

# The Research and Evaluation Division

ANNUAL REPORT 1991



BANGLADESH RURAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

**THE  
RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION  
ANNUAL REPORT 1991**

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**Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee  
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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) is an independent unit within BRAC, evolved because of the vital role of research in planning and managing development. The primary responsibility of RED is to provide the necessary research support to the growing and multifaceted programmes of BRAC. The Division also undertakes studies on request from other organizations. The multi-disciplinary team of professionals design and carry out research in different aspects of BRAC interventions.

## II. TYPES OF RESEARCH

RED conducts various types of research such as surveys, anthropological studies, action research and evaluations among others. Most of the studies conducted so far have been short term studies though in recent years RED has engaged itself in some longitudinal and longterm studies. These studies are designed to capture the changes that are taking place in the socio-economic situation of the villages over time. The Vital Events Registration starting in 1987 and the Village Study Project (VSP) initiated in late 1989 are two such longterm projects. Eight teams of field researchers, posted in eight different locations of the country, have been engaged in collecting data from these study locations on different aspects of village life.

### III. HIGHLIGHTS OF 1991 ACTIVITIES

The year 1991 was eventful for RED in many ways. Several new dimensions of work were initiated during the year while the regular activities of the Division went on expanding.

The core researchers of RED completed 33 research reports and produced 5 journal articles/papers. Some of the articles have been published in journals and others as chapters of a book. Another 35 study projects are at different stages of progress. The field researchers of the Village Study Project produced several case studies on different aspects of rural life. This year's work brings the number of published reports produced by RED to a total exceeding 200.

This year's research covered new fields. Studies were conducted on Pally (rural) Rationing, a government programme, on the Cyclone of 1991, BRAC's Paralegal Programme, Issue-Based Meetings of the organised landless groups, Federation Building of the village based organisations, and on the nature and determinants of maternal morbidity. RED also initiated a countrywide study on "Assessment of Basic Knowledge of Children in Bangladesh" in collaboration with UNICEF, Institute of Education and Research (IER) of the University of Dhaka, National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB). This was the first study of its kind undertaken so far in Bangladesh, and probably in the world. The study has

been designed through a series of consultations with the experts in the field.

Several collaborative studies with other NGOs and international organisations were initiated in 1991. The organisations involved were Helen Keller International, PRIP, UNICEF, World Bank, Overseas Development Institute (UK), and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

RED also became involved in providing data support and consultative services to a two-and-a-half year long study sponsored by the World Bank and coordinated by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka. The study aimed at assessing the impact of the credit programmes of BRAC, Grameen Bank and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) on poverty alleviation and empowerment of the women.

As in the earlier years, RED offered research support to a good number of students and scholars coming from various universities and research institutions. Two students on doctoral programmes, one from Syracuse University and another from the University of California, were provided with the necessary physical facilities and research assistance in carrying out field work for their Ph.D. dissertations. Similar facilities were extended to one researcher from the University of Copenhagen and one American researcher. Institutional support was also accorded to one Fellow at the

Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

RED also extended various kinds of support and assistance to BRAC programmes. Important among the support activities was the development of specific tools and indicators for monitoring the health and rural development programmes. RED undertook the responsibility of monitoring the Women's Health and Development Programme (WHDP), the current health development initiative of BRAC. Coordinated by a senior RED researcher, a team of monitors started the monitoring of WHDP from July 1991.

The Division continued providing support to a new health research movement called Essential National Health Research (ENHR). BRAC, in collaboration with the Commission on Health Research for Development and ICDDR,B took the moving role in promoting ENHR in Bangladesh.

RED organises seminars and workshops to facilitate mutual exchange of ideas and experiences among the researchers and sharing of research findings with the senior management. During the year, 30 seminars and workshops were organised by RED. Several scholars and researchers from reputed organisations at home and abroad (World Bank, IDS, Sussex, BIDS, Dhaka and the University of Dhaka) also presented papers in some of the seminars.

RED strengthened its capacity by engaging more research staff and

developing their capability through training. The Division acquired some computers for its exclusive use and arranged training for the researchers so that they could independently process and computerise their data. The physical growth of the Division required expanded space which was largely met in 1991 when an entire floor was allotted for the RED.

#### **IV. NEW DIMENSIONS**

Some new dimensions have been added in 1991 to improve and enhance RED activities. These are as follows:

**Bangla Translation of Research Findings:** A decision was made to translate into Bangla the summary of all the research reports produced so far (about 225) by the RED researchers to make the information more accessible to field workers. The work was started in 1991. The first volume of the translated versions is expected to be ready in early 1992.

**Review of Reports by External Experts:** Research reports produced by the RED researchers have so far been reviewed internally. To improve the quality of the reports, an arrangement has been made for review of the reports by experts external to BRAC. A panel of eminent scholars and researchers belonging to various universities and research institutions in Bangladesh (viz., University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, BIDS, ICDDR-B, NIPSOM, IER, PIACT, etc.) was brought together for the purpose. Some of the



draft reports have already been sent to them for review. Comments and suggestions coming from the reviewers are expected to help improve the quality of research reports.

**Review of Health Watch Project:** RED introduced a 'Health Watch' initiative in 1986 through a baseline survey on registration of demographic events in two locations (Manikganj and Joypurhat) of Bangladesh. The primary objective was to evaluate the impact of BRAC's Child Survival Programme in the community. The baseline survey was followed by a continuous activity of registration of vital events and other relevant development indicators such as school enrolment, coverage by expanded programme on immunization (EPI), distribution of Vitamin A Capsule (VAC), prices of essentials, wage rates etc. Presently the Watch covers 87 villages in Manikganj with a population of 52,000 and 65 villages in Joypurhat with a population of 36,000. A major review of the Health Watch was arranged in 1991 with the help of Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, an expert from ICDDR,B, Dhaka. The review has come up with some specific recommendations including expansion of the activities to wider areas and inclusion of some additional indicators such as nutrition, environmental health, etc. An executive summary of the review report is given in Appendix IV.

**Home Gardening Project:** RED designed an action research project in 1990 on home gardening covering eight villages (five intervention and three comparison) in Jamalpur Sadar upazila. The objective of

the action research is to increase the availability and intake of vitamin A-rich foods in rural households. The project has three components : home gardening, nutrition education, and evaluation and monitoring. Full fledged work of the project started in early 1991 with the establishment of one research station at Rupshi village in Titpalla union of Jamalpur. Five field level workers are working on the project with the guidance and overall supervision of a senior RED researcher. A status report of the project came out this year.

**Contracting External Experts:** The RED further widened its research activity by contracting external experts for undertaking study. This has enabled RED to provide larger support to the BRAC programmes and to add newer dimension of research. Dr. Munirul Islam Khan of Sociology Department, University of Dhaka, conducted a study entitled 'Access to Agricultural Resource and its Impact on the Social Life of the Rural Landless' by utilising the resources within BRAC. Conducted through anthropological approach, the study is expected to throw introspective light on the ownership of Deep Tubewell by the landless group organised by BRAC.

**Introduction of a New Research Methodology:** Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) has currently become popular as a new methodology of research. This has been extensively used by RED in health related studies so far. RED conducted a study on one Deep Tubewell Group

of BRAC following the RRA methodology. An expert from IDS, Sussex provided initial guidance in this work. BRAC has decided to arrange specialised training on RRA for two of its researchers in early 1992 at IDS, Sussex.

#### V. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AT RED

RED grew substantially during the year. The strength of the core researchers increased from 18 in 1990 to 28 in 1991 : three with Ph.D. and seven with master's degree from different universities. The total strength of the Division rose to 103 with some 55 working at the field level. See Appendix I for details of new recruitments, promotions and staff training.

