveniences.

Further if we analyze their status of dwelling then it was the fact that they were compelled to get displaced from their earlier settlements of Bangladesh and became completely roofless and resourceless in condition. They were desperately searching for any mere scope of survival and only for that they became bound to get affiliated with the hazardous occupational pursuit. Further they got the scope of resettlement on the vested land of Balasan river without any sort of capital
investment. They did not have the financial capability to purchase any plot of land for their settlement. They established the small huts only by local adjustment and under the local political influence. However their huts were not properly constructed. Their floor were earthen, walls were either earthen or made up of cane and bamboo, while the roofs were either made up of tin or bamboo. Most of their huts had only one dwelling room. They used to cook either within the dwelling room or it was confined within a corner of their earthen balcony. Within the sole dwelling room a number of family members were compelled to stay together. The rooms were not properly ventilated and quite suffocating in condition. On the other hand in the studied area the huts were quite congested to each other. Proper ventilation of a hut was hardly to be noticed. However, the congestion of neighbourhood hut and a sole dwelling room was not favourable to maintain privacy particularly for the females. The children had no separate space for their study and mental development. They had to read within the unwanted disturbances created by their family members and neighbourhood. Ultimately it might have hampered their concentration on the studies. Further, most of the houses were lacking the facilities of proper drainage, scientific means of sanitation and electrification. After the dusk in most of the cases they used to spend their life in darkness due to lack of electrification and their economic inability to purchase the fuel for the source of light. Further, as their huts were not properly constructed thus frequently they used to get damaged. However, their economic scarcity hardly provided them the scope to repair them on requirement. Particularly during the monsoon rain water used to get penetrated from the roof and their earthen floor, walls used to get moist. In those conditions such places created an utter hardship for their dwelling; but they had no scope of alternative and somehow they managed their survival. On the other hand, due to their lack of identity related to citizenship they could hardly claim the rights over the facilities provided by the Government of India and West Bengal. The locally influential persons used to provide such facilities only among some of their known individuals but it could not meet up with the required need of the people. As most of the huts had a single room of dwelling thus they had no scope to accommodate any other person or their kin members. As a result their kin members who were living in adjacent areas or neighbourhood districts, hardly visits to them and it had been detrimental to their kinship based social relation. Thus their place of
dwelling was hardly favourable for a suitable living or to maintain any proper social relation.

Among the studied people illiteracy was a common phenomenon. Displacement, migration, resettlement might have seriously affected their education. Even due to this fact many of them were compelled to discontinue their studies. Among the generation of descendants poverty became a major obstacle for education. Even due to this fact many of them were compelled to discontinue their studies. Among the generation of descendants poverty became a major obstacle for education. The parents due to their poverty could hardly provide basic educational infrastructure of books, pencil, copy to their children. Their children had only one set of school dress and when it was washed then they had no scope to attend their school without dress. The parents could even hardly provide the required tuition fee to their children. Again to support the families economically they had to get affiliated with the work regularly. During the time of school they had to remain engaged with the work in most of the cases. In case of the studied families work and income of the children were the priority and compulsion which hindered them to conduct their studies regularly. Their tender stomach used to strive in hunger. The children did not have any separate place of their studies. After the dusk due to lack of electricity and other sources of light mostly it became difficult for the children to continue their studies. Again, whatever the books and copies they had hardly managed it used to get drenched and damaged due to the penetration of rain water into their huts. Moreover the household and social environment were also quite significant related to their education. Addiction of their fathers, practice of gambling and other illegal works within the locality, acute familial and neighbourhood chaos, had hardly provided them any scope of proper educational environment. Even they could not get any guidance in studies from the parents due to their illiteracy. Such issues had created several inconveniences to their education and gradually they used to loss their interest over education. Frequent drop out from the education was a common occurrence in the studied families. Thus, although the generation of the children and adolescent group were literate, it was mostly confined below the completion of secondary level. Only a very few had qualified the secondary level. Further, it can be noted that in the studied area there was only a primary school. The students who had completed the primarily level could hardly get the scope of admission in higher academic institutions of
outside to their locality due to lack of identity and citizenship. Thus it was the fact that due to displacement, migration, scarcity, lack of separate space to study in the room had collectively created severe obstacle to their education. Further their compulsion for work and earning, lack of parental guidance, familial conflict, different illegal activities were the additional factors which had ultimately hindered their scope of education to a greater extent.

