

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION



ANNUAL REPORT  
1995

 IBIRAC

## GLOSSARY

ABC	Assessment of Basic Competencies	MIS	Management Information System
ADAB	Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh	MO	Medical Officer
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation	MUAC	Mid-upper-arm-circumference
ANCC	Antenatal Care Centre	NFPE	Non-Formal Primary Education
AO	Area Office	NFPE-AG	Non-Formal Primary Education for Adolescent Girls
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infections	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
BAFED	Bangladesh Forum for Education Development	NORAD	Norwegian Agency for International Development
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	NTG	Non-target Group
BEOC	Basic Education for Older Children	ODA	Overseas Development Administration (UK)
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	ORAP	Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (Zimbabwe)
BMDC	Bangladesh Management Development Centre	ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts/Solution
BRDB	Bangladesh Rural Development Board	ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
BRIP	BRAC Research Impact Project	PEOC	Primary Education for Older Children
CDM	Centre for Development Management	PHC	Primary Health Care
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	PO	Programme Organizer
CIIFAD	Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development	PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency	RDP	Rural Development Programme
DSS	Demographic Surveillance System	RED	Research and Evaluation Division
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization	RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
FP	Family Planning	RTI	Reproductive Tract Infections
GOB	Government of Bangladesh	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
GQAL	Gender Quality Action Learning	SC	Satellite Clinic
HH	Household	SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
HIID	Harvard Institute of International Development	SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
HKI	Helen Keller International	SS	Shasthya Shebika (Female Village Health Worker)
HPP	Health and Population Programme	STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
IAS	Impact Assessment System	TB	Tuberculosis
ICDDR,B	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
IDPM	Institute for Development and Policy Management (IDPM)	TG	Target Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	TOT	Training of Trainers
IGVGDP	Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development Programme	TT	Tetanus Toxoid
KK	Kishore-Kishori	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MCH-FP	Maternal and Child Health-Family Planning	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
		UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
		UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
		USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
		VO	Village Organization
		WHDP	Women's Health and Development Programme
		WHO	World Health Organization



**Research and Evaluation Division**

**Annual Report 1995**



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Photograph on title page: *A focus group discussion with members of a village organization (VO) in Uddamdi village of Matlab thana in Chandpur district.*

Photograph: Hasan Shareef Ahmed  
Sakhawat Hussain (p 18, 25, 3rd cover)

RED publishes research reports scientific papers, monographs, Bangla digest (Nirjash), Watch report, proceedings, and other publications on subjects relating to rural development, health, education, gender issues, and environment.



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## PREFACE

This is the ninth annual report of the Research and Evaluation Division (RED). This report documents the activities of the Division during 1995 which include multi-disciplinary current studies on various BRAC programmes and activities, collaborative research, special studies, joint studies with national and international organizations, trans-national study, impact and evaluation studies, staff development and training, workshops, dissemination of research findings and finance. Acronyms and abbreviations are thoroughly used in the report, a list of which appears on the back of the front cover.

Abstracts of the completed studies, lists of completed reports and other internal and external publications are also included in this report. These reports are available in the Ayesha Abed Library of BRAC.

If you have any comments on this report or would like to have more information on RED activities please contact Director, Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Research and Evaluation Division (RED) is supported by BRAC's core fund and funds from international donor agencies, organizations and governments, such as Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Ford Foundation, Government of Bangladesh, Helen Keller International, and Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the UK.

Current donors of BRAC include: AKF, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), DANIDA, Ford Foundation, the governments of Australia, Bangladesh and the Netherlands, Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), NOVIB, ODA, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNICEF, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

RED received wide support and cooperation from all sections of BRAC, particularly from the field staff without whose sincere support no field research could be conducted smoothly. RED also received useful comments and suggestions from researchers and reviewers of different disciplines and editors from within and outside the country which helped improve the quality of research and research reports.

RED is also grateful to those staff who helped in many ways to produce this annual report.

## INTRODUCING BRAC

BRAC, operating in Bangladesh since February 1972, has now emerged as one of the largest national private sector development organizations. BRAC implements a number of multi-sectoral programmes to achieve its two major goals of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor. The programmes cover 62,390 villages in 60 districts benefiting over 13 million people with 14,560 regular staff and nearly 49,000 part-time functionaries. BRAC serves primarily those households who own less than half-an-acre of land and survive by selling manual labour, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged women. BRAC believes that only the people themselves can bring about change through individual and cooperative action and supported by opportunities provided by BRAC and others. BRAC's annual budget for 1995 was US\$ 75 million.

BRAC is known as a 'learning organization' for its capacity to learn from its field experience. In fact, its decision to focus on these landless poor was mainly due to the lessons learnt from community development approach. BRAC revised its strategy on realizing that the country's elite-dominated social system favoured land owners and deprived the poor. BRAC's role as a capacity initiator is to:

- make the programme participants aware of their own problems and difficulties,
- provide them with tools to unite into organized groups, and
- increase their capacity to exercise their legal and civic rights.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP), the largest core programme of BRAC, has organized 48,771 poor landless groups in rural areas having more than 1.5 million members (92% are women). BRAC initiated rural credit in the 1970s, and since 1986 through the RDP. It has already disbursed 9,674 million taka among the rural poor to promote their income generating activities. RDP not only deals with credit, but it also includes institution building through social awareness and training; enterprise development; income and employment generation through poultry and livestock, vegetable cultivation, sericulture, fish

culture, social forestry, irrigation, and small trading.

A most important aspect of BRAC's drive for social mobilization and development has been its health intervention. BRAC's health intervention, covering 10 million people, currently use three major approaches. The Health and Population Programme is working to improve the health and nutrition status of women and children. These activities are carried out by facilitating government programmes, reaching areas where there are gaps in service delivery, and by developing the community's capacity to sustain these activities. Another approach is the facilitation of government programmes to strengthen their performance, management, and impact. The essential health care approach, managed by RDP, aims to ensure the provision of essential health care to RDP's programme participants, combining improvement of their health status with financial sustainability.

The Primary Education Programme runs 35,175 non-formal schools in the country to help educate children from the poor and socially disadvantaged households. The programme covers more than one million students of which 70% are girls. BRAC's education programme is regarded as the world's biggest private sector educational system. BRAC school model is being adapted in Eastern and Southern African countries since 1995.

Administrative and technical support services that facilitates BRAC's programme activities include: training, research and evaluation, monitoring, computer services, and marketing outlet *Aarong*. BRAC's income generating enterprises include a modern offset printing press, a cold storage, garment factories, and a textile mill.

BRAC's management is participatory and decentralized. Programme planning draws upon experience and expertise of workers at all levels in the organization. BRAC promotes women in various activities with a commitment to gender equality.



*RED field staff go to remote places in rural areas for data collection, follow-up and surveillance braving different difficult situations.*

## RED IN 1995: SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED), established in 1975, is an independent unit within BRAC. Research is an integral part of any development intervention. The primary responsibility of RED is to provide necessary research support to BRAC programmes. Besides, RED undertakes studies on request from the government, other national and international NGOs and development organizations. RED also undertakes joint studies and collaborative research on various subjects related to rural development.

RED conducts wide range of studies including survey research, demographic surveillance, diagnostic studies, monitoring and evaluation studies, action research, and impact studies. Some of the studies are conducted on ad hoc basis but others are of short-term and long-term duration.

RED has been collecting a wide range of information through its 14 field stations throughout the country. These information are being used to analyze the changes taking place over time in rural Bangladesh both within and outside BRAC programme areas.

To date RED has produced 462 research reports, which were mostly used by BRAC programmes. Results of the studies were made available to policy makers, programme managers, operational and field staff, and BRAC donors through RED seminars, reports, and a number of BRAC/RED publications. RED research findings are also used by the Bangladesh government, different development organizations, academics and researchers.

RED studies got wide acclamation from different corners. The study entitled 'Assessment of basic competencies (ABC),' conducted in 1992-1993, had sparked wide interest among some of the SAARC countries. The Bangladesh government had conducted a survey using the same methods and tools developed by BRAC. Pakistan and Nepal also initiated similar surveys using the same methodology.

RED is financed mainly by BRAC. In addition, it also mobilizes external funds through contractual and collaborative research, consultative services, and grants against specific projects. The 1995 budget allocation for RED was more than Taka 17 million, 70% of which was received from BRAC and the rest from external sources.

In 1995, RED produced a total of 66 study reports, papers, review articles, and conference proceedings. Of them, 55 reports of the completed studies were submitted to respective programmes, the abstracts of which appears in Annexure 1. At the end of the year 61 studies were ongoing (Annexure 2).

An editorial section was established within RED to plan, coordinate and produce RED publications, and to provide editorial help to RED researchers in preparing research reports and papers.

RED also arranged three special workshops with the Rural Development Programme (RDP), Health and Population Programme (HPP), and Non-Formal Primary Education Programme (NFPE) of BRAC to identify and formulate their future research needs.

The year 1995 has been a very productive year for the BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab. The mid-term review was done by external reviewers, the seasonal round of data collection was initiated and the first two rounds were completed, the analysis of the first round data was initiated, and 11 working papers were produced. For wider dissemination of the project activities, a newsletter - *Pathways* was planned to initiate in early 1996.

As a major study project, RED initiated a comprehensive Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of RDP in May 1993 with a multi-disciplinary team of RED researchers. Two external consultants from the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea, UK, helped design the methodology. The study findings were presented in various workshops and seminars



both at BRAC and at the University of Wales. The final report is expected in early 1996.

Standardized achievement tests not only help understand the progress of primary school children, but also indicate the efficiency of the teaching-learning process, quality and relevance of the curricula, and the use of text books. RED initiated a new kind of study entitled "Standardized achievement tests for BRAC's NFPE school children of grade III" in collaboration with the Bangladesh Forum for Education Development (BAFED).

Institutional collaboration was further widened in 1995. A study on training impact was designed and initiated with the Institute for Development and Policy Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, UK. Another joint study on elderly people was started with the Karolinska Institute of Sweden. BRAC, University of Umea in Sweden and the Cornell University (Division of Nutritional Sciences) of USA jointly developed ideas for operations research in nutritional anaemia.

A new collaboration with the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD), USA for undertaking a trans-continental study on sustainability of post-green revolution agriculture is under consideration. RED is also participating in producing a book on poverty alleviation being sponsored by the South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation and to be published by UNESCO.

BRAC is also participating in a trans-national study to enhance the sustainability and immunization coverage in the South and the North. Eight countries are involved in this project. RED hosted a planning conference at the Centre for Development Management (CDM) at Rajendrapur

which was attended by researchers from different participating countries.

A workshop on gender research was held in Dhaka as part of BRAC's efforts to build up gender research capacity of RED researchers in collaboration with the Harvard Institute of International Development (HIID), USA.

As a part of the NGO MIS project, RED extended technical assistance to eight small local NGOs to develop and improve their monitoring, evaluation, and management information system. Eight computers with accessories were provided to these NGOs. Hands-on-training were also provided through intensive training workshops on computer use, management and data analysis. A number of short-term training programmes were also arranged for the replaced staff of these NGOs.

Dissemination of research findings got more thrust in 1995. Two issues of the Bangla digest *Nirjash* (summary of selected research reports of RED), one issue of Rural Study Series containing four monographs, 11 working papers, three workshop proceedings and six Watch Reports were published. Besides, some papers were also submitted for publication to different national and international journals. An extensive book on BRAC's pioneering project on oral rehydration therapy was finalized for publication by the University Press Limited of Dhaka.

*Nirjash* was highly acclaimed by other NGOs and media people. Some major newspapers also published critical reviews on *Nirjash*. We also received many useful suggestions for its further improvement. Some NGOs have planned to replicate the *Nirjash* idea in their organizations for disseminating research findings to their field staff.