#### VI. LIBRARY FACILITY

Over the years BRAC has developed a specialised library, named the Ayesha Abed Library, to cater to the needs of its researchers and programme personnel. The operation and management of the library was entrusted to the RED in late 1991. The library contains over 4420 titles which are available for use to all BRAC workers. The library also subscribes for several professional journals and keeps a variety of periodicals, news papers, and specialised information materials. BRAC publications and research reports are also sold through this unit. The library, which has been shifted to its new location at RED, can provide better services to the readers and borrowers.

## VII. VILLAGE STUDY PROJECT

The Research and Evaluation Division designed a longterm study entitled "Village Study Project" (VSP) in 1989 covering 10 villages in two locations - Monirampur (Jessore) and Jamalpur. Following a multi-disciplinary approach, VSP attempts to analyse rural dynamics with an anthropological focus. This longitudinal study covers various aspects of village life : demographic, education, human resources, employment, income and expenditure, occupational pattern and wage structure, gender and familial labour, agro-technology and agrarian structure, ideological and institutional aspects, rural credit, social system and social elite, class formation and social structure, family planning, nutrition, health care, etc.

The VSP has the capacity to continuously feed the BRAC programme with diagnostic and monitoring impact evaluation on all the programme strategies starting from economic changes to awareness, values, human behaviour and rural power structure.

Baseline survey of the 10 study villages and 4 control villages has been completed. The data are being computerised. Collection of data on income, expenditure, consumption, health situation and village development activities are being carried out on a continuous basis.

### **VIII. COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS**

BRAC and the Maternal and Child Epidemiology Unit of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine launched a joint collaborative research project entitled "An Investigation into the Nature and Determinants of Maternal Morbidity related to Delivery and Puerperium in Bangladesh." The preliminary work has been completed and pilot data collection was started from October 1991. The study will continue for two years.

RED initiated a case study in late 1990 on development and diffusion of agricultural technology in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute, UK. The study particularly focused on the technologies developed and disseminated through the poultry and irrigation programmes of BRAC and the modus operandi of BRAC-GOB collaboration. The study was completed in March 1991. Findings of the case study were presented at the Asia Regional Workshop held at Hyderabad, India in November 1991.

Red collaborated with individuals from ICDDR,B, NIPSOM, UNICEF, PIACT and Center for Disease Control and Tufts University in USA on a series of studies on the aftermath of the 1991 devastating cyclone. Four separate research projects have been were completed.

### **IX. RESEARCH REPORTS COMPLETED**

During the year, 33 research reports were completed. Abstracts of these reports are provided at the end of this report (Appendix-V).

Titles of the reports completed are as follows:

Title	Researcher(s)
1. An evaluation of BRAC's growth monitoring programme	Fazlul Karim AMR Chowdhury Laurine Brown Nasreen Huq R Karim
2. Safe motherhood: situation analysis (Documentation)	Rukhsana Gazi Shahana Karim
3. Price of BRAC's development intervention: how costly is too costly	Zafar Ahmed
4. Profitability, capital and labour productivity	Zafar Ahmed
5. Intervention and change in rural Bangladesh: impact on selected socio-economic indicators	Zafar Ahmed
6. Group approach to empowering women: An emerging paradigm from south Asia	Zafar Ahmed
7. GO-NGO collaboration in human resource development in Bangladesh	Karimul Huq MG Sattar
8. Cyclone'91: alerts, what people knew and did	Rita Sen AMR Chowdhury
9. Cyclone'91: A study on shelters	AMR Chowdhury
10. Cyclone'91: why strong buildings collapsed	Engineers Associates (Commissioned)
11. Cyclone'91: epidemiology of deaths	AMR Chowdhury AY Choudhury A Bhuiya Z Hussain et,al.
12. Research on the fallout of cyclone	AMR Chowdhury A Y Chowdhury A Bhuiya K Islam, et, al.
13. Abstracts of child survival related studies	Fazlul Karim

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|--|--|
| 14. Rapid rural appraisal of BRAC deep tubewell group                                      | Karimul Huq<br>Rita Sen<br>Mick Howes                          |
| 15. Performance of former NFPE students in formal schools.                                 | Kaiser A. Khan<br>AMR Chowdhury                                |
| 16. Roof over my head: A study on BRAC's housing programme for the poor.                   | Ashim K Kar<br>AMR Chowdhury                                   |
| 17. Impact of sweet water fisheries on the lives of the rural poor.                        | Monira Hasan   |
| 18. Issue-based meetings of RDP: A status study.   | AMR Chowdhury<br>MG Sattar<br>Md. Mohsin<br>Md. Serajul Haque  |
| 19. Planning and management training to the VO members: A look into some aspects.          | Sarwar Jahan   |
| 20. Federating village level organisations   | A Alam<br>AMR Chowdhury<br>S Islam<br>S K Sarker<br>M G Sattar |
| 21. Loan recovery performance of the rural poor: variations and interrelationships.        | Zafar Ahmed  |
| 22. Causes of overdue loan in RDP. (a) Gheor-I, RDP, (b) Atghoria, RDP, (c) Paglapir, RCP. | Alamgir Hossain<br>AMR Chowdhury                               |
| 23. Grains for the poor. A look at pally rationing system in Bangladesh.                   | Samir R Nath<br>MG Sattar<br>AMR Chowdhury                     |
| 24. Programme response to research recommendations   | Mahmuda R Khan   |
| 25. The paralegal programme: A study of knowledge retention                                | Aleeze Sattar<br>Sarwar Jahan                                  |
| 26. Study of the primary schools: the bastia school.                                       | J A Chowdhury<br>AMR Chowdhury                                 |
| 27. An evaluation of shasthya shebika  | Md. Nazrul Islam<br>AMR Chowdhury<br>Monoranjan Sarker         |

28.	Profile of RDP activities in ten village under VSP	Karimul Huq
29.	Development activities of other NGOs and government in VSP villages	Karimul Huq
30.	Reproductive history and contraceptive behaviour: focussing on selected indications	Firoz Mahbub Kamal
31.	The daily life of the landless people in Bangladesh (a case study)	Rina Chakraborty Ishrat Ara
32.	Village study project of BRAC: The methodological framework for analysing the household economy	Jafar Ahmed
33.	Statistical Digest of VSP	Karimul Huq

In addition the field researchers completed 10 case studies on different aspects of village life.

#### X. ON GOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

At the time of producing this report, 35 studies initiated in or before 1991 were at different stages of progress. Titles of the studies are as follows:

	<b>Title/Topic</b>	<b>Researcher(s)</b>
1.	Health impact of a non health intervention	AMR Chowdhury Ahmed Ali
2.	Demographic registration system: Manikganj and Joypurhat	Rezaul Karim
3.	Study on socio-economic difference in utilising PHC services	Fazlul Karim
4.	An evaluation of BRACs family planning experimental programme	Fazlul Karim Jalal Uddin Ahmed
5.	Study on contraceptive prevalence rate in six rural unions	Fazlul Karim