The studied people when got the scope of resettlement and new source of occupation, they had a lot of hope and aspiration to live in peace and happiness. However, in reality the situation was that in every aspect of livelihood they had to face a number of obstacle to acquire their common minimum livelihood requirements. For survival they had to face a severe struggle. The prime earner of the families could merely fulfill the livelihood requirements of their family members. They were living in an absolute insecure condition. It was the fact that the prime requisites which were essential for maintaining the daily livelihood were quite insufficient and to manage it they had to face a lot of difficulties in every aspect.

The studied people were forced to come in the Balasan colony due to several reasons and ultimately they were facing numerous difficulties to maintain their daily livelihood. Due to socio-political turmoil their place of ancestral settlement and traditional occupation got altered. In this regard they shifted from agricultural to stone based work and started to dwell on the vested land of Balasan river. Obviously it had an impact on their family, marriage and kinship. They had a strong inter familial bondage and the eldest male members were the prime decision making authority. After displacement most of them became scattered from their family members. Even in a number of cases the people got remarried and established their new family. With the changes of agro based economy to stone based economy their family became shifted from joint to nuclear in nature. Apart from other reasons primarily due to poor level of earning they preferred to have nuclear families. It became a noticeable trend in ego's generation whereas in case of their fore fathers' joint families were predominant. The reason for such nuclearisation might be attributed to poverty and scarcity of livelihood requirements. It was a fact that the aged people could not earn a noticeable amount like their younger children. Thus they often became an unwanted burden.
for their children, because the prime earner of the families first had to think about his own wife and dependent children. They preferred their parents when they had more working capability and a fair amount of earning. As soon as the collective familial income got reduced the young married children expressed their unwillingness to bore the burden of food and livelihood requirements of their aged parents. Every time the prime earner of the families had to face the continuous pressure of demand from their family members but they could hardly fulfill their daily requirements. Such situations created familial quarrel in between them and it severely violated the familial peace and harmony throughout the entire studied area. Financial crisis was a major obstacle for the studied families to conduct the marriage ceremony of the children. Particularly in case of the daughters it was more difficult. In the studied area a number of people used to come from different places related to the work. A few incidences created insecurity for the young girls to a certain extent. The parents were interested to conduct the marriage ceremony of their girls quite at an early age. However, arrangement of dowry often became a major factor and sometime they had to cancel the entire process. It was the fact that the people of outside the locality were quite reluctant to establish any sort of marital relation with the families of Balasan colony who were associated with the stone based work due to their poverty, lack of identity and insecurity related to unauthorized settlement socio-cultural environment and so on. In earlier their marriage ceremonies were performed with utter enthusiasm and every kin members and neighbourhood participated in that ceremony. However during the study due to economic scarcity the marriage ceremonies became much reduced. A number of rituals were discarded because the required items were unavailable within the locality. It was organized mostly within the family members. Kin members from outside or neighbourhood were seldom invited during the marriage ceremony. It was because of the fact that they did not have any money for unwanted expenditure. In earlier the concerned people had a strong kinship based affiliation. But due to displacement and migration they became scattered from one another. Even if they stayed within the studied locality the interaction became much more reduced. After resettlement their life became very much insecure and their income was worsely affected. It did not promote any undesired economic expenditure for the kin members. With a very poor level of earning even it became almost impossible
for them to manage their livelihood. Beyond that if they had to maintain frequent interaction with other kin members then it would be difficult to maintain both the ends. The people had hardly any scope to invite their kin relatives to their bizarre settlement due to lack of space and comfort. It also reduced the level of interaction in between them. Ultimately displacement and poverty had reduced their kinship based social interactions and solidarity to a great extent. Earlier the kin members used to participate in each others joys and sorrows. But in the studied area due to several factors the studied families became much more self centric and could hardly think beyond their own beneficiary.