## RESEARCH THEMES AND AGENDA

Research themes and agenda of RED are determined mostly on BRAC's programmatic needs. Research issues are mostly suggested by BRAC staff and management, and donors. Individual researchers are also encouraged to identify research issues in consultation with respective programmes and study groups.

RED research issues cover a wide range of subjects, largely relevant to BRAC programmes, such as poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, employment and income generation, health, population, nutrition, education, and training. Special efforts were made to strengthen research on gender and environmental issues

related to development. The 1995 research themes could be broadly categorized into six groups as it was in 1994. These are illustrated below with samples of some thematic studies.

RED has arranged special workshops with BRAC's three core programmes (RDP, HPP and NFPE), to identify and formulate their research needs during 1995-1996. These extensive workshops were attended by the senior management staff and field managers of the three programmes and RED researchers. A large number of research issues were identified. The workshop proceedings and a list of research issues were published and are available in the library.

### RED research themes during 1995

Themes	Examples of related research
Population, health and nutrition	Impact of Health Programmes on Maternal Morbidity Reproductive, Maternal and Adolescent Health Situation of the Elderly in Bangladesh Quality of Health Care Social Science and Immunization Evaluation Research of Family Planning and TB Control Programmes Nutritional Surveillance Maternal and Child Nutrition
Impact of socioeconomic development on health and women's lives	BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab (see page 9-10)
Education and training	Assessment of Basic Competencies Studies on BRAC's Education Programme Impact Assessment of Training
Rural development and environment	Impact Assessment Study of BRAC's RDP Barriers to Participation in BRAC Programmes Institution Building and Organization Development Environmental Impact Assessment of Oxbow Lake Fisheries Project
Health and development surveillance	WATCH Project
Capacity building of NGOs	NGO MIS Capacity Building Project



## INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

Since its inception, RED has conducted many studies in collaboration with renowned national and international research institutions. Over the past decade, RED has widened the scope of institutional collaboration to strengthen its research capacity. In 1995, RED continued collaboration with:

Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh;  
Bangladesh Forum for Education Development (BAFED), Dhaka;  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, (BIDS), Dhaka;  
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Dhaka;  
Cornell University, USA;  
De La Salle University, the Philippines;  
Harvard School of Public Health, USA;  
Helen Keller International, Dhaka;  
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK;  
International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), Dhaka;  
Karolinska Institute, Sweden;  
Mahidol University, Thailand;  
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, India;  
National Minor Irrigation Development Project (NMIDP), Dhaka;  
Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands;  
UNICEF, Dhaka;  
University College of Wales at Swansea, UK;  
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands;  
University of Manchester, UK;  
University of Philippines at Los Banos, the Philippines; and  
University of Umea, Sweden.

### **BRAC-UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER JOINT STUDY ON TRAINING IMPACT**

BRAC, in collaboration with the Institute of Development and Policy Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, UK, initiated a research project in October 1994 to develop appropriate methodology for assessing the impact of training on rural population in relation to the impact of

BRAC's training on Human Rights and Legal Education. The study is in progress and the final report is expected in early 1996.

### **HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL: NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE PROJECT**

RED, in collaboration with Helen Keller International, has been carrying out the Nutritional Surveillance Project since April 1990. At present, the project is being operated in 125 villages of Saturia, Santhia, Mirzapur, Sakhipur and Kazipur thana. The prime objective of the project is to identify geographical pockets of young children



*RED conducts regular monitoring of children's nutritional status in rural areas.*

who are most vulnerable to the effects of disasters and to give a base against which the effects of interventions can be assessed. In each village, anthropometric, health and socio-economic data are collected every two months on 20 children aged 6-59 months. In addition to monitor children's nutritional status, this project with its diversified types of data provides a good opportunity to evaluate the nutritional impact of BRAC's development interventions on a regular basis in the above mentioned thanas.

#### **KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE, SWEDEN: ELDERLY CARE IN BANGLADESH**

RED has undertaken a study on "Elderly care in Bangladesh" in collaboration with the Karolinska Institute of Sweden in November 1995. The aim of the study is to create a baseline knowledge on the situation of the elderly in Bangladesh to provide a basis for future planning and intervention regarding the elderly. Urban and rural areas were selected from Dhaka and Jamalpur districts respectively for data collection. All elderly people (60 years and above) of randomly sampled areas were included in the study. Data were collected through interview and focus group discussion. Information included were: socio-economic status of elderly women and men, family support, contribution of elderly people in household work, use of health care services, assessment of cognitive function, ability to tackle with daily primary and secondary activities.

#### **REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROGRAMMES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS**

BRAC, in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute for Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN), government of Bangladesh, and the University of Philippines at Los Banos, organized the Regional Workshop on Programmes in Poverty Alleviation and their Impact on the Nutritional Status of the Vulnerable Groups on 3-5 June 1995 at CDM, Rajendrapur. Participants to this workshop came from eight Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The workshop aimed to identify the different poverty alleviation programmes and their impact on the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups and to determine some of the problems encountered as well as the lessons learned in the implementation of these programmes. Eight country papers were presented in the workshop. The Bangladesh country paper was presented by SM Ziauddin Hyder, Senior Research Nutritionist at RED, BRAC.

#### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - 9 OF BRDB**

Rural Development Project-9 (RD-9) is a poverty alleviation project of the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB). One of the priority for the project is to ensure participatory planning and monitoring. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was thought to be a most suitable technique for them.

BRDB approached BRAC to provide them with suitable training for introducing PRA techniques for participatory planning and monitoring in RD-9. The consultancy was designed for eight weeks in two phases. The first phase of six weeks started in December 1995 and the follow-up phase of two weeks will be held in May 1996.

#### **WIDER USE OF RRA/PRA TECHNIQUES**

RED continued its efforts in building capacities in Rapid Rural Appraisal and Participatory Rural Appraisal (RRA/PRA) techniques as qualitative tools for research. RRA/PRA tools were widely used in the impact assessment study of BRAC's RDP during 1993-1994. Use of RRA/PRA in identifying programme participants has also started. In January 1995, a team of RED researchers and RDP field staff jointly conducted a survey covering nearly 25,000 households in 72 villages in the Sadar thana of Lalmonirhat district. RDP has planned to use these methodologies in their programme areas in future.

A short-term training on the use of RRA/PRA techniques has been planned for RDP field staff in 1996. An Indian expert will conduct the training course in collaboration with RED researchers.

## INTERNEES

RED hosted 13 internees and student volunteers during 1995 from various educational institutions from USA, UK, and India. These internees, attached with senior RED staff, were provided with short-term training/orientation on different subjects of their interest. They also produced reports at the end of their internship. The list of internees is given below:

**Rumesa R Aziz**, Hampshire College, USA; **Shampa Bari**, India; **Neelofer Chaudhury**, **Amena A Chowdhury**, **Imrana Khera**, **Naureen Shahid**, Smith College, USA; **Farah Deeba**, Columbia University, USA; **Sagheer Bin Faiz**, Middlebury College, USA; **Rumana Huque**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; **Sameena H Ismail**, South Hamstead High School, UK; **Jamille Jinnah**, London School of Economics, UK; **Andrew J McKim**, Fordham

University, USA; and **Normin Mobassera**, University of California at Berkeley, USA.

## CONSULTANCY TO FAO

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Senior Research Nutritionist of RED, worked as a National Consultant to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN during August-October 1995. During the period SMZ Hyder, together with other consultants, helped the government of Bangladesh (GOB) to update the Bangladesh Country Paper (BCP) on nutrition which was presented in the International Conference on Nutrition, Rome 1995 and to prepare the Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN). He also assisted 15 sectors of the GOB to prepare their sectoral plan of action for nutrition to facilitate sectoral participation in the preparation of the NPAN. Dr Hyder actively participated in the preparation of a country reference document on nutrition entitled "State of Nutrition in Bangladesh 1995."

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

RED achieved significant progress in 1995. Many ongoing studies were completed and a number of new activities were also added. These new activities include core research projects on BRAC programmes, collaborative studies with other organizations, strengthening writing skills of RED researchers, and undertaking of a more extensive editing and publishing programme. The highlights of RED activities during 1995 are briefly presented below.

### RESEARCH OUTPUT IN 1995

A total of 66 reports, papers and review articles were prepared in 1995. Most of the research reports were on BRAC's development intervention. Abstracts of the completed study reports are presented in Annexure 1. Besides, a number of research papers and review articles were produced for publication in external journals, most of which are already published, or either *in press* or in the editorial process. Figure 1 shows the growth of RED research over the last 10 years. At the end of the year 61 studies were ongoing (Annexure 2).

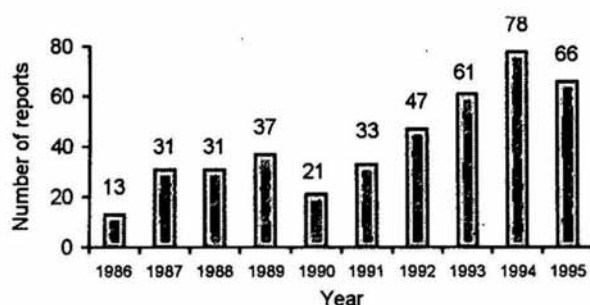


Figure 1. Growth of research output 1986-1995.

### BRAC-ICDDR,B JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT AT MATLAB

The year 1995 has been a very productive one for BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab. The major achievements of 1995 include: launching of the second phase of the study, a

mid-term review of the project, publication of a series of working papers, planning of a newsletter of the project -- *Pathways*, and commencing analysis of the first round data.

**Mid-term review:** The mid-term review of the project was done by a four-member external scientific team (Lincoln C Chen, Marty Chen, Wahiduddin Mahmud and Perti Pelto) commissioned by BRAC and ICDDR,B. The purpose of the review was to evaluate the progress till 1994 and to provide scientific guidance before initiating the second phase. The review was encouraging and provided some important inputs on designing the next phase of the study and further analysis of the baseline data. The project holds great promise for pathbreaking research on the outcomes and processes of rural development interventions on health, nutrition, reproduction, and the quality of life of low-income women and their families in the study villages.

**Launching of the seasonal survey:** Informed by the baseline and exploratory studies as well as deliberations of the workshop on research framework in the previous year, preparatory work for phase II began during early 1995. This phase consists of five research modules corresponding

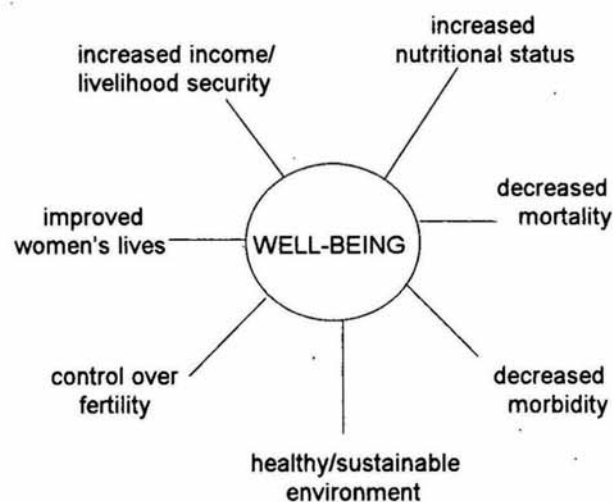


Figure 2. Seven dimensions of human well-being.



to the seven dimensions of well-being (Fig. 2) operationalized for the project. In each module, a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods are proposed to investigate the hypotheses outlined in the modules. A common sampling frame of 3,500 households in 14 villages in four research cells permitted the sharing of variables and qualitative insights between research modules as it is postulated that considerable overlap will exist between the various pathways of interest. Data collection for the first round started on 15 April 1995. By the end of December, work on third and final round of the seasonal survey was in progress. Being an iterative research process, components were added or dropped based on experiences from the previous rounds as thought necessary by the researchers. By late November 1995, analysis of the first round data started and several papers were planned for the Fifth Annual Scientific Conference of ICDDR,B in early 1996.