6.	Nature and determinants of maternal morbidity related to delivery and the puerperium in Bangladesh	AMR Chowdhury Liz Goodburn Wendy Graham Rukhsana Gazi Shahana Karim
7.	Marriage: through the eyes of the adolescent girls	Nasreen Huq Aleeze Sattar Mahmuda Rahman
8.	Growth monitoring at BRAC: A closer look at the programme data	Nasreen Huq
9.	An assessment of growth monitoring of adolescent girls in the non-formal primary education	Nasreen Huq
10.	Multiple studies on BRACs fisheries sector project	Shams Mustafa
11.	Evaluation on livestock sector	Shams Mustafa
12.	Impact of irrigaiton technology	Karimul Huq
13.	Documentations of GO - NGO collaborative programmes in BRAC	AMR Chowdhury Karimul Huq
14.	Study of NFPE teachers	Kaisar A Khan
15.	Literacy situation (6-16 years age group children) of the areas where BRAC schools are operating from its beginning (1985)	Md. Mohsin AMR Chowdhury
16.	Women and employment generation: A study of one silk reeling centre	Md. Serajul Haque
17.	Impact evaluation of BRAC: literature review	Zafar Ahmad
18.	Trend analysis of BRAC's development programme from a historical perspective	Zafar Ahmad
19.	Cost of institutional credit in rural Bangladesh	Zafar Ahmad
20.	Impact of BRACs functional education programme	Zafar Ahmad A H Mallik
21.	Discrimination within the household	Shahida Akter Zafar Ahmad

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|---|---|
| 22. Health researches done in Bangladesh during 1986-90; what were the priorities                   | AMR Chowdhury<br>Rukhsana Gazi<br>Shahana Karim |
| 23. Study on scheme management of income generating activities.                                     | Mahmuda R. Khan                                 |
| 24. Women in poverty alleviation: case studies of six rural women                                   | Dilruba Banu                                    |
| 25. Adolescent perception of marriage   | Aleeze Sattar<br>Mahmuda R. Khan<br>Nasreen Huq |
| 26. Impact of irrigation technology on production and input combination                             | Karimul Huq                                     |
| 27. Discrimination within the household   | Zafar Ahmad                                     |
| 28. Pattern of rural indebtedness, supply constraints and utilization of rural credit               | Zafar Ahmad                                     |
| 29. Labour composition, self employment pattern and wage employment in the farming sector.          | Zafar Ahmad                                     |
| 30. Land distribution, tenancy pattern and factor combination.                                      | Monira Hasan                                    |
| 31. Access to agricultural resource and its impact on social life of the rural landless             | Munirul Islam Khan<br>(Consultant)              |
| 32. A study on menstruation: beliefs and practices by adolescent girls                              | Mahmuda R Khan<br>Nasreen Huq                   |
| 33. Effects of mothers club in changing health behaviour and utilization of child survival services | Fazlul Karim                                    |
| 34. Monitoring of Women's Health and Development Programme: mechanisms and networking               | Fazlul Karim                                    |
| 35. Parliamentary elections 1991: awareness of VO members   | Shams Mustafa                                   |

The field researchers of Village Study Project initiated the following case studies which were at different stages of progress:

Title/Topic	Researcher
1. Polygamy: reasons and consequence	Dipti Das
2. Landownership and tenurial pattern in a village of South-West Bangladesh	Sadhana Biswas
3. Income, employment, and economic efficiency of BRAC's livestock programme	Shamsun Nahar
4. Employment and time allocation pattern in a village of Bangladesh	Abul Kalam
5. Success story of five female group members	Parul Lata Biswas
6. Background of NFPE and PEOC students and its impact on their retention of knowledge	Nurul Amin
7. Review and comparative study on Different NGO activities including BRAC in Titpolla union of Jamalpur district.	A H Mallik
8. Faction: its origin evaluation and manifestation in rural Bangladesh	A H Mallik
9. Gender differences in taking loans project implementation. control over resources and utilization of income in indebted households	Kamala Sarkar
10. Child labour in Bangladesh: its nature and socioeconomic impacts	Rina Chakrabarty
11. Income and employment effects of paddy husking schemes	Shahanaz Akter
12. Origin of conflicts and its resolution: A case from a Bangladeshi village	Sakina Khatun
13. Male excesses in marital partnership: causes and social implications	Rita Das Roy
14. Credit history of the landless in rural Bangladesh.	Shamim Ara et. al

## XI. JOURNAL ARTICLE/CHAPTER IN BOOK

The following articles and research papers produced by RED researchers were either published or accepted for publication in various journals, periodicals and books during 1991.

- a. Folk Terminology for Diarrhoea in Rural Bangladesh --- by AMR Chowdhury and ZN Kabir; Review of Infections Diseases 13 (Supp. 4), 1991.
- b. Oral Rehydration Therapy: A Community Trial Comparing the Acceptability of Homemade Sucrose and Cereal-based Solutions-- by AMR Chowdhury, F Karim, JE Rohde, J Ahmed, and FH Abed; Bulletin of the World Health Organization 69(2), 1991.
- c. Credit for the Rural Poor - the Case of BRAC in Bangladesh - - by AMR Chowdhury, M Mahmood and FH Abed; Small Enterprise Development Vol 2 No 3, 1991.
- d. Controlling a Forgotten Disease: Using VHWS for Tuberculosis Control in Rural Bangladesh -- by AMR Chowdhury, N Ishikawa, A Alam, S Islam, S Hossain, RA Cash and FH Abed; Bulletin of the IUATLD (newsletter) (in press).
- e. Social Mobilization for EPI in Bangladesh -- by FH Abed, N McKee, A Chowdhury, AMR Chowdhury and R Rahman -- in M Huq (ed.), Near Miracle in Bangladesh University Press Ltd. Dhaka, 1991.
- f. Research on the Fallout of Cyclone - by AMR Chowdhury, et al., in: FH Abed, H. Hossain & C.P. Dodge (Eds.) Coping in Bangladesh. University Press Ltd., Dhaka (in Press).

## **XII. PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS**

RED researchers took part in more than 30 seminars, workshops and conferences, at home and abroad, during the year. These were on various aspects of health, nutrition, education, women's development, environmental issues, government and non-government collaboration, and many other topics (see Appendix II for details).

## **XIII. RED SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP**

RED organises seminars and workshops to facilitate mutual exchange of knowledge and ideas among its researchers. Every research proposal developed by a RED researcher is presented in a workshops. Similarly every research report produced by a researcher is presented in a RED Seminar. In 1991 a total of 30 workshop and seminars were organised. See Appendix III for details.

## **XIV. CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

RED Staff provided consultancies to other organisations.

Mr. Shams Mustafa, Research Economist, worked as a consultant in the Evaluation of Rural Employment Sector Programme (study of Target Group Income Generation Activities), for BRDB/SIDA from December '91 - January '92.

Ms. Nasreen Huq, Research Nutritionist, worked as consultant to Bangladesh Population and Health Consortium in the evaluation of the ODA-NGO project from August 20 - September 3, 1991.

Capacity Development at RED

Recruitment

Ten core researchers were recruited in 1991. They are -

1. Mr. Md. Mohsin, with a Master's degree in Statistics from the University of Chittagong, joined RED in January 1991.
2. Ms. Dilruba Banu, with a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Dhaka, joined RED in January 1991.
3. Mr. Md. Serajul Haque, with a Master's degree in Economics from Jahangirnagar University, joined RED in January 1991.
4. Mr. Samir Ranjan Nath, with a Master's degree in Statistics from Jahangirnagar University, joined RED in January 1991.
5. Mr. Ahmed Ali, with a Master's degree in Tropical Medicine from Mohidol University, Thailand, joined RED in February 1991.
6. Ms. Rukshana Gazi, with an MBBS degree from the University of Rajshahi, joined RED in February 1991.
7. Mr. Kaiser Ali Khan, with a Bachelor degree in Commerce from the University of Dhaka joined RED in April 1991. Before joining RED, he worked in BRAC's Rural Development Program for ten years.
8. Ms. Rita Sen, with PhD in Sociology from the University of Calcutta, joined RED in October 1991.
9. Mr. Abdullahel Hadi, with a Dr.PH in Public Health from Columbia University, USA, joined RED in November 1991.

10. Mr. Firoz Mahbub Kamal, with MBBS degree from Lahore Medical College, joined RED in December 1991.

Two field researchers and eight research assistants were recruited to work with the village study project. Also, four health workers were recruited to work in the home gardening project.

