



The Sundarbans, cover 38,500 sq km, is the world's large tolerant mangrove forest. Its name literally translates to "beautiful forest", and it is inhabited by about three mil people who explore this dangerous terrain for survival.

The Habitat of the famous Royal Bengal Tiger, the Sunda also home to "widows" called "*Bidhobas*". Each year, men inside the forest while fishing or gathering palm leaves a honey leave behind their wives to fend for themselves a children. Labeled as "*opoya*", meaning unlucky ones, the women are a taboo subject and become non-existent to whole world. Ostracised by society, their likelihood of th remarrying is very slim.

Turned out of home with nothing to fall back on, hundre such women initially attempt begging. Many end up as prostitutes while the more fortunate ones find access to neighbouring "*Bidhobapallis*", sanctuaries for women ban from their first homes because their husbands have been by tigers and other predators.

Each of the 12 widow villages in and around the Sundarb houses around 50 to 100 of such dislocated families.