**RDP MIS and DSS-MIS linkage:** The MIS on RDP's different components (e.g., loan disbursement and repayment, capacity building, income-generating activities, school enrollment, information on Shasthya Sebikas, etc.) at Matlab, as well as establishing its linkage with the DSS data started operating since early August 1995.

**Small-scale in-depth studies:** Several qualitative studies on different aspects of health, nutrition and socioeconomic studies were

underway. Some other studies are being planned, and these are in different stages of development.

**Working paper series/Newsletter:** A working paper series is planned for rapid dissemination of research findings at home and abroad. Initially, 11 working papers were published covering wide ranging areas of the project (see page 23). *Pathways* – the proposed newsletter of the project is under preparation. The first issue is expected to come out in early 1996.

**Study reports:** In this year, the project researchers completed six research reports and were working on nine others.

### RDP IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

Rural Development Programme (RDP) is the centre of BRAC interventions, covering over 1.5 million landless people. In early 1993, the BRAC management and donors felt the need of a thorough assessment of the impact of RDP inputs on its beneficiaries. In response to this, RED initiated an Impact Assessment System (IAS) in May 1993. The study adopted an integrated methodology to compare and analyze RDP's impact on the socioeconomic conditions and well-being of RDP members.

The draft report on the household survey and



*Individual interview is a most widely used technique of data collection at RED.*

case studies were presented in a workshop involving BRAC management, donor agencies and other eminent Bangladeshi experts. The preliminary results of the study were taken into consideration while formulating the strategic plan of BRAC. The preliminary findings were also presented at the University of Wales, Swansea, UK in January 1995. The IAS has defined a "critical mass" – a group of VO members who joined RDP two and a half years ago and have received over Tk 7,500 cumulative RDP loans – for whom significant changes became measurable. The seasonal vulnerability has decreased markedly, and there is positive evidence of enhanced coping capacity of members.

The final draft was later reviewed by a local expert and some representatives of BRAC's RDP Donor Consortium. The feedback created scope for further analysis of the findings and refinement of the report. The final report is expected to be completed in early 1996.

BRAC plans to implement an Impact Assessment System which will include among others IAS type survey repeated twice during RDP phase IV to facilitate mid-term and final reviews of the programme. Moreover, the present study is expected to raise issues which will be addressed by initiating new studies throughout the RDP phase IV (1996-2000).

#### **SOCIAL SCIENCE AND IMMUNIZATION: A MULTI-COUNTRY RESEARCH PROJECT**

BRAC and ICDDR,B are jointly participating in an international study to enhance the sustainability and coverage of immunization programmes in the South and the North by improving understanding of their sociocultural and political aspects. The major focus of the study are on four vital components: a) global programming and technology development, b) social demand in relation to coverage, quality and sustainability, c) the role of immunizing state, and enclaved low-coverage populations, and d) the ethics of research. The study is being carried out in Bangladesh, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, and USA. Two countries from Africa (Malawi and Ethiopia) are also expected to join.

On the Bangladesh part, the study team consists of scientists from BRAC and ICDDR,B. The team has chosen the critical issue of sustainability of immunization programmes in Bangladesh. The

first phase of the study will be completed by December 1997, while other sub-studies are expected to continue till the year 2000. The Bangladesh team hosted a research planning conference during 19-25 August 1995 at Dhaka which was participated by the concerned researchers from the participating countries. The conference had three objectives, viz. a) to review individual country research proposals, b) to discuss trans-national research themes and methodological issues, and c) to review the organizational structure of the research project. The Bangladesh team, in close collaboration with the government of Bangladesh, has completed the pilot phase of the study in December 1995. The analysis of data is underway.

#### **SYNTHESIS OF RESEARCH STUDIES ON RDP**

In 1995, RED commissioned a study to prepare a synthesis of its socioeconomic studies undertaken during 1986-1995 with particular emphasis on the impact of RDP on its participants. A total of 180 RED study reports were reviewed. The synthesis, produced by Professor AM Muazzam Husain of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, has been brought out in the form of a report entitled "An overview and synthesis of studies on RDP with special reference to its impact on participants." The report will help understand many of the impacts which RDP has created on the participants. It also indicates the future needs of studies to get a comprehensive view of RDP impacts.

#### **STUDY ON NUTRITIONAL IMPACT OF THE INCOME GENERATION FOR VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT (IGVGD) PROGRAMME**

The Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development (IGVGD) Programme is one of the development initiatives of BRAC aiming to ensure better participation of the destitute rural women in sustainable development activities. RED has been carrying out a longitudinal research project in 66 villages of Tangail Sadar and Kalihati thanas on the IGVGD programme and on a control population to assess impact of the programme on nutritional status of the pre-school children since January 1993. A total of 300 children in the programme households and 300 children in the non-programme households are included in the study. Anthropometric and

socioeconomic data of these children and their respective households are being collected every 6 months. As of December 1995, six rounds of data were collected. The final report of the study is expected in May 1996.

## WATCH PROJECT

The Health and Development Watch of RED began in 1986 in selected rural areas of Bangladesh to intensely monitor the change in health and demographic indicators as a result of BRAC's presence. The project has been regularly producing reports on demographic changes, coverage of child immunization, reproductive behaviour, child morbidity and treatment, impact of immunization on childhood mortality, vitamin A capsule distribution, and education.

A recent evaluation of this project has recommended inclusion of additional indicators such as poverty, women's status, environment, etc., in the system and make the data nationally representative. RED therefore, has recently expanded the geographic coverage of the project and shifted its focus from health only to development in general. At present, the project consists of two components: a) intensive monitoring to monitor the trends and variation of selected development indicators; and b) rapid survey to measure the level of development not covered in the intensive monitoring system.

Since nearly half of the villages in Bangladesh are covered by BRAC's RDP, the project is designed to include half of the study villages from the RDP command areas and the rest from the adjacent non-RDP areas. As part of the survey design, the country is divided into ten regions. In each region, about 6-8 villages were purposively identified. The project now includes 70 villages located in 10 districts.

The key indicators monitored under this project were selected from issues relevant to development. Some of these are sanitation and environment, living condition, education, empowerment and family violence, child labour, change in vital events, essential health and immunization. Six short reports under the series *Watch Report* and five full-fledged research reports were completed in 1995 on fertility, family planning, immunization, education and child labour. Some of these papers were presented in international conferences. Two studies on

education, and one each on living condition and environment are currently underway.

## NGO MIS PROJECT

With support from the Ford Foundation, RED initiated this project in 1993. Under this project, RED has been providing technical assistance to eight small Bangladeshi NGOs in developing their evaluation and monitoring capacities, particularly the management information system (MIS). These NGOs are Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC), Unnayan Shohojogi Team (UST), Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP), Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD), Institute of Integrated Rural Development (IIRD), Community Development Association (CDA) and Community Health Care Project (CHCP). Two members from each participating NGOs were given an extensive training for 10 days on intensive monitoring system and computer use in January 1995. A benchmark survey was also conducted during February-March in selected villages of the NGO MIS command areas by them to begin the field testing of intensive monitoring system. The tasks of computerization of the benchmark data were completed in May 1995. BRAC provided one 486SX computer, one dot matrix printer, one UPS, and other accessories to each participating NGOs for use in this project. Monthly monitoring of data collection in each NGO and regular follow-up of computer training are currently underway.

As a result of heavy staff turnover, some participating NGOs had to recruit new staff for this project. BRAC, therefore, had to organize a number of short-term training programmes for those replaced staff members both at the field offices and at BRAC head office. A second 10-day intensive training workshop on management and analysis of data was conducted in late 1995.

The participating NGOs are now generating data for their own purpose. Some of the data could be linked with Health and Development Watch project of BRAC. All participating NGOs could not be fully linked with the Watch project because all participating NGOs were not yet capable to collect high quality data that could be used for MIS. To review the progress, identify problems, and to provide suggestions for the remaining period of the project, the mid-term review of the project by external reviewers is now underway.



## **WORKSHOP ON GENDER RESEARCH**

To build up RED's research capacity on gender issues, a Gender Research Workshop was held on 23-25 January 1995 at the Centre for Development Management (CDM) at Rajendrapur as part of BRAC's collaboration with the Harvard Institute of International Development (HIID), USA. The objectives of the workshop were to discuss and understand issues related to gender research, analytical framework and methodology, feminist theories and women's movement. It also aimed to assess strengths and weaknesses in terms of gender analysis of selected BRAC research studies; and to solicit and discuss priority topics for future gender research at BRAC.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Marty Chen of HIID. Ms Simeen Mahmud and Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman from BIDS, and Dr Aruna Rao from BRAC attended the workshop as resource persons.

The workshop was attended by 20 researchers from RED, 4 trainers from BRAC's Gender Training Team and 2 programme staff from RDP and WHDP.

Several analytical frameworks relating to gender roles, social institutions, practical needs and strategic interests of women were discussed. Small group discussions and presentation were also held to assess strengths and weaknesses in terms of gender analysis of three BRAC research projects. The participants agreed that gender analysis without a proper understanding of the social system was incomplete.

The workshop recommendations include: a) follow up workshop with RED staff and selected programme staff to develop a common analytical framework for analyzing the linkages and interplay between social institutions, economic classes, household types, and gender roles and relationships in rural Bangladesh; b) another follow up workshop with interested researchers, programme and training staff to develop common meaningful indicators which would help assess the impact of BRAC's programmes on its target group women; c) special training for BRAC researchers interested in various conceptual and methodological issues relevant to gender research; and d) setting up of an editorial advisory committee for evaluating ongoing and future BRAC studies in terms of gender analysis.

## **STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR BRAC'S NFPE SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Standardized achievement tests not only help understanding the progress of primary school children, but also indicate the efficiency of the teaching-learning process, quality and relevance of the curricula, and the textbooks used. RED completed a new kind of study entitled "Standardized Achievement Tests for BRAC's NFPE school children of grade III" in collaboration with some experts of the Institute of Educational Research at the University of Dhaka and Bangladesh Forum for Education Development (BAFED). The purpose of the project was to develop standardized achievement test battery for the NFPE learners completing grade III.

The test battery comprises of four sub-tests in four subject areas, e.g., Bangla, environmental sciences, mathematics and English. The standardized test battery and a manual were developed in 1995 which is now being used by NFPE for assessing achievement of BRAC school children throughout the country.

## **STUDIES ON LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DEVELOPMENT**

In 1995, RED in collaboration with RDP planned two research studies on livestock and poultry development. The titles of the studies are:

- i. Investigation on the strategy and performance of artificial insemination programme and crossbred cattle in Bangladesh, and
- ii. Utilization of poultry vaccines and monitoring their potency at various levels in Bangladesh.

RED did not have the necessary technical expertise to deal with these two studies which require special skills and some laboratory tests of the vaccines. The Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, a specialized institution in the field of livestock research has been contacted to conduct the studies on behalf of BRAC. The studies are expected to generate useful information and insights on the strategy of artificial insemination and poultry vaccines which can help improve the quality of BRAC's livestock development and poultry programmes. The extension services operated by the government agencies in livestock and poultry can also be benefited through the findings of the studies. The



preliminary work was completed and the study will start in 1996.

## ACCLAMATION OF BRAC RESEARCH

The quality and usefulness of BRAC's research have been widely acclaimed both at home and abroad. The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA), a government of Bangladesh organization, has undertaken a big resettlement project on the basis of two survey reports produced by RED in 1993 and 1994. The survey findings and reports were highly appreciated by the World Bank which is a major donor to this bridge project.