In their early settlement the concerned people performed a number of cultural programmes and celebrated different social occasions. They used to play a number of games and sports. It was significant aspects of their social life because it helped to strengthen inter personal relation and community level of understanding. Even after the initial phases of resettlement also they used to continue it in their life. Gradually day by day the studied area became more populated and the natural resources of the river were started to get shared by a large section of population. It made their earning more competitive and they hardly found any leisure period for recreation. After the day long work they became physically and mentally exhausted. They seldom had any interest to go for any sort of physical amusement. However, in the studied area an yearly event of sports was organized but it had lost the earlier enthusiasm. The studied people used to remain in arduous manual labour throughout the entire day. To earn a fold of rice they had to exercise their extreme level of physical capability, whereas women and children were also not excluded from it. The studied female folk had to work both in the family and in the stone field. They could rarely have the chance for any sort of mental recreation, gossiping or any other amusement. In most of the families the children were also directly involved in the stone crushing work. Due to work they had to discontinue their study in most of the cases. They had hardly any scope to enjoy their life in childhood merriment and cheer. Rarely could they get the opportunity to play. Still sometimes they used to play football, carom etc. However, if it was noticed by their father then they were cursed or beaten up because by playing they were wasting the valuable moments of work. In the studied area after the daylong arduous work the adult population used to get involved in alcoholism, gambling etc. For them it was the only method of mental
recreation by which they tried to forget their poverty, hardship and obstacles at least for a certain period of time. Even if they used to play the games often the quarrel broke out between the parties and sometime it turned violent in nature. It can be noted that miserable condition of livelihood had reduced their tolerance very much and even some minimum issue ultimately created acute conflict among them.

It was the fact that there were several crisis in the daily life of the studied people and those were also the responsible factors for creating disturbances in their life. Certain unwanted socio-political factors forced the studied people to get displaced and resettled in the Balasan colony. However, they had no authorization of their settlement and till date they were recognized as an undocumented migrant. They had no record of identity and citizenship. It possessed always a threat for them that the administration might vacate their land at any point of time and it might make them roofless once again. On the other hand due to lack of identity they could hardly claim over the Government aided facilities. Thus they were deprived in every aspect of life and rather they were recognized only as an occupational group in outside. During the study they were under the domain of modern political organization. The studied settlement gradually developed through the local adjustment of the people and under the influence of some persons. Verbally they controlled over the entire work organization and settlement of the local people. In the studied area the local administration was controlled by the modern panchayat. However, due to several causes the social life of the studied family members were mostly in disturbed situation and it was not only disturbed in a particular family rather it was a common phenomenon of each and every affected family of the studied area. The studied people had no legally authorized right over their settlement. They always had the fear that administration could evacuate them at any moment and always it generated a sense of insecurity among them. Further their dwelling huts were not properly constructed and it was lacking certain basic amenities. The hard manual labour used to give them a poor level of income in return. Such mere income could not even provide the security of livelihood requirements for them. Poverty and scarcity became synonymous with their livelihood. The social environment of the studied area was also not good. A number of illegal works, inter familial, intra familial conflicts became a regular phenomenon for them. The younger generation hardly expressed any sort of
obedience and regards to their elders. In every aspect the disintegration of social value system could be noticed among them. Such issues always played as the probable causes of chaos and conflict among the studied families.

At the familial level, being physically and mentally exhausted when the prime earners came back to their huts in the dusk, then he was told about the scarcity of food and allied familial requirements. He could hardly fulfill a few of them and most of them remained unsatisfied. It initiated the exchange of unpleasant words in between the family members. Their neighbourhood relationship was also not very much peaceful and harmonious. Due to economic crisis and several other problems acute mental stress could be observed among the family and community members as a whole. They were living with very much psychologically disturbed in condition.

