

ABSTRACT

Household food insecurity continues to threaten large proportions of vulnerable population in rural Bangladesh. Food is such a high priority for poor households that many may be tenuously "secure", but at great sacrifice - for example spending almost all their money or time on securing food. Food insecurity, as a household-level issue, can be addressed by a wide range of program intervention in vulnerable areas. In order to address household food security in flood prone areas CARE/Bangladesh implemented Flood Proofing Project (FPP) in selected haor and char areas from October 1999 to September 2004 to address household food security in flood prone areas. The interventions designed and implemented under the FPP project was aim to demonstrate that how flood proofing measures can impact on household food security conditions of vulnerable population in the project areas. Household food security can be measured through household food consumption.

The primary objective of this study is to oversee the impact of household food security in the FPP areas. There are several food security indicators to measure household food security. This study selected a performance indicator "percentage of households consuming the minimum daily food requirement". This is a direct measure of impact of all the activities for any food security and disaster management project. The overall objective of this study is to assess that at least eighty percent of house hold able to meet minimum standard daily food consumptions (1,800 Kcal per person per day) and higher percentage of households in the program areas were able to meet minimum daily food consumptions compared to non program areas over a period of time (three years period). To conduct this study, data were taken from a secondary source. The data source was "Comprehensive Food Security Data Collection Activity(DCA) project conducted by The Asia Foundation. The DCA project conducted a total number of six rounds surveys (two surveys in a year) for a period of three years between June 2003 and May 2006 in selected Flood Proofing Project areas.

It is seen that food security was achieved by more than 87 percent of the FPP population in program areas. The food security situation was observed to be more or less stable in program areas during the three years. The effect on food security depends of course how consumption of different food items was affected. With the fall in income in Year Two, consumption of nearly all food items fell in rural program areas, but the decrease was less than 5% for the staples-rice, other cereals, and potato-and much higher for pulses, meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, and milk and dairy products.

Recommendations are suggested for designing and implementation of potential FPP interventions in accordance with the objective of the study. FPP intervention need to give more attention on some areas such as creating Income Generating opportunities, developing more public actions combined with long-term sectoral growth with consumption smoothing initiatives at household level. It is recommended that FPP interventions also need to emphasis awareness on importance of balance diet and consumption and community mobilization and training for maintenance of the assets created where environmental crisis are dominant forces in governing daily life. It is also recommended that targeted interventions should interact across poverty, food consumption and nutrition. Finally, food security as a holistic approach identifies potential interventions at char and haor areas .