

## Unit One

### Lesson 3: Our ethnic friends (1)

#### B) Now, read the text.

The ethnic people in Bangladesh hold a very important place in the culture of the country. The majority of these people live in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. The others live in the regions of Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet. They live in forest areas, in the hills and in rural areas. They do jhum cultivation. For this work they clear a piece of land in the forest, prepare it and sow seeds in it. They are mostly farmers. By religion they are Hindus, Christians or Buddhists. They speak their own mother tongues. Some of them are the *Chakmas*, the *Marmans*, the *Tipperas* and the *Moorangs*, who live in the Hill Tracts. The *Santals* live in Rajshahi. The *Khasias* and the *Monipuries*, live in Sylhet and the *Hajangs* and the *Garos* in Mymensingh.

#### অনুবাদ

বাংলাদেশের নৃতাত্ত্বিক জনগোষ্ঠী এদেশের সংস্কৃতিতে একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থান দখল করে আছে। এসব লোকজনের বেশিরভাগই বাস করে পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে। অন্যরা ময়মনসিংহ, রাজশাহী ও সিলেট অঞ্চলে বাস করে। তারা বনাঞ্চলে, পাহাড়ী এলাকায় এবং গ্রামাঞ্চলে বাস করে। তারা জুম চাষ করে। এই কাজের জন্য তারা বনের মধ্যে একখণ্ড জমি পরিষ্কার করে, এটা প্রস্তুত করে এবং এতে বীজ বপন করে। এরা প্রধানত কৃষিজীবী। ধর্মীয়ভাবে এরা হিন্দু, খ্রিস্টান বা বৌদ্ধ। এরা এদের নিজেদের মাতৃভাষায় কথা বলে। এদের নিজেদের মাতৃভাষায় কথা বলে। এদের কেউ চাকমা, মারমা, টিপেরা ও মুরং যারা পাহাড়ি অঞ্চলে বাস করে। সাঁওতালরা বাস করে রাজশাহীতে। খাসিয়া ও মনিপুরীরা বাস করে সিলেটে এবং হাজং ও গারোরা বাস করে ময়মনসিংহে।

## Vocabulary

Important (**adj.**) গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ( **significant, vital** )

Culture (**n.**) সংস্কৃতি ( civilization, society )

Forest (**n.**) বন ( **woodland** )

Cultivation (**n.**) কৃষি, চাষাবাদ ( **farming, crop growing** )

Sow (**v.**) রোপণ করা ( **implant** )

Mostly (**adj.**) প্রধানত, বেশিরভাগ ( **frequently, by and large** )

Religion (**n.**) ধর্ম ( **faith, religious conviction** )

Tongue (**n.**) ভাষা ( **language** )

Rural (**adj.**) পল্লী, গ্রামীণ ( **pastoral** )

**C) True or false? If false, give the correct information.**

1. The ethnic people of our country live in the Chattogram hill tracts only.
2. Most of them are farmers.
3. By religion all of them are Buddhists.
4. The Moorangs are an ethnic group.
5. They practise *jhum* cultivation.

**Answer:**

1. **False.** Most of them live in the Chattogram Hill Tracts, and the others live in Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Sylhet region.
2. **True.**
3. **False.** By religion they are Hindus, Christians or Buddhists.
4. **True.**
5. **True.**

**D) Ask and answer the questions in pairs .**

1. Where do you find the *Marmans*?
2. What language do they speak at home?
3. Where and how do they do the *Jhum* cultivation?



1. Now choose the correct answer to each question from the alternatives given and write the corresponding number of the answers in your answer script.

$$1 \times 7 = 7$$

a. The word 'culture' means —.

[MB' 19]

- (i) customs
- (ii) convention
- (iii) ethnicity
- (iv) society

b. The ethnic people live by —.

[MB' 19]

- (i) farming
- (ii) co-operative work
- (iii) Jhum cultivation
- (iv) fishing

c. Sylhet district is the living zone of —.

[MB' 19]

- (i) Tipperas and Moorangs
- (ii) Chakmas and Marmas
- (iii) Khasias and Monipuries
- (iv) Hajangs and Garos

d. The word 'tracts' in the text means —.