#### **Promotion**

The following core researchers were elevated to higher levels during 1991.

Mr. Zafar Ahmad, Senior Research Economist; Mr. Fazlul Karim, Research Epidemiologist; Mr. Shams Mustafa, Research Economist; Ms. Nasreen Parveen Huq, Research Nutritionist; and Ms. Alezee Sattar, Senior Anthropologist.

#### **Staff Development**

The following RED researchers went abroad for higher study:

Mr. Sanzidur Rahman, pursuing a Masters Course in agro-system forestry at Chiang Mai University, Thailand; Dr. Nazrul Islam, pursuing a Masters course in Community Health in Developing Countries at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Ms. Ishrat Ara, is pursuing a Masters course in Women and Development at the University of East Anglia, U.K.

The field researchers of the village study project took part in a training workshop on "Methodological Issues of VSP" organised by RED in September 1991. Six members of the core research team participated in a three-week specialised course on computer programming.

## Appendix-II

### Participation of RED Researchers in Seminars and Workshops in 1991

1. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Head of the Research and Evaluation Division, participated at the Workshop on "Essential National Health Research", organised by the Pakistan National Planning Commission and Aga Khan University held in Karachi, March 1991.  
  
Dr. Chowdhury also presented a paper at the annual conference of ICDDR,B in November 1991.
2. Mr. Fazlul Karim, Research Epidemiologist, participated in the following workshops:
  - a. Planning for 1991: Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding, organised by Save the Children, USA at TARD Savar, Jan 13-14, 1991.
  - b. Follow-up workshop on Lessons Learned in Practical Nutrition: Approaches and Actions in Bangladesh, organised by Save the Children Fund, USA held at Dhaka, May 15-16, 1991.
  - c. Seminar On Integration to Breastfeeding into PHC and Family Welfare Programme organised by CPPBF working group, held at Dhaka November 6, 1991.
  - d. Annual Scientific Conference of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh held at Dhaka, October 26-28, 1991.
  - e. Workshop on "Triple A and Nutrition" organized by UNICEF held at Dhaka, September 2, 1991.



- f. First National Conference on "Breast feeding saves lives" organized by the working group on CPPBF held at Dhaka, November 9, 1991.
  - g. Workshop on Needs Assessment Training on Community Epidemiology, organized by ENHR, held at Dhaka, November 11, 1991.
  - h. Fifth Workshop on Essential Surveillance (EPI diseases) held at EPI Centre, Dhaka, Dec. 30-31, 1991.
3. Mr. Zafar Ahmad, Senior Research Economist, participated in the SAARC Conference on Development of Women in South Asia held at BARD, Comilla, Nov. 18 - 24, 1991.
4. Mr. Shams Mustafa, Research Staff Economist, participated in the following workshops:
- a. National workshop on "Livestock Development" organized by BRAC in association with the Directorate of Livestock Services (DLS) and Economic Development Institute (EDI), held at Dhaka, May 4-9, 1991.
  - b. Asia Regional Workshop on "NGOs Natural Resources Management and Linkages with the Public Sector," jointly organized by ODI (UK) and Administrative Staff College, India, held at Hyderabad, Sep 16 - 20, 1991.
  - c. National Seminar on "GO - NGO Collaboration in Agricultural Research and Extension", sponsored by the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Society and ODI (UK) held at BARC, Dhaka, August 4, 1991.

5. Mr. Karimul Huq, Staff Economist, participated in the following seminars:
  - a. Seminar on "Technology Transfer" held at BIDS, Dhaka, September 8, 1991.
  - b. Seminar on Non-Formal Education held at BIDS, Dhaka, September, 1991.
6. Ms. Nasreen Huq, Research Nutritionist, participated in the following workshops and conferences.
  - a. Fifth Bangladesh Nutrition Conference held at Dhaka, August 10-12, 1991, in which she Presented a paper on "Dietary Practice of Rural Children Aged 0-71 months in Manikganj and Joypurhat".
  - b. National Breastfeeding Conference: Preparatory Workshop on "Protection and promotion of breastfeeding for working women" held at Dhaka, November 9, 1991.
  - c. International Conference on Ru 486.
  - d. National Nutrition Seminar on NGO - GOB complementarity of nutrition programmes.
7. Mr. Sarwar Jahan, Staff Sociologist participated at the Workshop on Techniques of Report writing on Human Rights Related Issues organised by CCHRB, Dhaka,
8. Mr. Ahmed Ali, Staff Nutritionist participated in the following workshops:
  - a. Workshop on Triple A and Nutrition organised by UNICEF held at Dhaka, September 2, 1991.
  - b. Workshop on Development of Strategies for GOB - NGO

Complementarity in Nutrition Programmes for Women and Children of Bangladesh organised by VHSS at Mymensingh, September 9, 1991.

- c. Seminar on "Nutrition Problems in Bangladesh, Strategies and Interventions with special reference to women/girl child" organised by UNICEF at Dhaka, October 3, 1991.
- d. Seminar on "Technology Transfer" held at BIDS, Dhaka, September 8, 1991.
- e. Seminar on "Non - formal Education" held at BIDS, Dhaka on September, 1991.

9. Ms. Aleeze Sattar, Staff Anthropologist, participated in the following workshops:

- a. Regional Workshop on "Women and Development" organised by FAO, held at Bangalore, India, June-July 1991.
- b. National Workshop on "Women and Environment" organised by ADAB, held at BARD, Comilla, 23-26 November 1991.

**Appendix III**

**RED Seminars and Workshops Held in 1991**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Title</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>
Feb 12, 1991	Health Impact of a Non-health Intervention - A Research Proposal	AMR Chowdhury
	Issue-based Meeting: A Status Study - A research proposal	AMR Chowdhury
April 4, 1991	Community Participation in CSP: An Outlook for WHDP	AMR Chowdhury Fazlul Karim Salehuddin Ahmed
April 8, 1991	Impact of IGVGD: Case Studies of Poultry Workers	Shams Mustafa
April 9, 1991	An Alternative Approach to Women's Development: Potential and constraints of BRAC's Empowerment Strategy	Zafar Ahmed Monira Hasan
April 21, 1991	Utilization of Small Trading Loans under RDP	Sarwar Jahan
May 2, 1991	Study on the Paralegal Programme: Evaluation of Knowledge Retention - A research proposal	Aleeze Sattar Sarwar Jahan
May 9, 1991	An Evaluation of Shasthya Shebika	Nazrul Islam
May 21, 1991	Roof Over my Head: A Study on BRAC's Housing Programme for the poor	AMR Chowdhury
May 22, 1991	Poor Bangladesh Villagers: Their felt needs, their participation in development programs and their resistance to exploitation and oppression - A research proposal	Michael B Bowler
May 23, 1991	Gender Differences and Role of Women in the Households: The case of Female Loanees of BRAC	Monira Hasan

May 26, 1991	Study on Effective Operation of Pally Ration - A Research Proposal	Samir R Nath
June 10, 1991	A Follow-up study of NFPE Graduates in Government Schools - A research proposal	Kaisar A Khan
June 13, 1991	Study on Paralegal: Evaluation of Knowledge and Retention (The report).	Aleeze Sattar Sarwar Jahan
June 18, 1991	Health Post: A Model for Integrated Health Services in Rural Bangladesh	Nasreen Huq
June 20, 1991	Case studies on Primary Education : Bastia School	Jahurul A Chowdhury AMR Chowdhury
June 30, 1991	A study on Menstruation: Beliefs and Practices of Adolescent Girls	Mahmuda R Khan Nasreen Huq
July 7, 1991	How and why does Maternal Education Influence Child Health Care in Bangladesh - A dissertation Proposal.	Connie Nielsen
July 28, 1991	Primary Education for older children: Changes in Perceptions and Attitudes of Learners - An Exploratory study	Aleeze Sattar
July 29, 1991	The Feasibility of introducing occupational skills in the existing BRACs Primary Education for older children: A study on Manikgonj Upazila	Kazi Abul Hashem
July 31, 1991	BRAC's Development Programme Social change and women: The Methodology and Preliminary Findings.	Anne Marie Van Swindersen
Aug 7, 1991	Methods of Feasibility studies: Comparison Between BRAC and other NGO's Methods - A research proposal	M Le Goff Emmanuel