The overall consequences created a circumstance of frustration which resulted in an acute state of depression among them. Often those circumstances forced them to get involved in chaos, conflict, illegal affairs, gambling, addictions and so on. The studied people used to get involved in gambling with a hope to earn more but ultimately used to loss their mere belongings also. They consumed alcohol to forget for sometime about their miserable life but it ultimately snatched their merely earned money and their poverty got increased into manifold. In the studied area ever since the birth a child could notice acute poverty, scarcity and insecurity in every aspect of their life. It gave them hardly any scope for proper psychological development, personality formation and socialization. Peaceful cohabitation could be rarely found in the studied area. The people hardly maintained any cordial harmonious relation. Obstacles in livelihood and struggle for common minimum requirements severely told upon their value systems, norms and fellow felling for each other. Jealousy, misconduct and lack of respect remained as the way of behaviour with the neighbourhood. Displacement created disorganization in their society and still they were on the way of disintegration. They became migrated to avoid the conflict and to live in peace and dignity. However, in reality after resettlement different social problems emerged out and complicated the entire situation into manifold. From the overall discussion it may be said that their social and economic situation hardly provided them any scope to live in a peaceful cohabitation and their mental state as well as social circumstances were not supporting a favourable condition of living.
The stone based work and the socio-cultural, working environment generated a number of ill health condition and occupational injuries for them. The economy of the concerned people was quite poor in condition. To earn a fold of rice they had to do rigorous had work in every climatic season in the dusty and polluted working environment as persisted on the river bed. Regularly they had to do the work in the waist deep or chest deep water of the river. They used to get drenched, their dresses used to become completely wet but they did not get the scope to dried up them. It used to occur on their body only. Again during the summer they used to work under the scorching sunlight; during the monsoon throughout the entire day they had to do the work by getting completely drenched from tip to toe; in winter they had to face the chilling breeze of the river as well as had to collect the stones, sand from the river water by getting down to its depth. Thus in every season their works used to get conducted but it always gave all sorts of physical discomfort to them. The Balasan river bed was quite dusty and polluted due to the collection and breaking up of stone, sand and frequent movement, loading of vehicles. Thus for the workers even a fresh intake of breath used to be hardly possible. Their poor level of income could only provide a little amount of food twice in a day for all the family members. Even they could not provide sufficient amount of food to the children on their requirement. The studied people used to do the work mostly in their empty stomach and the duration of food consumption used to be quite long. It might be the fact that the people who were engaged in hard manual labour might need adequate amount of nutritive food to conduct their work. However in case of the studied people it was a different reality. The females even during their period of pregnancy used to do the work regularly for their familial requirements. However, for her provision of any better diet could never been possible. Regularly they used to take their lunch in the dusty and polluted stone field to save their time of work. It can be noted that the stone field was regularly used by most of the families as a place of excretion and sometimes for cremation. Naturally it was not advisable as a place to consume food. Further they merely had any scope to consume purified drinking water. Mostly they used to drink the water of polluted river or open wells without any scope of purification. Their huts were not properly constructed and in most of the cases those were lacking from certain basic amenities like scientific means of sanitation, proper drainage and sewage, electricity etc. The earthen floor, walls of
their huts frequently used to get damaged and became almost unhealthy in condition for their living. Their huts were very congested, not properly ventilated and when under such construction they used to cook within the dwelling room then it became suffocating even for breathing. Most of their huts had a single dwelling room. Particularly the children and adolescence could not find any separate space for themselves and it might have certain impact to their personality formation. In the studied area as most of the families were lacking from sanitary means, they used the household surroundings and the river bed as a suitable place for this purpose. Lack of proper drainage system often used to create acute water logging in the colony and any sort of heavy shower used to make it as a bog pit. The people used to remain busy in the hard manual labour work throughout the entire day. They had hardly any scope to maintain proper cleanliness of their body and clothes. In the morning they used to clean their face only with water. Further, they had their bath by dipping once or twice in the river water within a quick succession. Even after sewage they hardly used to clean themselves with soap. In most of the cases they had only one set of dress thus rarely they had the possibility to wash them properly. As a result their dresses were looked like quite filthy. On the other hand dressing of hair and nails were also not frequently done by the studied people as those were time consuming and related with economic expenditure. Even the mothers had hardly enough time to properly clean their children. The colony was itself quite dusty due to the works related with stone, sand etc. Consequently their huts were also quite dusty and shabby in looking. Collectively such issues might have certain impact on their health situation. In their poverty stricken families diseases and health problem could only create additional economic burden for them. In the studied area the western medical institution was even lacking with some common minimum infrastructure. For better treatment people had to go for higher level of medical institutions at distant places which was rather a long and continuous process. Among the studied families time of work was very crucial for earning. Thus they were not at all interested to waste much time behind such treatment. Generally they preferred to consult with the local quacks to save their time and money related to treatment. However most of such cases often became complicated and then the people became compelled to go for long duration of treatment. In the mean time to conduct the treatment often they had to take loan from local sources and the
economic condition of such families became much poorer. The entire situation made them bound to discontinue their treatment and to go for the work as early as possible. In such a way some of the cases became chronic in nature and certain occupational injuries had created a permanent physical anomaly among them. Even to earn a fold of rice the pregnant women could hardly follow their cultural taboos. They had to work hard during pregnancy. Even after the child birth she could not care the baby properly, because in their poverty stricken families affection of mothers would hardly redress the hunger of their children. It compelled them to focus primarily on earning and in this consequence often they forgot about the immunization of their children. Certain cultural stigmas also created major obstacles related to immunization of the children and their probable future effect remained as a matter of concern. The studied people had a strong faith related to the role of different supernatural agencies which could create different ill health condition and misfortune for them. In such cases they became very much depended on the traditional healers. Due to scarcity of required medicinal plants in the studied area the concerned healers faced a number of obstacles to continue such treatment. The stone based work and the working atmosphere was responsible for a number of diseases and occupational injuries among them. Poverty and lack of medicinal plant resources had created certain major obstacles for them to obtain the western medical method as well as traditional method of healing among the studied people.