In education research, the new methodology developed by RED in assessing the basic competencies (ABC) of children received wide recognition. The primary education department of the government of Bangladesh used this methodology in assessing the basic education competencies of children (study conducted through BIDS).



*RED field researchers and their supervisors check completed questionnaires everyday.*

The Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh, which is a member of BRAC donor consortium, appreciated the Impact Assessment Study of BRAC's Rural Development Programme conducted by RED. Excerpts:

*"Our general impression of the report is positive. It contains many interesting findings with implications for our perception of the whole concept of rural development and poverty alleviation. It thus provides a promising tool not only for assessment of the hitherto impact of RDP I-III, but also for the future design of Rural Development Programmes and other poverty targeting programmes."*

In 1995, RED conducted another impact assessment study of the Oxbow Lakes Small Scale Fishermen Project supported by IFAD and DANIDA Technical Assistance, Bangladesh. DANIDA highly appreciated the quality of the study.

Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC) highly appreciated BRAC for providing technical assistance in building their research capacity. Excerpts:

*"BRAC has been most helpful in the provision of technical assistance to BWHC over the past year or so. This has contributed greatly to the building up of the expertise of the staff of our small research unit. Once again, this is to thank you and other staff of your division for their help and openness to collaboration. This is a rare commodity not only in Bangladesh, but elsewhere also."*

In December 1995, BRAC received a request from the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) to participate in a collaborative research entitled "Sustainability of Post-Green Revolution Agriculture." While proposing the collaboration, Professor Norman Uphoff, Director of CIIFAD at Cornell University, USA mentioned:

*"BRAC certainly has an estimable research capability and record."*

While reviewing the first issue of *Nirjash*, a national daily highly acclaimed BRAC research, its output, and the publication of *Nirjash*. Excerpts:

*"....The facts which have been collected through BRAC research on various fields will help development workers and future researchers. ....All the articles of Nirjash are well edited. These articles, translated in a lucid language, will help widen our knowledge." (The Daily Ajker Kagoj, 16 July 1995)*

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

RED has been expanding with the expansion of BRAC. During the last 20 years RED has evolved into a full-fledged professional body in health and social science research in Bangladesh. In 1995, RED faced increasing demand for conducting research and evaluation studies to meet the rising needs of different programmes of BRAC. RED has always been concerned for enhancing the quality of its research. Several strategies were adopted to meet this challenge which include hiring of short-term consultants, more research and professional staff, developing their capacity through training and joint studies. As on 31 December 1995, RED had a team of 159 regular staff consisting of 49 core researchers, 77 field staff and 33 supporting staff. Nearly 50% of them were female.

### RECRUITMENT

The following staff were recruited on regular basis during 1995 (listed as per date of joining):

**Sharmin Mahbub**, BSc (Public Administration) from the University of Texas at Dallas, USA joined in January as Young Researcher.

**Hasan Shareef Ahmed**, MCom (Management), LLB from the University of Dhaka joined in January as Chief, Editing and Publication. Before joining BRAC, Mr Ahmed served ICDDR,B for 15 years in various capacities. He also worked for UNICEF as a Communication Consultant for some time.

**Mohammad Sadiqunnabi Choudhury**, MSS (Economics) from the Islamic University joined in June as a Young Researcher.

**Shantana Rani Halder**, PhD (Economics) from the Kiev State Economic University, Ukraine joined in June as Research Economist.

**Masuma Khatun**, MPS-FNP from University of Philippines at Los Banos joined in July as Staff Nutritionist.

**Ashish Paul**, BA from Chittagong University joined in August as Data Entry Technician.

**Shahaduzzaman**, MBBS, MPH from NIPSOM, University of Dhaka joined in October as Medical Officer (Research).

**Rosemary Gomes** joined in October as office Secretary.

**Fehmin Farashuddin**, MSc (Gender and Development) from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK joined in October as Staff Sociologist.

**Md Mamun-ur-Roshid**, BSc from University of Dhaka joined in December as Data Management Assistant.

### CONSULTANTS

The following short-term consultants worked for RED during the year to strengthen different field of research and activities:

**Alayne Adams** and **Tim Evans**, Harvard University, USA; **Abbas Bhuiya**, ICDDR,B; **M Nazmul Haq**, Institute of Education Research, University of Dhaka; **AM Muazzam Husain**, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh; **Md Shafiqul Islam** (previously associated with ICDDR,B as a social scientist); **Simeen Mahmud**, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka; **Wahiduddin Mahmud**, University of Dhaka; **Richard Montgomery**, **Angelika Brustinow**, **Julia Rees**, and **Nigel O'Leary**, University of Wales at Swansea, UK; and **Faria Zaman** (previously associated with North American Association for Environmental Education, USA).

### PROMOTION

RED considers promotion as a recognition of sincerity and good performance. It is not only an

incentive to deserving staff but it also boost up other staff to contribute their best for the organization. The following staff were promoted to higher level in 1995:

**Syed Masud Ahmed**, Medical Officer (Research), was made Senior Medical Officer (Research); **Ahmed Ali**, Senior Staff Nutritionist, was made Research Nutritionist; **Abdullahel Hadi**, Research Sociologist, was made Senior Research Sociologist; **Monira Hasan**, Staff Economist, was made Senior Staff Economist; **Mahmuda Rahman Khan**, Staff Economist, was made Senior Staff Economist; and **MA Razzaque**, Data Entry Technician, was elevated to a higher level.

## CONFIRMATION

The following staff were confirmed in their services:

**Shaheen Akter**, Staff Sociologist; **Gazi Mahmud Hassan**, Staff Economist; **Samiha Huda**, Young Researcher; **AM Shahed Husain**, Staff Economist; **Md Shahidul Islam**, Programme Organizer (Research); **Abdul Mannan Miah**, Executive Assistant; **Hashima-E-Nasreen**, Research Associate (Medical); **Md Moksudur Rahman**, Data Management Assistant; and **Sabah Tarannum**, Staff Nutritionist.

## TRAINING

### *Overseas training*

**Mahmuda Rahman Khan** was awarded a fellowship by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), USA, June-August 1995. Ms Khan spent three months in Washington D.C. working on her paper entitled "Effects of wage employment and credit for women in Bangladesh."

The following researchers are pursuing doctoral programme:

**Sanzidur Rahman** (Economics) at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand; and **Hassan Zaman** (Economics) at the University of Sussex, UK.

The following researchers are pursuing masters' programme:

**Shah Asad Ahmed** (Economics), University of Manchester, UK; **Dilruba Banu** (Gender & Development), University of Sussex, UK; **MA Kalam** (Adult Education), University of Manchester, UK; and **FM Kamal** (Public Health), University of North Carolina, USA.

**Rita Das Roy** obtained MPS degree in Food & Nutrition Planning from the University of Philippines at Los Banos.

### *In-country training*

**Monira Hasan** got a one-year fellowship (Robert S McNamara Fellowship of the World Bank) to conduct a study on "Participatory development and BRAC: improving basic literacy for disadvantaged children."

**Shahnaj Akter**, **Shameem Ara Begum**, **Shantana Rani Halder**, and **M Shahed Husain** attended a Training Workshop on Gender Analysis and Its Application in Agriculture, organized by BARD, Comilla.

The following staff took part in a Training Workshop on Gender Research, organized by RED during 23-25 January 1995:

**Kaosar Afsana**, **Shah Asad Ahmed**, **Syed Masud Ahmed**, **Ahmed Ali**, **Dilruba Banu**, **Shameem Ara Begum**, **Parul Lata Biswas**, **AMR Chowdhury**, **Monira Hasan**, **Naomi T Hossain**, **Samiha Huda**, **SM Ziauddin Hyder**, **M Nazrul Islam**, **Mahmuda R Khan**, **Sharmin Mahbub**, **Manzurul Mannan**, **Abdul Mannan Miah**, **Rehana A Murshed**, **Hashima-E-Nasreen**, **MG Sattar**, **Gul Rukh Selim**, **Rita Sen**, and **Sabah Tarannum**.

**Sabah Tarannum** participated in a training course on "Maize Cultivation and its Use," organized by Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN), Dhaka, 25-26 February 1995.

**Manzurul Mannan** and **Rita Sen** attended the Gender Awareness and Analysis Course (GAAC) at Mymensing TARC, 11-16 March 1995.

**Feroza Begum, Manzurul Mannan and Rita Sen** participated in the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Gender Quality Action Learning (GQAL) organized by the Training Division of BRAC at CDM, Rajendrapur, 6-13 April 1995.

**Kaisar Ali Khan** attended an orientation course to develop English language proficiency at British Council, Dhaka, August-December 1995.

**Shaheen Akter, Gazi Mahmud Hassan and AM Shahed Husain** attended a computer training course arranged by the BRAC Computer Centre, Dhaka, October-November 1995.

**Syeda Nasima Begum**, Librarian, Ayesha Abed Library, participated in a training course on the use of "Computerized Documentation System/Integrated Set of Information System (CDS/ISIS)" organized by the CIRDAP, Dhaka, November 1995.

**MS Choudhury, Rukhsana Gazi, Shantana R Halder, Gazi Mahmud Hassan, Samiha Huda, AM Shahed Husain, and Masuma Khatun** participated in a course on Quantitative Research Methodology with Special Application of SPSS/PC, organized by the BMDC in December 1995.

#### **BRAC RESEARCH IMPACT PROJECT (BRIP)**

The BRAC Research Impact Project (BRIP), which was started in 1993 to strengthen RED's capacity in socioeconomic research is still continuing. BRIP activities include: providing specialized training to BRAC's research and monitoring staff in UK and Bangladesh, developing skills in rapid research, and conducting studies jointly with external experts. Under this programme, two RED researchers were pursuing masters programme in UK in 1995. One was studying gender and development at the University of Sussex, and the other was studying adult education at the University of Manchester. Moreover, an impact assessment study on BRAC's Human Rights and Legal Education was initiated jointly with two experts from the University of Manchester, UK.

A team of RED researchers and RDP managers visited different organizations and field projects in West Bengal (India) in November 1995 to observe the use of PRA techniques in development activities.

Two new studies on BRAC's education and poultry programmes were planned in 1995 under the BRIP activities. A team of RED researchers will visit the Philippines in early 1996 to gain insights from the application of PRA techniques in the Philippines.

#### **STUDY GROUP**

Along with the rapid growth of BRAC programmes, the volume and diversities of RED activities have also been growing fast. This necessitated decentralization of research administration for further strengthening of research activities at RED. Thus, seven study groups were formed under the leadership of senior researchers as study group coordinators (SGCs). The SGCs are responsible to provide scientific leadership, plan and coordinate the activities of the group, guide and supervise the group members, and also to initiate training programme for junior researchers. This arrangement essentially has created ample opportunity for leadership development and coordinated research efforts for more quality output.

In fact, the study groups are not static rather necessary changes are made time to time to cope with the emerging situation.

#### **LIBRARY**

The Ayesha Abed Library was established to provide library facilities to BRAC's research and programme personnel. The library is housed within RED and is managed by RED.

In 1995, the library procured 212 new books. Forty-eight journal titles, 22 newsletters, and 8 magazines were either subscribed or received complimentary. All major dailies and weeklies were also subscribed. As of December 1995, the library had 5,474 books, 33 bound volumes of RED research reports, and nearly 5,000 other reports. The library membership stood at 293, and 324 outsiders used the library facilities during the year. The library also produced four issues of current awareness service bulletin – *New Arrivals*.

Multiple copies of six Bangladeshi development journals are regularly subscribed and distributed to different field offices of BRAC. The library also



provides photocopying services and sells selected BRAC publications and RED research reports.

An inter-library loan system has been established with the ICDDR,B library to provide specialized services particularly to health and population researchers of RED.