Aug 13, 1991	Planning and Management Training to VO members. A look into Some Aspects. - A research proposal	Sarwar Jahan
Aug 26, 1991	Credit Programs for the Poor: Household and Intra-household Impacts and Programme Sustainability  (on BRAC - GB - BRDB Programs)	Shahidur R Khandakar and World Bank - BIDS other members of the  study team
Sep 3, 1991	An Investigation into the Nature and Determinants of Maternal Morbidity related to Delivery and the Puerperium in Bangladesh. - A research proposal	Liz Goodburn Rukhsana Gazi Shahana Karim
Sep 10, 1991	Divorce and Breakup of Families: An Analysis of Reasons and familial Dislocation	Ishrat Ara
Sep 29, 1991	Access to Agricultural Resource And its Impact on the Social Life of the Rural Landless - A research Proposal	Munirul Islam Khan
Dec 5, 1991	Grains for the Poor : A look at Pally Rationing System in Bangladesh	Samir R Nath M G Sattar AMR Chowdhury
Dec 12, 1991	Growth Monitoring	Fazlul Karim Nasreen Huq AMR Chowdhury
Dec 15, 1991	Performance of Former NFPE Students in Formal Schools	Kaisar A Khan AMR Chowdhury
Dec 19, 1991	Rapid Rural Appraisal of BRAC Deep Tubewell Group	Rita Sen Karimul Huq et.al.

**Summary of Report by Dr. Abbas Bhuiya**

**HEALTH WATCH OF THE BANGLADESH RURAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE :  
A REVIEW**

BRAC has been maintaining a health watch in six unions in Manikganj sadar and Joypurhat sadar upazila. This review of the watch was done mainly to examine issues related to flow of information from the field, computerisation process, publication of report, possibility of expansion both in terms of indicators and area, and to make appropriate recommendations for further improvement. After an extensive review of the current status the following recommendations are made.

**Expansion to new areas**

It is recommended that the watch be expanded in other rural areas. In addition to the existing unions, two from each of the remaining administrative divisions may randomly be chosen.

**Additional indicators**

**Nutritional status:**

Mid-upper arm circumference of children and nightblindness.

**Immunization:**

Coverage of immunization.

**Health programmes:**

Management of pregnancy - Per cent of women who received antenatal and postnatal care, per cent of deliveries attended by trained TBAs or health personnel.

Health care - Per cent of population visited government health care facilities.

**Environmental health:**

Sources of drinking water - Per cent of households with pure drinking water supply.

Excreta disposal - Per cent of household with sanitary latrines.

**Socioeconomic and educational:**

Price of commodities, household deficit of staples, transfer of land, school enrolment of children by sex, wage rates, number of rooms per household, construction materials of dwellings (roof and wall), number of cattle and poultries with vaccination status, ownership of radio and TV, household availability of electricity.

**Field procedures**

The current field procedures be maintained. The supervisor should try to identify missing events in addition to his effort to detect incorrect information. The visitation may be increased from monthly to two/three monthly cycle.



### **Data management**

Data be maintained preferably in a relational database environment, Cleaning procedure should be clearly defined in consultation with the research personnel. Manual verification of data files against the event forms be abandoned; in stead computer be used more effectively for the cleaning purposes. In addition to range checks more consistency checks be included in the data cleaning procedures. More involvement of the research personnel in data management be ensured to make the endeavour efficient and effective.

### **Reporting**

The demographic situation may be reported in a yearly fashion. However, reporting of the other health and development indicators may be done six monthly.

ABSTRACTS OF COMPLETED STUDIES

Following are the Abstracts of the studies completed in 1991.

1. Issue-Based Meeting of RDP: A Status Study (pp.31)

Institution building is a major component to attain RDP objectives. Under RDP procedures it is obligatory for every village organisation (VO) to organise issue-based meeting once a month for its members in which different social issues are discussed. Observation of a number of issue-based monthly meetings in a few RDP areas was held for the purpose of this study over a period of six months.

During the period of the study in 40 VOs, only 27% of the meetings were organised. Higher number of meetings were organised in female VOs than in male VOs (33% vs 22%). On average 1.4 meetings were organised whereas the expected number was five per VO. The "17 Promise" were recited in 56.4% of the meetings. Among the participants 10.6% were non-members, most of whom were children. Of the meetings 56% of the deliberations were lecture type, but discussions were allowed in other meetings. Resolutions were recorded only in 40% of the meetings. All the meetings were conducted by the Programme Organiser (PO) who also decided the issues discussed in these meetings. In the case of 43.6% of the

meetings issues were predecided, meaning that the VO members did not have much role in choosing a topic.

**2. Case Studies on Primary Education: A Study of three Schools (Bastia, Ramnagar Manikpeer and Sarmangal), (pp.99)**

The government of Bangladesh has made a serious commitment to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) by the year 2000. The literacy rate of the country is one of the lowest - 19.7% for all ages and 23.8% for those five years and above.

In order to identify the constraints that confront the primary education system in rural Bangladesh, BRAC has undertaken a series of intensive studies on government primary schools. A substantial amount of quantitative and qualitative information was collected through direct observation, interviews and discussion with teachers, students, guardians and members of the School Management Committee (SMC) of three different schools, one in Manikganj (Bastia school), the second in Joypurhat district (Ram Nagar Manikpeer school) and the third in Haor region in Sunamgonj district (Sarmangal school).

The study in Manikgonj found that 45 percent of children of school going age (6 - 10 years) in the school command area is not enrolled in any formal school. In Joypurhat this figure is 40% and in Sunamganj it is as high as 82%. Of those enrolled 50% remain absent from classes in Manikganj, 45% in

Joypurhat and 86% in Sunamgonj. In Manikganj teachers devote only 38% of the scheduled time to teaching, 35% in Joypurhat and only 22% in Sunamgonj. In all three schools many of the subjects in the syllabus are not taught and extra curricular activities virtually never held. None of the School Management Committees are able to perform their duties and most of the members do not even know what their responsibilities are. Supervision from the Upazila Education office in all three areas is irregular and inadequate. An important finding of all three studies is that primary education is not free. Various fees are charged and parents end up paying between Tk.50 to Tk.300 per student per year. Adding to all of this the inadequate physical facilities available and the extremely poor quality of teaching, the proof of which is that most students of Class I and II cannot even read their text books, it is not surprising that the guardians do not feel encouraged to send their wards to school.

### **3. An Evaluation of Shasthya Shebika (pp.41)**

Community health workers are popularly known as shasthya shebikas (SS). BRAC has been conducting the SS programme at Manikganj for quite a long time. The objective of this study was to assess the replicability of SS programme in other areas. For this study, 100 out of total 285 SS were selected as sample.

The findings indicate that the SS programme introduced in Manikganj is promising. It can be replicated in BRAC's upcoming health programme (WHDP) with some modifications. The study suggested the following recommendations - a) SS to be selected more carefully to reduce dropout rate, b) SS should have at least primary level education, c) the conception of upgraded SS should be abolished and all should be trained on 14 common diseases, d) their work should be supervised more closely by BRAC staff, VHC and the local government health staff.