After displacement the occupation, working atmosphere and social circumstances were absolutely unfavourable for the studied people to live even in a moderate standard condition. Poverty, social insecurity, conflict became synonymous with their livelihood. Along with that the burden of diseases and health problems became an additional criterion to their sufferings. The people had no scope to live in physical, mental or social well being under such circumstances, where as they could get rid from them only after their death.

We are keenly desired to live with dignity by virtue of being a human. In this connection we want the security and protection of our fundamental human rights. In case of the studied people certain socio-political crisis and other issues generated a serious challenge on their social, economic, cultural rights and severely told upon the human dignity whereas the people were getting humiliated
in every aspect. Such issues forced them to get displaced and they searched for an alternative settlement where they could live in peace and with dignity. After getting resettled in Balasan colony it was expected that the stone based occupation would provide them an economic backbone and they would get the security of their fundamental rights. However, with the passage of time the entire scenario became absolutely different from their expectation. They were engaged in a rigorous manual labour but their earning was very poor. Even it was below than the fixed amount of Government rate. They exercised their extreme physical labour to supply the raw material for urban development but their economic condition was quite bizarre. A number of family members were depended on a very poor amount of income. They were not getting their proper wage against their labour as per Government regulation and it deprived them from their economic right. They had no authorization over their settlement and they had no identity in the new settlement. It completely violated their rights to citizenship and nationality. The studied people had no scope to accumulate their regularly required food through agriculture, domestication etc. They had to completely depend on expensive market based products for food. However poverty was a major hindrance for them to provide the food for every family member as per their requirement. Even they could not secure the required amount of food and nutrition for their pregnant women and children. The studied people used to conduct arduous labour work mostly in empty stomach or in hungry stomach. Thus in every aspect their rights of food and nutrition of every studied people had been seriously violated. Even they could not get the purified drinking water. They mostly had only one set of dress. Due to economic crisis the parents could not provide a new set of dress for their children in festive days. It signified that their right to dress was also not secured. Further, the huts of the studied people were not properly constructed. Most of them had a single dwelling room where a number of family members were compelled to live together. Often their huts used to get damaged, but they could not repair them due to poverty. They were financially incapable to purchase a plot of settlement in outside and somehow managed to stay on the vested land of Balasan river bed. Particularly during the rainy season water used to get penetrated through roof and the earthen floor, wall used to get swelled up and damaged due to absorption of moisture by the soil. In such cases it became almost impossible for living. There huts were lacking other
basic amenities also. It was a fact that due to poverty they had no scope for better means of settlements; on the other hand due to lack of identity and citizenship they had to face different obstacles to avail the Government aided facilities. Thus their right to settlement was also seriously violated. The children had to support their family economically and they became compelled to do the work. It had reduced their scope to attend the school regularly. On the other hand economic scarcity of the parents became a major hindrance to provide adequate educational requirements for their children. Even they could hardly pay the tuition fees regularly. Ultimately such issues collectively created an obstacle to their education and the cases of drop out, discontinuation were a common occurrence. Again the issues of identity crisis and lack of citizenship hindered their children in the educational enrollment at the higher level. Thus there were multifarious aspects which violated their rights to education. Disease and occupational injuries were a part of their daily life. The studied area did not have a well equipped western medical institution. On the other hand such medical institutions were outside of the studied area. It would ultimately became difficult for the affected people to avail those facility mainly due to transportation associated cost as well as the long schedule of treatment. In their poverty stricken family every moment was valuable for working and earning. Thus they were quite reluctant to waste their precious time behind the medical treatment. Temporarily they used to have some medicine from the local quacks or according to the nature of ailment they preferred to consult with their traditional healers. However, in most of the cases it did not met up with permanent curing and often became more complex. However, they had compromised with their physical suffering to their maximum level of tolerance for the sake of earning and work. Ultimately their rights to health had been seriously violated as well. In case of the studied people the basic amenities of livelihood was required to have at least the minimum level of security for every individual. However, those were far to meet up with the actual requirement of the people. To survive they had to struggle in every aspect and inspite of such hard struggle they mere got the basic requirements while most of them remained unfulfilled. Thus their basic rights to livelihood had been seriously violated in every aspect.