The library has been equipped with a 486SX personal computer with CD-ROM drive. A database on CDS/ISIS was initiated in December 1995. Population database POPLINE was also installed.



*The inside view of the Ayesha Abed Library.*

## DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

### SEMINARS

Research becomes useless if the results are not disseminated. RED considers dissemination as one of its important activities. All research findings of 1995 were presented in RED in-house seminars among the researchers, operation managers and the senior management staff. Some important and special research findings were also presented to much larger audience comprising people from both within and outside BRAC. Some of the findings were also presented in monthly meetings of the field managers held at BRAC's head office. All study reports were distributed to concerned departments of BRAC and to relevant national and international organizations. These reports are available in bound volumes in the Ayesha Abed Library of BRAC.

### CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

A number of RED staff attended the following international conferences and workshops during the year (listed alphabetically):

**Kaosar Afsana, Ahmed Ali, AMR Chowdhury, Rukhsana Gazi, MN Islam, F Karim, SN Mahmud, Hashima-E-Nasreen** attended the "18th Eastern Regional Conference on Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases of IUATLD, Bangladesh 1995", organized by NATAB, Dhaka, 28-31 October 1995.

*Presented a paper entitled "Evaluation of community-based tuberculosis control programme in Bangladesh."*

**Kaosar Afsana, AMR Chowdhury, Fazlul Karim and Abdul Mannan Miah** attended the "Research Planning Workshop on Social Science and Immunization: Comparative Research in Asia, Europe and America", Organized by Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, BRAC and ICDDR,B, Rajendrapur, 19-24 August 1995.

**Feroza Begum** participated in the workshop on "Empowerment of Women: Nairobi 1985 to Beijing 1995," organized by Women for Women, Dhaka, 16-18 March 1995.

**AMR Chowdhury** attended the "International Seminar on School Effectiveness" organized by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, India, July 1995;

attended the workshop of paper writers for a forthcoming book (as a follow-up to the work of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation), organized by the South Asian Perspectives Network, Puri, India, October 1995;

involved in the Health Sector Work in Nepal, sponsored by the World Bank, and made two visits to Nepal in 1995; and

also involved in the Study of Bonded Labour Liberation Front's (BLLF) Apna School Programme in Pakistan, sponsored by UNICEF and Radda Barnen, and made several visits to Pakistan in 1994 and 1995.

**AMR Chowdhury, Abdullaehadi Hadi, F Karim and MG Sattar** attended the "Workshop on Team Technology in Project Planning", organized by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), UK and held at the British High Commission, Dhaka, 28-29 March 1995.

**AMR Chowdhury, SM Ziauddin Hyder and Sabah Tarannum** participated in the "Regional Food and Nutritional Planning Workshop on Programmes in Poverty Alleviation and their Impact on Nutritional Status of the Vulnerable Groups" Organized by RED at Rajendrapur, 3-5 June 1995.

**Monira Hasan** attended two workshops on 'Women's Education Amidst-Economic, Political and Social Changes'. Launched by the UNESCO Institute for Education, Hamburg, Germany. She

also presented two papers in two phases of the workshop:

*Phase-I: Presented a paper entitled "Women's Education and Religious Extremism: the case of Bangladesh" during 15-19 May 1995.*

*Phase-II: Presented a paper entitled "Does Primary Education Bring any Change for Rural Women: Learning from BRAC Experience" during 13-17 November 1995.*

**Monira Hasan and Feroza Begum** attended the workshop on "Women and Literacy in Bangladesh", jointly organized by ADAB and UNESCO Institution for Education, Hamburg, Germany, Dhaka, 29-31 March 1995.

**Monira Hasan and Mahmuda R Khan** attended the workshop on "Gender Issues in Export-based Industrialization in Bangladesh", organized by Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, 27-28 October 1995.

**Altaf Hossain** attended the workshop on "Fisheries Research Dissemination", jointly organized by the University of Bath, UK and Proshika-MUK, Dhaka, 7 September 1995.

**SM Ziauddin Hyder** attended the "Intersectoral Workshop on Developing Bangladesh Country Paper for the International Conference on Nutrition and Bangladesh Plan of Action for Nutrition", organized by the Institute of Child and Mother Health, Dhaka, 24 August 1995.

**M N Islam** participated in the workshop on "Preparation for the Asia and Pacific Regional Network on Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health and Fora on the Teaching of Health and Social Science", organized by ICDDR,B Dhaka, 30 November 1995.

**F Karim** attended the Project Launching Workshop on Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project, Dhaka, 2-4 August 1995.

**Mahmuda R Khan** attended the workshop on "Fourth South-South Exchange of PRA Practitioners," Silang, the Philippines, 21 March-3 April 1995.

*Presented a paper entitled "Participatory Rural Appraisal in Bangladesh."*

**Shahriar R Khan** attended the "Effective PopLine Implementation Workshop" organized by the Center for Communication Programs of Johns Hopkins University, Dhaka, 14-16 March 1995;

attended the "Workshop on Multilevel Modeling for Health and Family Planning Data", organized by the Population Council, Dhaka, 17-21 April 1995;

participated in the "Workshop on Policy Implications of Child Survival in Developing Countries", conducted by the Graduate Studies in Demography, Canberra, Australia, 1-28 May 1995;

attended the 26th Summer Seminar on Population, conducted by the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 1-30 June 1995; and

also attended the "Field Portion of the Summer Seminar/Workshop", conducted by Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, 1-8 July 1995.

**Shammin Mahbub and Manzurul Mannan** attended the workshop on "Democracy Partnership for Developing a Democracy Program for the poor", organized by USAID, The Asia Foundation and BRAC, Dhaka, 25 July-24 August 1995.

**Manzurul Mannan** attended the workshop on "Global Partnership to Start an International Post-graduate Course for NGO Professionals" organized by the consortium of BRAC, Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) of Zimbabwe, and School for International Training (SIT) of USA, Rajendrapur, 31 October-5 November 1995,

*Presented a paper entitled "Need assessment study for the post-graduate course on development leadership and management."*

**Hashima-E-Nasreen** attended the "Workshop on Sexual Behaviour, Abortion, Reproductive Morbidity, Contraceptive Use Dynamics, and Male Involvement," organized by the Population Council, Dhaka, 15-16 February 1995.

**Mohammad Rafi** attended the workshop on "The Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN)", organized by the UNDP-FAP Independent Review Mission, ADAB, 29 March 1995.

**Rita Das Roy** attended the "International Conference on Food and Nutrition Planning" organized by University of the Philippines at Los Banos, Los Banos, the Philippines, November 1995.

**MG Sattar** attended the "Conference on Paths out of Poverty, the Role of NGOs: Second Commonwealth NGO Forum," Wellington, New Zealand, 18-23 June 1995;

*Presented a paper entitled "Governance and accountability of NGOs: the case of BRAC in Bangladesh."*

He also attended the International Symposium on "Participatory Development: Its Opportunities and Challenges," organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan and the Foundation for Advanced Studies in International Development (FASID), Tokyo, Japan, 5-6 December 1995.

*Presented a paper entitled "Opportunities and challenges of participatory development: experiences of BRAC in Bangladesh."*

In addition to these, many RED staff actively participated in a number of workshops at local and national levels.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

RED always encourage its staff to publish papers in national and international journals. In 1995 RED researchers published scientific papers, abstract, and short articles. Besides, some papers are also accepted for publication in various journals. List of RED publications appears in the following chapter.

**Working papers** - Eleven working papers were published on different studies of the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab, Bangladesh (see page 23).

**Watch Report** - Six issues of the *Watch Report* were published containing summarized information on various studies of Watch project (see page 24).

**Nirjash** - For wider dissemination of research results, particularly to BRAC's field staff, a Bangla digest *Nirjash* was planned in 1994. Two issues of *Nirjash* were published in 1995. The first issue contained summaries of 23 selected research reports of 1991 while the second issue contained 18 research reports of 1992. The publication of the 3rd issue containing some of the 1993 reports is in progress. Copies of *Nirjash* were distributed

to all field offices and other departments of BRAC, all NGOs in Bangladesh, relevant government offices, news media and national dailies, and other interested persons. A total of 1,973 copies were distributed in 1995. Some national dailies published reviews on the first issue of *Nirjash*.

**Rural Study Series** - A new volume of research monograph containing four RED reports was published in 1995 (series 7-10 in one volume).

**Annual Report** - The 1994 RED annual report was published in March 1995.

**Workshop Proceedings** - Proceedings were published on three RED workshops held during 1995 with BRAC's three core programmes -- Health and Population Programme (HPP), Rural Development Programme (RDP) and Non-Formal Primary Education Programme (NFPE). The research issues came out of these workshops are also published in one volume separately

Besides, thirteen short notes on different RED activities were also published in BRAC's quarterly newsletter **Access**.

## **JOURNAL CLUB**

Two journal clubs, one with health interest group and the other with social science interest group, have been formed to keep the RED researchers updated on recent development in health, nutrition, population, and socioeconomic research. The journal clubs also help develop understanding of research methods, recent trends in research and stimulate academic discussions among the researchers.

The health journal club discussed 10 published papers in 11 sessions during 1995. On the other hand, the socioeconomic journal club discussed 8 published papers in 10 sessions. The papers were chosen from health, nutrition, population, socioeconomic development, gender issues, education, and environment.

Both the journal clubs usually met every alternate week for at least an hour. The researchers actively participated in academic discussions, and critical analysis of the contents and merit of the papers being presented.



The journal clubs have undertaken an extensive plan to present and discuss more research papers in 1996.

#### **WEEKLY TEA SEMINAR**

The RED staff regularly met in informal weekly tea seminar on every Thursday morning for half-

an-hour to one hour for wider professional interactions among them. It facilitates staff to share any professional matters, latest publications relevant to RED activities, their achievements or experience of attending conferences, workshops and seminars, or information on common interest with fellow colleagues in an informal environment.

## RED PUBLICATIONS 1995

### A INTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

#### Annual report

RED Annual Report 1994. March 1995. 85p.

#### Bangla digest

*Nirjash*. Issue No. 1. March 1995. 144p.

*Nirjash*. Issue No. 2. December 1995. 104p.

#### Monograph

Rural Study Series (series nos. 7-10).  
December 1995. 55p.

#### BRAC-ICDDR,B Working papers

The Impact of social and economic development programmes on health and well-being: a BRAC-ICDDR,B collaborative project in Matlab. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 1)

Chen M, Mahmud S. Assessing change in women's lives: a conceptual framework. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 2)

Scott I, Evans T, Cash R. Unpacking the black box: studying the relationship between socioeconomic development and health. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 3)

The first three months: an observation on the process of formation of village organizations. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 4)

Adams A, Roy RD, Mahbub A. Participatory methods to assess change in health and women's lives: an exploratory study. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 5)

Chowdhury M, Bhuiya A, Adams A. Socioeconomic development and human well-being: exploring pathways of change. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 6)

Zaman H, Rahman S, Husain S, Rana M. The profitability of BRAC financed projects: a study of seven microenterprises in Matlab. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 7)

Rashid S, Chowdhury M. An inside look at two BRAC schools in Matlab. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 8)

Hossain N, Huda S. Problems of women-headed households. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 9)

A qualitative baseline survey: the case of south Uddamdi. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 10)

Momen M, Bhuiya A, Chowdhury M. Vulnerable of the vulnerables: the situation of divorced, abandoned and widowed women in a rural area of Bangladesh. Dhaka, 1995. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. (Working paper no. 11)

#### Workshop proceedings

Ahmed HS. Proceedings of the workshop on research needs in the Non-Formal Primary Education Programme. Dhaka, BRAC. November 1995. 24p.