**4. Performance of Former NFPE Students in Formal Schools (pp.28)**

BRAC initiated a Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) programme for poor children in mid 1980s. NFPE has now expanded to over 6000 schools, and some 40,000 students have already graduated. This is a follow up study of NFPE graduates. The objective of this study was to know the proportion of NFPE graduates who have got themselves admitted into government schools, their present educational status, causes of drop out and assess their performance in the formal schools. In all 327 students were interviewed for the purpose (58% girls and 42% boys). To assess the performance, the graduates and the relevant teachers of the formal schools were interviewed.

The study shows that 98% of the NFPE graduates got themselves

admitted in the formal schools, 90% of them being in class IV. The children of the RDP/RCP group members seemed to do better in respect of continuation in school in comparison to non-group members. The NFPE students were performing very similarly as the non-NFPE students. Of the students enrolled in 1989, 58% dropped out in two years. Of the students enrolled in class IV in 1990, 26% dropped out. The reasons for drop out of NFPE students from formal schools were low literacy of parents, lower density of schools, poor socio-economic condition of students household, etc.

5. **The Paralegal Programme : A Study of Knowledge Retention (pp.32).**

This study looks into BRAC's paralegal programme which provides legal education for group members. The study tried to find out what knowledge and how much was being retained by the group members. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the knowledge retention of the course participants. What the participants think of the programme was also explored through this study.

Two groups are compared. The experimental group comprised of 150 VO members who had participated in the legal literacy classes and comparison group comprised of 50 people who had no legal education but were also group members.

The study shows that knowledge retention on legal age for

marriage for men and women, illegality of dowry, invalidity of "hilla" marriage, etc., are higher for paralegal group respondents than control group.

Those who have had legal education say that the course has definitely been beneficial. There have been a few individual cases where there has been actual utilization of knowledge. A handful of people have refused to pay or accept dowry for their children's marriage. One woman who had taken the course found out that she had a claim to her dead father's land and managed to successfully fight for it.

**6. Reproductive History and Contraceptive Behaviour: Focusing on Selected Indicators (pp.41).**

This study explored the various aspects of the reproductive history of ever-married women and their influences on women's contraceptive behaviour. The study was carried out in two rural areas of Jamalpur Sadar upazila and Monirampur upazila of Jessore district. There are 2558 respondents taken from 14 villages, 7 from each area.

The study finds that both the contraceptive ever-use rate and the contraceptive prevalence rate, 49.73 and 43.59 percent respectively, are higher for Jamalpur than Monirampur.

Women with one son and one daughter alive, have a contraceptive ever-use rate of 64.71%. Women with two sons

and one daughter alive are the best acceptors of contraception, their ever-use rate is 68.16%.

Child mortality plays a powerful role against contraception. The women who have experienced three children's death have an ever-use rate of 33.80%.

The ever-married women who had two or more still births present a contraceptive ever-use rate of 34.48%.

**7. Roof Over My Head: A Study on BRAC's Housing Programme for the Poor (pp.59)**

BRAC started its housing programme in 1984 to help improve the housing condition of the rural poor. Four different types of housing loans valued at Tk. 2500 (D), Tk. 3500 (C), Tk. 4500 (B), Tk. 6000 (A) are provided to BRAC group members. At the time of conducting this study the scheme was being implemented in 56 RDP/RCP branches. The loan carries a soft interest of 7.5% for male and 5% for female loanees.

This study looks at 215 housing loanees as an "experimental" group and 93 non-housing loanees as a "control" group.

Out of the total loan, 69% went to the females. The use of the loan was better in case of female loanees, and proper utilisation was higher in lower category (i.e., 'C' and 'D' category) loans.



Nearly 100% abided by the condition of using CI sheet for roofing purpose. Another condition of the loan was construction of sanitary latrines. But only one loanee constructed a sanitary latrine out of the loan money, others did not. In terms of repayment, 63% of the male and 75% of the female loanees repaid their instalments on time. Regarding secondary use of the houses, about half of the respondents use them for other purposes such as weaving, poultry, grocery, etc. The study also identified the reasons for not taking the loan by a large number of RDP group members. Some of the reasons stated by the respondents are "the amount is poor", "the procedure is troublesome and time consuming", etc."

**8. Growth Monitoring in the Context of a Primary Health Care Programme (pp.27)**

During the last decade, growth monitoring (GM) has been promoted as an important child survival intervention, but questions have been raised about its effectiveness and feasibility in less developed countries. The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) implemented this strategy for over four years, and every month about 20,000 children under 2 years of age were weighed and the accompanying mothers were given health and nutrition education. A recent evaluation found a modest coverage (43%) of the target children. Accuracy in age determination of the target children was found to be reasonably good with more than 90% within 30 days

of actual age. 87% of the salter (round) scales were found giving accurate results compared to only 17% of the cylinder (Salter glass) scales. 80% of the scales were zeroed at the start of each GM session. 89% weights were correctly read and recorded on charts and registers.

Local volunteers, mostly women, participated in conducting GM sessions by performing some activities such as weighing, recording, demonstrating supplementary diet, etc. Growth monitoring was not found to be associated with increased utilization of selected child survival interventions such as ORT. The nutritional status of participating children was marginally better than a comparable group of children who did not participate in GM. It was found that the programme was equally accessible to all socio-economic and gender groups. The BRAC response to the findings in terms of modifying and revising implementation strategies are also discussed.

**9. Programme Response to Research Recommendations (pp.51)**

This report is an attempt to follow up on the implementation of research findings on three specific BRAC programmes; Poultry, Irrigation and Social Forestry.

According to this report there is a certain communication gap between RED and the different development programmes of BRAC. Some programme people who feel that RED only points out the

flaws of their programmes are perhaps unable to use the criticism provided in the reports. On the whole however, the response to report recommendations is encouraging.

**10. Grains for the Poor: A Look at Pally Rationing System in Bangladesh (pp.53).**

Two years after the initiation of the Pally Rationing (PR) system, the Ministry of Food requested BRAC to conduct a study on effective operation of the system. This report is an outcome of that request.

The study aimed to examine whether the foodgrains supplied through PR are sold, a) in approved quantity, b) to actual cardholders, c) at fixed price, and d) on regular basis strictly in accordance with the instructions of the government. Following the systematic sampling method, 5% of the listed cardholders (623) from 24 unions of 8 upazilas were selected as sample respondents. Twenty four dealers, 24

UP chairmen, 8 upazila chairmen and 2 District Control of Food were the additional respondents.

The result shows that 37% of the listed persons were selected as per the government criteria, others were not. Though said to have been officially issued and distributed, the cards did not reach many of the listed persons (35%). These cards are believed to have been used by others who are not the actual

beneficiaries. The food ration did not reach 61% of the listed persons. Only 13% of the respondents drew their ration all the weeks last year while 30% did not draw any ration at all during this period. Around 24% of the respondent cardholders received more than their entitlement while 20% of the cardholders took less rice than what they are entitled to. Seventeen percent of the dealers admitted that they sold rice at a price fixed by the government. Nearly 47% of the dealers admitted that they also sold ration food to non-cardholders and at open market.

The reasons for this situation are - gross irregularity in selection of beneficiaries, purposive selection of dealers, lack of proper supervision of food officials, unholy collusion between different parties (viz., dealers, public representatives, food officials), not informing the beneficiaries timely about PR, not enough commission for dealers etc.

**11. Loan Recovery Performance of Rural Poor: Variations and Inter-Relationships (pp.63).**

This study looks at the dynamic relations of different variables like region, year of establishment of the area office, gender of the loanees, categories of schemes, period of loan disbursement, number of borrowers, duration of schemes, size of loan, realization rates, outstanding loans, etc. , with the performance of BRAC's credit programme.