[MB' 19]

- (i) reverse
- (ii) region
- (iii) traffic
- (iv) transportation

e. The word 'prepare' in the text refers to —.

[MB' 19]

- (i) accommodate
- (ii) rearrange
- (iii) collect
- (iv) make

f. The ethnic people are mainly —.

[BB' 16; MB' 19]

(i) teachers

(ii) carpenters

(iii) potters

(iv) tillers

g. They sow seeds in — land.

[MB' 19]

(i) hilly

(ii) forest

(iii) plain

(iv) hilly and forest

h. The ethnic people in Bangladesh play a significant role in the culture of the country. Here the word 'ethnic' means —.

[BB' 16]

(i) rural

(ii) aboriginal

(iii) urban

(iv) folk

i. The ethnic people use — language.

[BB' 16]

(i) foreign

(ii) global

(iii) native

(iv) international

j. Most of the ethnic people live in — areas.

(i) hilly

(ii) rural

(iii) forest

(iv) all the three

k. What does the word 'important' mean?

(i) auxiliary

(ii) valueless

(iii) artificial

(iv) significant

## I. Ethnic people practise — cultivation.

(i) modern

(ii) scientific

(iii) Jhum

(iv) unproductive

## 2) Answer the following questions from your reading of the above text.

2 × 4 = 8

- a. How do the ethnic people lead their livelihood? [MB' 19]
- b. What does Jhum cultivation mean? [MB' 19]
- c. How do they contribute in our country? [MB' 19]
- d. Why do most of the ethnic people live in Chattogram Hill Tracts? [MB' 19]
- e. Where and how do they do the Jhum cultivation? [BB' 16]
- f. Where do the ethnic people contribute? [BB' 16]
- g. What are their traditional musical instruments? [BB' 16]
- h. Where do most of the ethnic people live in Bangladesh? [SB' 17]
- i. What sort of cultivation do they practice and how? [SB' 17]
- j. Where do the ethnic people live? [BB' 16]
- k. What language do the ethnic people speak?

**Answer:**

- a. The ethnic people lead their livelihood by farming, particularly by Jhum cultivation.
- b. Jhum cultivation means the process of growing crops by clearing a piece of land in the forest, preparing it and sowing seeds in it.
- c. They grow crops, vegetables, maize, do fish cultivation, raise poultry, weave clothes, make bugles, drums and bamboo flutes. They strengthen our economy. Thus they contribute in our country.
- d. Most of the ethnic people live in Chattogram Hill Tracts because these hilly and forest areas are suitable for their living and livelihood.
- e. They do Jhum cultivation in the hilly forest area. First, they clear a piece of land in the forest and prepare it. Then they sow seeds in it. Thus, they do Jhum cultivation.
- f. The ethnic people contribute to the culture of the country.
- g. Their traditional musical instruments are bugles made from buffalo horns, drums and bamboo flutes.
- h. Most of the ethnic people live in the Chattogram Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. The others live in the regions of Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet.



- i. They practise jhum cultivation. For this, firstly they clear a piece of land in the forest. Then they prepare it and sow seeds in it. Thus they practise jhum cultivation.
- j. The ethnic people live in forest areas, in the hills and in rural areas.
- k. The ethnic people speak their own mother tongues.



3) Read the following text and fill in the gaps with appropriate words to make it a meaningful one.

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

Most of the ethnic people of Bangladesh live in Chattogram Hill Tracts, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet, Forest, Hilly (a) \_\_\_\_\_ rural areas are their common living places. They (b) \_\_\_\_\_ their unique lifestyle reflected from their own history, culture and (c) \_\_\_\_\_. They are (d) \_\_\_\_\_ farmers and practise a unique type of cultivation named Jhum. They are Hindus, Christians or Buddhists (e) \_\_\_\_\_ religion.

**Answer:**

Most of the ethnic people of Bangladesh live in Chattogram Hill Tracts, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet, Forest, Hilly **(a) and** rural areas are their common living places. They **(b) practise** their unique lifestyle reflected from their own history, culture and **(c) heritage** . They are **(d) mostly** farmers and practise a unique type of cultivation named Jhum. They are Hindus, Christians or Buddhists **(e) by** religion.