Ahmed HS, Mahbub S, Hasan GM. Proceedings of the workshop on research needs in Rural Development Programme of BRAC. Dhaka, BRAC. November 1995. 31p.

Ahmed HS, Mahmud SN, Huda S. Proceedings of the workshop on research needs in health. Dhaka, BRAC. October 1995. 105p.

Ahmed HS, Sattar MG. eds. Research issues 1995-1996: results of three RED workshops with HPP, RDP and NFPE. Dhaka, BRAC. December 1995. 18p.

### **Watch Report**

Nath SR. Gender, parents' religious belief and child immunization: case from rural Bangladesh. *Watch Report* no. 16, July 1995. 3p.

Nath SR. Vitamin A supplementation programme: socioeconomic and community differentials. *Watch Report* no. 17, September 1995. 3p.

Hadi A. Change in contraceptive use in BRAC villages in Bangladesh. *Watch Report* no. 18, December 1995. 7p.

Hadi A. Child labour in Bangladeshi villages: incidence, correlates and implications. *Watch Report* no. 19, December 1995. 8p.

Nath SR. Role of education on child labour. *Watch Report* no. 20, November 1995. 4p.

Hadi A, Nath SR, Islam S, Chowdhury MA. Immunization coverage in rural Bangladesh. *Watch Report* no. 21, December 1995. 4p.

## **B EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS**

### **Original scientific papers and short communications**

Barua S, Tarannum S, Nahar L, Rahman MR. Zinc, copper, magnesium and calcium contents in breast milk of Bangladeshi mothers. *Dhaka Univ J Biol Sci* 1995 Jul;4(2):125-31.

- Begum SA. Effects of BRAC's credit programme on socioeconomic development of rural women: cases of five villages of Jamalpur district [Bangla]. *Unnayan Bitarka* 1995 Sep;14(3):29-47.

Bhuiya A, Bhuiya I, Chowdhury M. Factors affecting acceptance of immunization among

children in rural Bangladesh. *Health Policy Plann* 1995;10(3):304-11.

Goodburn EA, Gazi R, Chowdhury M. Beliefs and practices regarding delivery and post-partum maternal morbidity in rural Bangladesh. *Stud Fam Plann* 1995;26(1):22-32.

Karim F, Mahmud SN, Ali A, Islam N, Chowdhury AMR. Targeting the poor: does the approach make any difference in health service utilization? *Grassroots* (in press).

- ✓ Khan MR. Women entrepreneurs in the Bangladeshi restaurant business. *Dev Practice* 1995;5(3):240-4.

Khan SR. Women's education and employment - the Matlab experience. *Asia-Pacific Pop J* (in press).

Mannan M. An anatomy of traditional weaver community and the tradition of technology in Bangladesh. *Grassroots* 1995 Jan-Mar;4(15):42-7.

Mannan M. Tradition and technology: the boatman and the boats of Bangladesh. *Grassroots* 1995 Jul-Sep;5(17):28-32.

Mannan M. Women targeted and women neglected: an aspect of environmental movement in Bangladesh. *Dev Practice* (in press).

Mohsin M, Nath SR, Chowdhury AMR. Basic competencies of children in Bangladesh: an analysis of rural/urban differential. *Pakistan Econ Soc Rev* 1994 (summer);32(1):61-76.

Rahman S. Wildlife conservation in Bangladesh. *Grassroots* 1995 Jul-Sep;5(17): 7-16.

### **Books, book chapters and review articles**

Abed FH, Chowdhury AMR. The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee: how BRAC learned to meet rural people's need through local action. In: Uphoff N, et. al. eds. *Reasons for hope: instructive experiences in rural development*. USA: Kumarian Press (in press).

Abed FH, Chowdhury AMR. Social mobilization for poverty alleviation. In: Ponna Wignaraja, ed. *Pro-poor planning and social*

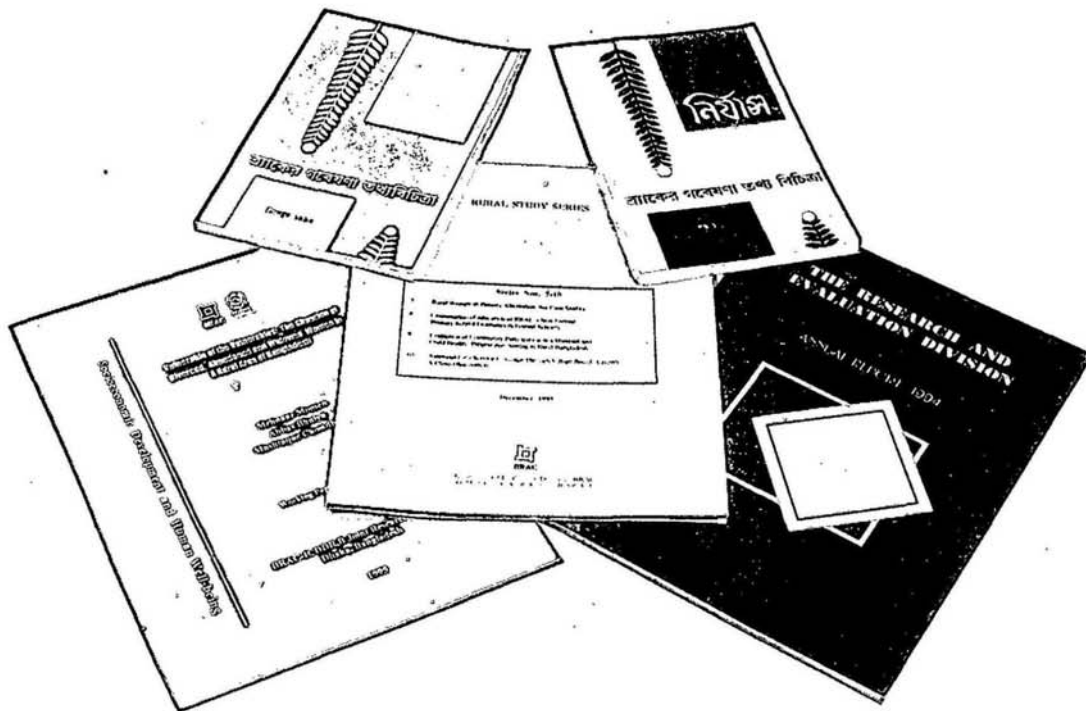
mobilization: the new social contract between the state and the poor in south Asia. Paris: UNESCO (in press).

Chowdhury AMR, Cash RA. A simple solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home. Dhaka: University Press Limited (in press).

Chowdhury AMR and Zafar F. From Umerkot to Balakot: a review of BLLF's apna school programme in Pakistan. Lahore: Society for the Advancement of Education 1995.

### Editorials, letters and abstracts

Ahmed HS. Publication of science journals in Bangladesh: present status and future prospect [abstract]. *In: Science, culture and communication for the 21st century: programme and abstracts of the Eighth International Conference of the International Federation of Science Editors, Barcelona, Spain, 9-13 July 1995. pp. 97.*



<b>ABSTRACTS OF REPORTS AND PAPERS COMPLETED DURING 1995*</b>
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**EFFECTS OF ANTENATAL CARE:  
A CASE OF BRAC-GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS  
IN WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

*Kaosar Afsana, Shah Noor Mahmud and Fazlul Karim*

This study aimed to measure the effects of antenatal care by comparing the activities of BRAC with those of the government in the operational areas of Women's Health and Development Programme (WHDP) of BRAC. Ninety of the 189 currently pregnant women attended the antenatal care centres (ANCCs) and the rest attended the satellite clinics (SCs). The findings revealed that 65.6% of the women were registered with the ANCCs and 62.6% with the SCs during 4-6 months of pregnancy. Of the 189 study women, 74.4% attended the ANCCs and 69.7% the SCs for the first time during 4-6 months of pregnancy. About three-fourths of the women attending the ANCCs and two-thirds of the women attending the SCs were satisfied with the health services and health providers. All women attending the ANCCs and 96% of those attending the SCs felt the need for antenatal care at the village level. The majority of them were willing to pay for health services. Recommendations are made to encourage women to attend the ANCCs from the second trimester, organize health education session, strengthen involvement of health cadres, ensure service delivery at the ANCCs, reinforce BRAC-GOB liaison, charge fees for services at a minimum level, and motivate field staff of BRAC by giving incentives.

**KNOWLEDGE AND THE USE OF IRON TABLETS AMONG  
PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN IN WHDP AREAS**

*Kaosar Afsana, Shah Noor Mahmud and Fazlul Karim*

This study aimed to assess knowledge and the use of iron tablets among pregnant and lactating women in Women's Health and Development Programme (WHDP) by comparing women attending the antenatal care centres (ANCC) of BRAC with those attending the satellite clinics (SC) of the government. A total of 250 currently pregnant women were studied. The findings revealed that women attending the ANCCs showed slightly better performance than those attending the SCs. Recommendations were made on putting equal emphasis on all women regardless of centres, ensuring supply of iron tablets, assessing type of anaemia before initiation of the treatment, rendering health education and exploring the factors related to iron absorption and utilization among pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.

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\* Listed author-wise alphabetically.

## QUALITY OF CARE: AN OVERVIEW

*Kaosar Afsana and Hashima-E-Nasreen*

In spite of the progress made in the last two decades at various levels of health in developing countries, services provided through health care invariably raise questions of its quality of care. Quality of care emphasizes not only on the quality of services but also on the interpersonal dimension of the interactions between providers and clients, resource allocation and infrastructure of programme management, and their motivation. This paper attempted to provide some insights into the significance of quality of care in various aspects of reproductive health care in developing countries by reviewing relevant literature. The most important thing we found here is paucity of data. Moreover, almost all the studies were done in countries other than Bangladesh. A conceptual framework used by Judith Bruce in family planning programme is suggested to be used in measuring quality of care in other health programmes. However, progress in quality of care depends upon data generation and analysis within the country and the programme context. The research and evaluation division of BRAC has been recommended to carry out research on quality of care focusing various health components of Women's Health and Development Programme of BRAC.

## QUALITY OF CARE IN TB CONTROL PROGRAMME OF BRAC

*Kaosar Afsana, AMR Chowdhury, M Nazrul Islam,  
Shah Noor Mahmud, Fazlul Karim and Akramul Islam*

This study aimed to measure the quality of care of the TB control programme of BRAC in terms of process of service delivery and outcome of process in two thanas of WHDP. A conceptual framework used by Bruce in family planning programme was applied with some modifications to measure quality of care in BRAC's TB control programme. Results have been rated according to authors' judgment. In TB control programme, process of identification of the TB patients, process of initiation of the treatment, economic access, continuity of care, sputum conversion rate, regularity of drug intake and client satisfaction are rated adequate. However, geographic and organizational access, interpersonal relations and knowledge of the patients are rated moderately adequate. Initiation of treatment on time and measures taken for side-effects are rated inadequate. The conceptual framework used for measuring quality of care in TB control programme would be useful for programme managers to identify the operational problems. Recommendations are made on careful detection of TB cases, strict supervision, regular supply of medicine, measures for not delaying treatment, measures for reducing side-effects, raising knowledge and awareness of the people about TB as well as health providers in the localities.

## EFFECTS OF EPI ON UNDER-FIVE NUTRITION: EXPERIENCES FROM RURAL BANGLADESH

*Syed Masud Ahmed, Abbas Bhuiya and AMR Chowdhury*

This study aimed to see the role of EPI on nutritional status of under-five children in Bangladesh. Data were taken from a baseline survey conducted in 60 villages of Matlab thana in 1992. Anthropometry was done for 992 children between the age of one to five years. Children's nutritional status was defined in terms of mid-upper-arm-circumference (MUAC) and height-for-age and expressed as standard deviations of 'Z' score. Both bi-variate and multivariate analysis revealed significant role of immunization status in affecting the MUAC of children from poor households. However, completely immunized children from well-off households were found to have significant better anthropometric indices than their counterparts. When considering height-for-age, mother's education and number of dwellings in the household were found to be significant factors for nutrition of poor children. It is



concluded that the EPI has made some beneficial, if marginal, impact on the acute nutritional status of poor children.