The information came from 17,312 schemes of various kinds covering all the due for recovery schemes. The schemes are spread over 57 Areas of RDP.

Highest recovery rate is found in rural industries sector followed by small trading, rural transport, livestock, agriculture, irrigation and fisheries. Irrigation and fisheries have the lowest recovery rates of 78% and 46.7% respectively compared to the overall recovery rate of 83.6%.

There is a very weak correlation between the recovery rate and the amount of disbursement. Female recovery rate is higher than male recovery rate (87.6% vs 76.1%).

There is a negative correlation (-0.28) between the age of Areas and the recovery rate which are also same both for male (-0.34) and female (-0.16). Technology based schemes have 82% recovery rates compared to 76% in traditional agriculture schemes. Distribution of recovery rates by the size of the loans in the agriculture sector shows a highly negative correlation (-0.82). Recovery rate in the fisheries sector compared to other sectors is one of the lowest which is 46.7% only. Highest concentration of overdues is found in 5 to 10 year old areas.

Largest percentage (65.7%) of RDP credit goes as short term credit which has better recovery rates. There is a negative

correlation (-0.28) between the recovery rate by sector and average capital labour ratio and a low degree positive correlation (0.24) between the capital productivity and the recovery rate.

**12. The Impact of Sweet Water Fisheries on the Lives of the Rural Poor (pp.38)**

The increasing population of Bangladesh has created among other things a pressure on the fish resources of the country. BRAC's effort to increase Sweet Water Fisheries (SWF) is a response to the pressure and seeks to increase production of fish resources. The study seeks to explore the profitability and benefit pattern of the sweet water fisheries schemes of BRAC. The study details the processes of operation of the fisheries schemes, efficient input combination, constraints relating to inputs, financial analysis and finally a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of 44 BRAC financed sweet water fisheries schemes. The study also explores the distribution pattern of the benefits from the scheme.

**13. Planning and Management Training to the VO Members: A Look into Some Aspects (pp.45).**

Planning and management training to the organised group members is a major component of BRAC's total Human Development and Management training course. As the success of a training programme depends upon the achievement of the training objectives, RED conducted an evaluation study of the

said training programme in August 1991. The objectives were to examine the selection process of the trainees to the course; to study status of trained member and if and how they disseminated their knowledge; and to highlight the successful cases where the trained members have applied their training knowledge within the village organisations (VOs).

Amdia, a RCP branch in Narsingdi was purposively selected with a total of 109 randomly selected respondents among which 42 were trained and 30 were control.

The findings portrays that about 14% of the trainees were selected beyond the age limit set as a criteria and 50% of the total respondents were found to be illiterate. Only 14% of the trained members were selected from the top echelon of VOs like chairpersons or the leaders to the course. In most cases (90%) they were selected through participatory discussion in VO meetings and most of them were found to have retained the training knowledge. Concerned BRAC staff were found to be very optimistic about the success of the training programme. About 83% of them that the trained members disseminated the training knowledge to the rest of the members in weekly and monthly VO meetings suggesting that an increased time allocation for those meetings can enhance the process of dissemination. A 10% to 12% increase in trained members attendance and savings rate have been found after the

training which could be related to the raised consciousness of the trained members as an outcome of the training.

**14. Development Activities of Government and Other NGOs in VSP Villages (pp.17).**

This documentation is an attempt to highlight the pattern and volume of development activities of other NGOs, local level public bodies and government agencies in VSP villages. The aim of this report is to identify and isolate the influence of development activities and inputs of other NGOs and public bodies working in these villages in an endeavour to separate the impact of BRAC interventions in these villages. The information for this report is gathered through a review of official documents of other NGOs, public bodies and agencies working in the RDP/VSP villages.

The review shows that Grameen Bank and Oxfam are working in the RDP/VSP areas at Jamalpur. Grameen Bank is working in two villages namely, Munshipara and Sonakata East while Oxfam is working in 4 villages including Munshipara, a village where Grameen Bank has organised its saving and credit activities. The three other working villages of Oxfam are Koronipara, Sonakata East and Sonakata West. A total of 110 people are covered under activities of Oxfam while the Grameen Bank has organised so far 4 female groups with 110 member from as many disadvantaged families. The total savings generated by Grameen Bank members is Tk. 17,048. The total loans disbursed



in these villages is Tk.295,500.

In the village of Jessore VSP study only BRDB, a government organisation, is found to have been working. In these villages no NGO other than BRAC is working. BRDB has so far organised 9 groups with 298 membership. The total savings generated by the groups is Tk.219,122 of which savings of male members is Tk.61,802 and that of female is tk.157,320. The total loan disbursed in these villages is Tk.115,885 which is 52% of the total group savings.

The report concludes that the real impact of the single NGO activities in a village where more than one NGO are working cannot be measured until and unless the activities of each and every NGO is documented isolation.

**15. Profile of RDP Activities in 10 Villages under VSP (pp.45)**

This report attempts to document RDP activities separately for each of the 10 villages under VSP. It covers some specific aspects of RDP intervention, viz., institution building, credit, education and sectoral activities such as poultry and livestock, sericulture, non-formal primary school and irrigation programmes organised as of June 1991.

The documentation aims to develop an information base for achieving the following: (1) making a follow up of RDP

activities in VSP villages on a regular basis, (2) comparing the changes taking place in the lives of the people with comprehensive baseline data, and (3) evaluating the subsequent RDP activities in certain specific areas.

The information were obtained through a study of several documents of the respective RDP areas in the VSP study site.

In all, 158 villages are covered as of June 1991 by the four RDP Areas having VSP village. Of these, 10 villages (6.35% of the total) are included under VSP study. In these villages, 21 VOs have been formed (men 10 and women 11) with 1263 members of which 614 (48.5%) are men and 649 (51.4%) women. The total savings generated by the groups is Tk.343,300 of which savings of male groups is Tk.163,623 (49.0%) and that of female groups is Tk.173,417 (51.0%). Data on Taherpur shows an exception that there is no female group activity in this village.

The findings reveal that, a total of Tk.24,95,350 is disbursed in 10 villages by June 1990 against different income generating activities. The total number of borrowing members in these villages is 871 of which 473 are men and 398 are women.

The total number of group members trained in these village is

863 (36.0% of total membership). Among them, 463 received training in Skill Development and 225 in Human Development. The total number of beneficiaries in these villages from other RDP activities such as IGVD, NFPE, poultry and livestock, sericulture and irrigation is 991. The second follow up of RDP activities in VSP villages will be done in June 1992, a year after this documentation.

**16. GO and NGO Cooperation in Human Resource Development in Bangladesh (pp.108).**

The report focuses on human development initiatives and activities pursued by NGOs through collaboration with the government. It has been prepared through a review of literature on human development effort of NGOs and aims at highlighting the NGO initiative and the collaborative endeavour for the enhancement of human capacity necessary for achieving sustained improvement in the lives of the rural poor and disadvantaged.

A wide range of issues are discussed in this paper including: pattern and nature of human development initiatives of NGOs, rationale of government and non- government collaboration in human resource development, human capacity enhancing programme of NGOs and facilitation to government efforts in health, education and rural employment sector directed for human development and constraints of GO and NGO collaboration in human development.

This paper concludes that NGO efforts for human development cannot be isolated from other NGO activities.

**17. Profitability, Capital and labour Productivity (pp.46).**

The study is an attempt to look into the position of profitability, capital and labour productivity in small scale economic enterprises both in farm and non farm sector, and the productivity of labour in schemes based on non traditional skills and occupation (technology and non technology based) in agricultural and non-agricultural sector. The study compares and ranks 48 schemes of various kinds in terms of profitability, value added, cost structure, capital productivity, employment coefficient, labour productivity.