The studied Rajbanshi people had their own cultural tradition, ancestral settlement, traditional occupational pursuit. Land was their prime property and the
land based productions, other local resources helped to sustain their livelihood. However due to severe socio-political turmoil they were forced to get displaced and further migrated. In this way they lost their ancestral settlement and traditional occupation. They became completely roofless and resourceless in condition, whereas for survival they were searching for any sort of alternative. Further they got the scope of resettlement on the vested land of Balas an river and for survival became compelled to get affiliated with the hazardous stone based occupation. However, the studied occupation became unable to provide them the much desired economic security and their rights to basic amenities of livelihood have been seriously violated. Thus due to displacement they lost their traditional occupation and further it degenerated their economic backbone. Further due to displacement the traditional joint family system of the studied people got diminished and they lost their close kin members. Even after resettlement and affiliation with the stone based work, the pattern of earning and requirement of livelihood preferred them to practice the nuclear family system, whereas the participation of kin members became much lesser in different social occasion. Earlier related to agricultural work, land and cattle they used to perform numerous rituals. But after displacement along with the alternation of traditional agricultural occupation those rituals became completely obliterated from their society. Thus particularly due to displacement significant alternation could be noticed to their social structure, social organization and traditional cultural practices. Again particularly due to poverty they were facing severe obstacle in accumulating basic livelihood requirements. Ever since the birth poverty, scarcity, hunger, struggle became an integral part of life for a child. Further, the working involvement, livelihood condition and several other factors made them vulnerable to a number of diseases and occupational injuries. Particularly due to the stone based occupation the studied people used to get suffered from a number of diseases and occupational injuries. However due to poverty, lack of proper institutional infrastructure as well as lack of medicinal plant resources the people suffering from different ailment had a very limited scope of proper treatment. Such issues were noticed among the people of the entire community. Different health problems as well as prevalence of different diseases and occupational injuries could be noticed among the members of every studied families. Fear of insecurity related to related to settlement, stress related to the scarcity of livelihood
requirements, undesired social issues, lack of familial integration, had severely reduced their every possibility of mental happiness and well being. Thus the stone based occupation, working environment and social condition had multidimensional effect on the physical health condition and mental happiness. It was not only the matter of an individual or a particular family rather it could be noticed in the entire community and among every studied people. Their entire socio-economic and socio-cultural life became severely affected due to displacement and further involvement in the stone based occupation. The studied occupation had rarely provided them any sort of security to livelihood rather it might have multiple detrimental impacts upon them. They accepted the new settlement and the hazardous occupation of stone crushing with a hope and aspiration for the security of livelihood. However in reality they were exposed to scarcity, struggle, obstacles and inconveniences in every aspect of their livelihood. Ultimately the studied occupation, occupational environment, social environment and livelihood conditions certainly had a number of detrimental effects on the society, culture and health situation of the studied people.