### **HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR: INFLUENCING FACTORS IN A MEDICALLY PLURALISTIC SOCIETY**

*Syed Masud Ahmed*

In a medically pluralistic society, people have varieties of therapeutic options in different sectors of health care. Patients who are not helped by self-treatment after becoming ill, make choices about whom to consult in the popular, folk or professional sector for further help. Various factors come into play when the issue of management of the illness episode is decided by either the patient or his relatives. This short review attempts to explore how the decision to consult a health care provider is made during illness, and the factors that influence the choice of a particular therapy for treatment.

### **PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN NORTHERN BANGLADESH**

*Ahmed Ali, SN Mahmud, MN Islam, F Karim and AMR Chowdhury*

This paper presents the findings of a study conducted in Fulbari, Kahaloo and Domar through focus group discussion. The community has knowledge about symptoms, causes, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis (TB). The community lauded BRAC's TB control programme. Though some change in the perception of rural people has occurred due to BRAC intervention in the programme thanas, but there is a lot more to do specially in terms of prevention, food and social stigma about TB patients.

### **WATER USE, SANITATION PRACTICE AND PERSONAL HYGIENE BEHAVIOUR IN WHDP AREAS**

*Ahmed Ali, SN Mahmud, MN Islam and F Karim*

This paper presents the findings of a study conducted in Fulbari, Kahaloo and Trishal thanas through observation, interview and focus group discussion. The use of tubewell water for drinking was universal but for other purposes such as cleaning and bathing was low. The distance of households from tubewells and ponds, cultural practices, and inaccessibility of females to tubewells were viewed as barriers in collecting sufficient water for purposes other than drinking. We found very high reported rate of handwashing with ash/soap after defecation or cleaning child's anus, but the observed rate was very low. We also observed that people were disposing solid wastes and child's stool to a fixed place but not in a fixed hole or latrine.

### **USE OF RRA IN IDENTIFYING RDP TARGET GROUP: A PILOT STUDY IN LALMONIRHAT SADAR AREA**

*Md Nurul Amin, Md Altaf Hossain, Md Azmal Kabir,  
Shamim Ara Begum and Parul Lata Biswas*

After successful use of some of the PRA/RRA (participatory rural appraisal/rapid rural appraisal) techniques in RDP Impact Assessment Study and in Matlab study, BRAC decided to extend this method to participatory project planning and management. BRAC also aimed to identify target people using RRA techniques for ensuring people's participation in the selection process on a pilot basis. Salient objectives of the study were to identify target people more accurately and to determine the

cost effectiveness of the method and to give the villagers a prior orientation. The study team used mainly three RRA techniques: transact, physical mapping, and wealth ranking. A team of 21 members (5 from RED and 16 from RDP) has carried out the exercise in 6 week's, including three days of preparatory works, for completion. A total of 24,245 households, 23,440 from 72 villages and 805 from Lalmonirhat Pourashava, were surveyed. Initially 14,361 (59.2%) households were identified as TG households according to BRAC's definition. However, it was found that 33% (excluding involved HHS of pourashava) of the TG households were involved with other NGOs also. So, the remaining 9,236 or 67% of the TG households were finally identified as potential TG households to whom BRAC could offer its different development programmes.

### **NFPE URBAN TEACHERS AND THEIR TEACHING PERFORMANCES: A CASE STUDY OF SIX SCHOOLS**

*Feroza Begum*

This study aimed to examine the teaching performance, the learners' behaviour and overall classroom situation in six NFPE schools in Dhaka city. The study findings revealed that the teachers followed the methods and techniques which they learnt from BRAC training. The teachers emphasized on classroom environment. They sometimes referred to relevant stories and intentionally made mistakes to attract and sustain the attention and motivation of learners. The study also revealed that the teachers did not use enough teaching materials. In terms of personal characteristics, they were found to be affectionate and tolerant, but in few cases they showed irritation in maintaining classroom discipline. All the teachers, however, showed positive attitudes towards education. Regarding learners' behavioural pattern, most of the students were found to be attentive, participatory, disciplined and interested in learning. Some learners expressed high aspiration in building their careers. From the findings it may be recommended that teachers should show more tolerance and patience in maintaining classroom discipline, and they should use more attractive and appropriate teaching materials. Further studies be taken up on a wider scale covering both rural and urban schools with a larger number of samples to arrive at definitive conclusions on the performance of NFPE teachers.

### **INFLUENCE OF BRAC'S CREDIT PROGRAMME ON SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN: A STUDY ON FIVE VILLAGES OF JAMALPUR DISTRICT**

*Shamim Ara Begum*

This study aimed to explore the credit history of rural landless before and after the introduction of BRAC's credit programme and its impact on women's lives. The study was conducted on 50 men and 50 women from five villages of Jamalpur district who got credit from BRAC. A few persons lost their homestead, left the village leaving behind all their belongings due to loan from *Mahajans* before the introduction of BRAC programmes in the area. On the other hand, they had to give about half of the loan amount to brokers if they got bank loan through them. Taking loan from other sources has been decreased while the number loan taken by women has been increased the introduction of BRAC programmes. Interest rate on loans from *Mahajans* has been decreased. This rate was never less than 100% before the introduction of BRAC programme, but now in 20% of this type of loans the interest rate was less than 100%. The investment of loan amount in income generating activities has been increased. About 94% of the loan recipients were benefited due to low interest rate for BRAC loan compared to loans from *Mahajans*. It was found that before the introduction of BRAC programmes, 38% and 5% of loans were used for consumption and investment in business, respectively. But after the introduction of BRAC programmes these rates have been changed to 16% and 32%, respectively. It indicates that women have been empowered specially in the use of loan, decision making, etc. Now the males too, take the female's opinion into account in various activities. Females have used loan in proposed scheme in a much larger rate than the males. Females



engaged themselves in agricultural work and business. Three case studies also showed that their economic position have also been improved much compared to previous situation.

### **THE FORGOTTEN DISEASE: AN EVALUATION OF A COMMUNITY-BASED TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*AMR Chowdhury, MN Islam, A Islam, K Afsana, SN Mahmud,  
A Ali, F Karim, SA Chowdhury and MS Islam*

In 1984, an innovative community-based tuberculosis (TB) control programme was tested in a rural area of Bangladesh with voluntary health workers (VHWs) as the nucleus. With incentives given to VHWs for case finding and getting patients sign a bond to complete the treatment, the treatment completion rate rose to 66%. In 1992, the programme was extended to 10 more thanas covering a population of two million. Within four years, the programme provided treatment to 4,699 smear positive patients, 85% of whom recovered at the end of the treatment period. From early 1995, the 12-month therapy was discontinued and the 8-month therapy was introduced. In mid 1995, an independent evaluation using epidemiological and social science methods was carried out to measure the impact of the programme on the prevalence of TB, and also to explore selected dimensions of 'quality of care' aspects in the programme. The prevalence of sputum-positive TB in the programme area was found to be half of what was found for a contiguous non- programme area, but the programme could identify only about half of the TB patients. Among those completing the treatment for two or more years previously, the relapse rate was nearly 8%. Quality of care in terms of technical competence, access to services, inter-personal relations, sputum conversion rate, and regularity of drug intake was found to be of reasonably high standard, and clients satisfied with the services provided.

### **A NOTE ON PROVIDING ACCESS TO SAVINGS OF VO MEMBERS**

*Farah Deeba and Ishrat Ara*

The study aimed to appraise whether the members of BRAC's village organizations (VOs) feel the need for an open savings account, assess members' response to a conditionally open savings scheme and BRAC staff's views on the practical sides of implementing and monitoring such a scheme. The study was carried out in 16 VOs under four area offices, two of which were under the pilot scheme for open savings. Although there were different opinions regarding what would constitute an emergency when they would be able to withdraw their savings, there was a consensus among them that it would be collectively beneficial to have the option of withdrawing savings in case of unforeseen emergencies. Most staff of the area offices, except one area office, felt that some sort of withdrawal provision should exist on humanitarian ground to help VO members overcome emergency situations. They however, opined that this would increase their work volume and would likely to cause certain mismanagement.

### **BARRIER TO PARTICIPATION IN BRAC RDP – PART 1**

*Timothy G Evans, Mohammad Rafi, Alayne M Adams  
and Ahmed Mushtaque Raja Chowdhury*

This study concerned with the accessibility of BRAC's Rural Development Programme (RDP) to two groups of households i.e., (1) the households having marginal land holdings, minimal assets and resources devoted exclusively to survival - the first group, and (2) the households where viability was

threatened by poverty, ill-health and other adversities - the second group. The study further aimed to: establish the prevalence of household poverty in rural Bangladesh along with the rate of RDP participation and to elicit the circumstances which inhibit the second group from participation in RDP. The households' resource constraints, i.e., an inability to provide necessary time, thinking and resources to participate in RDP is reported more frequently as a reason for non-membership among first group and among female-headed households. On the other hand, the destitute socioeconomic profiles, small size, low adult education were present greater than expected in the second group.

### **CASE STUDIES ON PRACTICES DURING POST-PARTUM PERIOD IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Rukhsana Gazi, Liz Goodburn,  
AMR Chowdhury and Fazlul Karim*

This study aimed to obtain in-depth information on maternal morbidity related to delivery and post-partum period in 26 cases in Manikganj district. The study findings reveal that the use of trained TBAs were low. The most common place of delivery was the living room. Harmful practices during delivery by both trained and non-trained TBAs were reported. The range of seclusion after childbirth was 7-40 days. The seclusion was meant for the health of the newborn baby but not for the mother. During this period, mother's state was considered as impure. The mothers had to use dirty water because they were not allowed to touch tubewells. As stepping outside the room at night was forbidden, they had to excrete or defecate in broken clay pots inside the room. Old rags were used as vaginal pads. The food restrictions were found to be less important except the restriction on water intake. Majority of them resumed regular household works and sexual activity quiet early after delivery. Most of the mothers were thinking about a suitable method for contraception but none of them adopted one. Post-partum infection seemed to be a common problem which was known as *sutika*. Excessive bleeding after childbirth was identified as a process of purification rather than a problem. Women's treatment was completely dependent on the decision of their parents, in-laws and neighbours. Unless in a very serious condition, they were never taken to hospital. Mothers who had stillbirths or neonatal deaths or who failed to produce male child were at increased risk of violence, besides mental torture. Women were found to be concerned about their own health and welfare during the post-partum period.

### **CHANGE IN CONTRACEPTIVE USE IN BRAC VILLAGES IN BANGLADESH**

*Abdullahel Hadi*

This study assessed change in contraceptive use among women as a result of BRAC's Rural Development Program during 1986-1994. While contraceptive use varied with socioeconomic characteristics in terms of age, number of living children, years of schooling, land size and occupation of husband, the changes in contraceptive use found within various sub-groups were minor. However, the contraceptive use among women involved in development programme was found significantly higher than the women who were not involved in such programme. Social and development aspects of the credit-based income generating programme can bring a significant increase in contraceptive use among women in rural Bangladesh.