**18. Rapid Rural Appraisal of BRAC Deep Tubewell Group (pp.27).**

Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) is a relatively approach of research in developing countries. This method was used in studying a DTW project.

The study was carried out in Chandipur in Jessore district, where a deep tubewell had been installed for the 1990-91 boro season.

The report describes a short exercise which was designed to explore the potential uses of the approach for BRAC. It is

divided into two major sections. The first is a general introduction to some of the most commonly used RRA techniques. The second presents the findings of an attempt to use RRA methods to assess the performance of a BRAC supported village deep tubewell group.

**19. Cyclone '91 Alerts : What People Knew and Did (pp.44)**

This is the first of a series of four studies on the cyclone of 1991. This study presents the perception of the people of coastal area about the warnings. It also helps to know about the precautionary action taken, the various reasons for not taking any precautionary action, the mechanism of predicting the nature of the cyclone if any, and why so many people lost their lives. For this study two upazilas viz., Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar district and Banshkhali in Chittagong district were selected.

Great danger warning was broadcast about 20 hours ahead of the actual impact. A major portion of the population received the warnings. The number of people receiving warning was higher in Kutubdia than in Banshkhali. TV and radio played a vital role. The majority of the people of Banshkhali and some (36%) people of Kutubdia received it not before three hours of cyclone i.e., when the wind began to blow.

Although a great majority had received warnings, they did not

the reach of the shelters but only three were operable. Only five had a latrine. The shelters varied in their type of structure, capacity and age. Almost all the shelters which were visited were used to the maximum extent except for two. The reasons for this less than optimum use are locational inaccessibility for the people and unhygiene condition. Problems faced by the users of the shelters were identified as lack of drinking water, latrine and light. Peacetime use of the shelters are Red Crescent office, schools, club, godown, herd, drying space for paddy, etc.

Some 795 'informal' shelters were identified, and nearly 75,000 people took refuge in these shelters.

Estimated cost of a death averted through the shelters is Tk.3,200 or US\$ 80.

The study finally comments that shelters have shown their usefulness and utility. However, in order to make best use out of their construction, the planners must consider other factors such as their location and maintenance.

#### **21. Cyclone '91: A Study of Epidemiology (pp.16).**

This study looks at the epidemiology of deaths due to the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh. Through this study epidemiological methods were used to estimate the death rates

and to identify some of the risk factors associated with death.

The study was carried out in 12 worst affected unions in four upazilas of the districts of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. A total of 2000 households are taken as sample.

The death rate found in the sample area is 105.5 per 1000 population which is less than that found for the 1970 cyclone. The total death found for Kutubdia is compared to government reported deaths. Extrapolating this the estimated death in Bangladesh through the 1991 cyclone is 51.5% of the government estimate.

Sixty percent deaths are in the under ten age group whereas this age group represented only 35% of the precyclone population. Women died 42% more than males, which is very similar in pattern to the 1970 cyclone.

Risk factors were also investigated. The height of the surge had a direct relationship with the number of deaths, number of deaths also related to literacy. Better educated is synonymous with economically better off and it is plausible that they would have better opportunities to save themselves. Extrapolating the post cyclone deaths, a higher than going rates in Bangladesh was found in the cyclone areas.

**22. Survey of Semi-Pucca Buildings of Banshkhali and Kutubdia Upazila Damaged by the Recent Devastating Cyclone (pp.77).**

The Cyclone of April 1991 played havoc on the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Hundreds of houses, schools and madrasa structures of the 'kutchha and semi-pucca' type perished totally or were damaged fully or partially. This study is built around a survey of 12 damaged semi-pucca buildings. Structural data from the field were examined in exhaustive manner.

In the main body of the report, discussions and engineering analysis of the collected data are done to arrive at certain conclusions regarding the reasons for structural failures and to propose cyclone proof, economically feasible and well planned structure to replace gradually the present ill planned, ill designed, cyclone prone semi-pucca structures.

**23. Research on the Fallout of Cyclone (pp.35).**

On the aftermath of cyclone 1991 a variety of research studies were undertaken. This report presents and reviews the results from some of these studies particularly those done at the initiative of the working group on Essential National health Research (ENHR). A short methodology for each of the relevant studies are included first and then a collective review of all the studies is then presented.



**24. Intervention and Change in Rural Bangladesh: Impact on Selected Socio-Economic Indicators (pp.51).**

The study is an impact evaluation of BRAC's development intervention over a period of seven years between 1983 and 1990. The study surveys the socio economic conditions of all the households in ten villages once in 1983 and again in 1990 and isolate changes of BRAC intervention on key socio economic indicators like income, employment. Consumption, savings, investment, land ownership pattern, rural indebtedness, occupation, death rates and birth rates, literacy skill and dependency relations.

**25. Price of BRAC's Development Intervention: How Costly is too Costly (pp.32).**

This report makes an indepth analysis of the cost benefit pattern of the NGO activities, particularly BRAC. The study challenges the conventional belief that NGO programmes are costly compared to the governmental programmes, when cost is compared with the output. The study elaborates on the intangible benefits of NGO intervention and makes an indepth social profitability analysis of BRAC programmes like RDP, RCP, irrigation, poultry programmes, livestock and fisheries. It also incorporates a methodological exercise of isolating cost of credit, institution building and income generation in an integrated process of programme intervention.

**26. Group Approach to Empowering Women: An Emerging Development Paradigm from South Asia (pp.35).**

The study synthesizes research findings from literature reviews and empirical analogues of BRAC's development interventions for women and brings out the potentials and pitfalls of BRAC's approach to women's development. The study articulates a conceptual framework of the approach and presents it as an alternative development paradigm of empowering women in the South Asian context. Taking into account the pattern of gender specific socio economic disadvantages, the study evaluates the rational and strategies of the paradigm. Analysing the pattern and methodology of group approach it critically reviews the impact of intervention on the quality of life of the womenfolk. The study concludes that the emerging development paradigm in South Asia could be a way of bringing poor third world women out of subjugation and powerlessness.

**27. Federating Village Level Organizations (pp.7).**

A common strategy for empowerment of the neglected and disadvantaged sections of the rural Bangladeshi community has been to organise village level organisations. As a further strategy of consolidating this empowerment, many NGOs have been talking about, and some implementing, higher level federations of the village organisations (VOs). BRAC has also been trying to organise these federations in different areas mainly through local initiatives. There has not been any

clear-cut official policy from BRAC on this. As the programme is expanding faster than before, BRAC now desires to have an official policy. In order to review the whole question of federation building, a task force was set up in early 1991. This paper is a presentation of the task force findings.

In course of the review, the task force members visited several NGOs who have been trying out different methodologies in federation building. The organisations included FIVDB (Sylhet), Comilla Proshika (Comilla), SFDP/BARD (Comilla), ASA (Dhaka) and two BRAC areas. The task force recommended that BRAC starts federating vOs initially at the union level. Modus operandi for the federations have also been suggested.

**28. Causes of Overdue Loan in RDP/RCP (pp.79)**

This is a series of three studies on overdue loan in RDP/RCP. These studies attempt to find out the causes of overdue loans. The studies were conducted at Ghior RDP branch, Atghoria RDP branch and Paglapir RCP branch.

To find out the causes of overdue loans, loanees and area office staff were interviewed. Talking with the above respondents it was found that projects damage, mismanagement and dishonesty of VO members, mismanagement of area offices are the causes of overdue. Some of the respondents informed that causes were not known to them.

Opinion on realisation possibilities of rescheduled overdues were also portrayed in these reports. At the end it was concluded that discipline in VOs be improved, management committee members as well as staff should be trained on the programme and in supervision. Loan ledgers should be updated.