

Access and disparities in public healthcare in Bangladesh: A case study of Chittagong Hill Tracts

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The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region of Bangladesh poses significant challenges regarding healthcare accessibility, particularly in its remote and diverse topography. This study undertakes a comprehensive assessment of the prevailing gaps in medical accessibility across the CHT, with a specific focus on elucidating disparities linked to socioeconomic factors. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, we evaluate the geographical distribution of public healthcare facilities, measuring the population that lives in locations with limited access to medical services. Moreover, we analyze demographic data to establish connections between healthcare accessibility and socioeconomic status. This study has two goals: first, to identify locations at higher risk due to restricted healthcare access, and second, to better understand the relationship between healthcare disparities and socioeconomic factors. Further, by evaluating existing policies affecting healthcare establishments, we want to uncover links between policy measures and observed gaps in healthcare accessibility. This study aims to provide policymakers with practical information about the current healthcare access scenario in the CHT and, consequently, in indigenous remote areas. By bridging the gap between research findings and policy development, we hope to promote more equitable healthcare distribution and improve the well-being of marginalized populations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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