## **CHILD LABOUR IN BANGLADESHI VILLAGES: INCIDENCE, CORRELATES AND IMPLICATIONS**

*Abdullahel Hadi*

This study aimed to improve our understanding about the incidence and determinants of child labour in rural Bangladesh. About 42.5% of the eligible (5-14 years) children were in the labour force. While 28.1% of children worked for two hours or more a day, only 1.2% worked full time. Relatively few children worked for longer hours although their working hours increased as they grew older. More boys than girls were generally in the workforce. Nearly half of the employed children were engaged in the livestock raising, 22.2% with household activities, 12.7% in agricultural production, and a smaller proportion in processing agricultural products. Child labourers were both abused and exploited. Verbal assault (31.4%) by the employer was the most common phenomena. About 4.2% of working children reported that they were physically assaulted and 8.4% mentally tortured. Over work (8.4%) and partial payment of salary (2.3%) were also reported. Nearly 40% of children aged 10-14 years were in the workforce. No significant sex variation was reported. Mother's education and household's ownership of land appeared to have important role on children's entering in the labour force. The chance of a child to be a labourer was higher if the father was also a labour or in case of parent's death. The impact of parent's death was more pronounced among girls than boys. However, raising literacy and enrollment would help reduce their involvement in the labour force.

## **CREDIT PROGRAMME AND STERILIZATION ACCEPTANCE AMONG WOMEN IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Abdullahel Hadi and AMR Chowdhury*

This study investigated the impact of poor women's participation in credit-based employment programme on their acceptance of sterilization in rural Bangladesh during 1986-1994. A cohort of married women aged 15-49 years, living in 87 BRAC villages in Manikganj District of Bangladesh, who were non-users of contraceptives in 1986 were followed till 1994. Findings reveal that sterilization acceptance rate among them rose from 15.3% in 1986 to 17.1% in 1994. While noticeable sociodemographic disparities in the acceptance of sterilization among women are reported in terms of age, number of living children, years of schooling, land size and occupation of husband in both 1986 and 1994, the changes found within various sub-groups were minor. However, the sterilization acceptance rate among women involved in credit programme is found significantly higher than the women who were not involved in credit programme. The multivariate analysis revealed that non-users of any method involved in credit programme after 1986 were 41% more likely to accept sterilization ( $p < 0.01$ ) than those who did not receive any credit controlling for age and number of children. When other factors such as years of schooling, ownership of land and occupation of husband are systematically added to the regression equation, the role of credit programme on sterilization acceptance is still found visible with a relatively lower level of significance. The study argues that social and development aspects of the organized credit programme in a traditional society can bring a significant change in the fertility behaviour of women. It is still unknown whether such pattern of change could be sustained after a certain level of social development.

## **IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE IN RURAL BANGLADESH: DO MOTHERS' KNOWLEDGE PLAY ANY ROLE?**

*Abdullahel Hadi, Samir R Nath, Shahidul Islam and Mansur A Chowdhury*

This study aimed to examine whether mothers' knowledge about EPI has any relationship with immunization coverage. The role of BRAC's RDP on mothers' knowledge about EPI and immunization coverage was also explored. The immunization coverage among children aged 12-23

months was found 79% in rural Bangladesh in November 1995. Nearly 94.5% of the children had BCG followed by polio (87.6%), DPT (86.9%) and measles (80.2%). A wide regional variation in EPI coverage exists. Kushtia and Jamalpur regions had highest coverage followed by the eastern (Cox's Bazar and Moulavi Bazar) and poverty-prone Lalmonirhat regions. Immunization coverage was found lowest (27.7%) in the haor region of Kishorganj. Mothers' awareness on immunization and their doses was found very low (12%). Only 12% of mothers knew that the diseases could be prevented by immunization. The knowledge of immunization, however, was higher ( $p < 0.01$ ) in the programme households and much higher ( $p < 0.01$ ) among RDP members (65.5%) compared to non-programme target households (47.7%). The existing gap between coverage and knowledge indicates that most mothers received immunization without knowing much about it. Such a finding may be frustrating to policy-makers who considers that the current coverage could be sustained and improved with relatively lower programmatic efforts such as reducing home visits and service delivery points lowering dropout, and even introducing fees for immunization.

### **IMPACT OF BRAC'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON FERTILITY CHANGE IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Abdullahel Hadi, Ruhul Amin and AMR Chowdhury*

This study analyzed fertility on the basis of vital registration data collected from a programme area of BRAC in central Bangladesh and a non-programme area in northern Bangladesh. The study results show that, between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s, BRAC's comprehensive rural development programme led to a higher fertility decline in its programme area compared to the non-programme area. This higher fertility decline in the BRAC programme area might have been facilitated by the higher level of "target-group-oriented" development activities of BRAC. While initial higher educational level and normal development activities of the non-BRAC area were positively associated with its earlier fertility reduction, they alone were not sufficient enough to bring about further fertility decline in the subsequent period of our study. Further fertility decline in the subsequent period of our study seemed to have been associated with the "target-group-oriented" comprehensive development interventions initiated in the programme area, somewhat narrowing the initial fertility difference between the programme and the non-programme areas by the terminal year of the study period. Implications of these findings for inducing further fertility decline in Bangladesh are discussed.

### **BRAC'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN GENERATING EMPLOYMENT IN JHIKARGACHA RDP AREA: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY**

*Shantana R Halder*

By involving the rural poor in different BRAC financed activities, BRAC generates new employment mostly self-employment among women. This study, done in Jhikargacha area of BRAC's RDP programme in Jessore district, draws upon data collected from 350 programme participants, purposely selected to represent 6,816 study population, who were directly or indirectly involved in major activities of BRAC like sericulture, poultry, livestock, fisheries, agriculture, and health programme.

### **SOCIOECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF BRAC'S DEEP TUBEWELL PROGRAMME**

*Shantana R Halder, Sadiqunnabi Choudhury and AM Shahed Husain*

In the last *boro* season (1994-95), 632 deep tubewells (DTWs) of BRAC were in operation in 89 RDP areas where majority were non-profitable. This study aimed to investigate the viability of BRAC's DTW programme by computing the profitability, and investigating the social impact of the programme.



We studied 25 DTW schemes in seven RDP areas from seven regions. Only nine were profitable. Major reasons of non-profitability were: 1) low area coverage, 2) high operating cost, and 3) shortfall in revenue collection. High operating cost was mainly due to a) low water absorbing capacity of land, b) seepage of the water because of kutchra drain, c) diesel operated DTWs having less water lifting capacity, d) installation of the DTWs in wrong location, e) access of non BRAC deep/shallow tubewells within or nearby the command area, and f) mismanagement in water supply.

### **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN RURAL BANGLADESH: RESULTS FROM ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENT OF 617 CASES**

*Karimul Haque and Shoaib Ahmed*

The study shows that acute problem of malnutrition exists among under-five children in rural Bangladesh. Only 4% of the study children aged 0-5 years had normal nutritional status (weight-for-age) and most of them (95.7%) suffered from some degree of malnutrition. Around 28% suffered from first degree malnutrition, 55% from second degree malnutrition and 13% from severe malnutrition. Malnutrition among older children (12 months and above) was relatively higher. Around 57.1% of the infants aged 0-1 month had normal nutritional growth. While the proportion of normal children was only 2.2% for children aged up to 3 years. Nutritional status of the children was also found to be directly related to the educational level of the respondents and income of the households. Nutritional status of male children was found better than that of female children.

### **VULNERABILITY OF THE RURAL POOR TO SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN FOOD CONSUMPTION: FINDINGS FROM LONGITUDINAL DATABASE**

*Karimul Haque*

The study focused on food consumption and vulnerability of the rural poor to seasonal variations in food consumption. Data were obtained from 459 target households during two seasons - lean and peak seasons. The pre-*amon* harvest time was defined as peak season while the post-*amon* harvest time as lean season. Two seasons were selected to capture seasonality of food and nutrient intake for both RDP member and non-member households. The food consumption of both RDP and non-RDP group members was observed to be rice dominating in both the seasons. The major contributor to daily intake of calorie and protein was rice. Food consumption was not equally distributed between the seasons and among the rural poor belong to both RDP members and non-members. Food intake during peak season was higher. This difference in consumption can be attributed to availability and scarcity of food, employment and income. The food consumption for RDP members in both the seasons was observed to be better than the non-members. The overall calorie intake for RDP members in peak and lean seasons was 2202 and 2007 kcal respectively while for that of non-members it was 2009 and 1827 kcals, respectively. The non-members were found to form greater nutritional stress compared to the RDP members. The nutritional stress in the lean season was greater than the peak season and the life style of both RDP members and non-members in terms of daily diet was relatively better in the peak season. The calorie and protein consumption during the pre-*amon* harvest period was far below than that of what was recommended to be minimum (2310 kcal and 64 gm of protein) for healthy life. For both RDP members and non-members the peak season presents a better picture compared to the lean season.



## **A NOTE ON REASONS FOR DROPOUT FROM BRAC'S MATLAB VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS**

*Gazi Mahmud Hasan and Naureen Shahid*

This study examined the extent of and major reasons for dropouts of the members of RDP village organizations (VOs). The study also aimed to identify the socioeconomic background of the expelled members. Information were collected from 40 of the 133 dropped out VO members. We identified some major reasons for dropouts and expulsion, such as: a) husbands did not allow their wives to attend weekly meetings, b) husbands forced their wives to attend meetings because of the prospect of being able to get a loan, c) husbands might not invest their credit properly and might not pay back the loan, d) out migration, e) BRAC might convert them to Christianity; f) existence of other NGOs which offered better facilities than BRAC, g) unable to pay the weekly deposits, h) membership canceled due to non-payment of loan installments, and i) members being not eligible for VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) cards. We suggest that VO meetings should be completed within one hour as stipulated. We also recommend to consider VO members' eligibility for loans after two to three weeks. The VO members need to be clarified about the concept of VGD membership.

## **PROBLEMS OF WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS**

*Naomi Hossain and Samiha Huda*

This study aimed to identify and understand the problems faced by women-headed households in rural Matlab. Information were collected from 18 women heads of households. The study findings reveal that there were identifiable processes by which women became household heads and these were directly related to the reason why the husband was functionally absent (i.e. widowed, abandonment, migration, divorce). Social factor such as *purdah* remained an important constraint for such women and few allowances seemed to be made due to their position as household heads. Such constraints further inhibit their chances of finding employment. Poverty was the most pressing problem with women household heads, and they were very likely to lose control over land or assets they might have inherited. Access to employment was another severe problem, as there were few jobs available to them and they were relatively unskilled. BRAC programmes played a role in reducing the dependency of these women. BRAC members among these women prefer employment. The social safety net system which we had assumed to be in place turned out to be something which the families of the women we interviewed could not actually afford. Women were ultimately forced to look after their families themselves. Marriage has increasingly become an area of complex power relations between families. These were manifested mainly in dowry transactions, marital disruption and breakdown, and ultimately resulting in more women-headed households. BRAC could help these women by giving special emphasis on Paralegal/Human Rights and Legal Education Programme. A package focusing on marriage, divorce and family laws should be of use in informing them about their rights in this area. In general it needs to be recognized that these women have more acute problems than their poverty is more far-reaching than the average male-headed household BRAC member, and that provision of employment may make more sense than credit for such people.

## **HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AND GROWTH OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS**

*SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This study aimed to see if the adolescent girls can maintain a health card and to get an overview of their health care seeking behaviour. This analysis is based on the data collected from 20 non-formal primary schools in Manikganj thana during March–November 1991. Health cards were given to the

study girls to record their own health and anthropometric information. In every month, on a fixed day of a week, the girls took their weight and height and plotted the figures on the card including information related to episodes of illness and its treatment. Nearly 66% of the girls recorded at least one episode of illness in 8 months study period. About 44 different types of illnesses were recorded for which 23 types of cures were sought. The illnesses have been classified into eight major categories: fever, cold, headache, skin infection, gastrointestinal diseases, infectious diseases, accidents and others. The cures also have been classified into five major categories: visiting a doctor, self medication, visiting to a *kabiraj*, no action taken and others. Fever was the most predominantly reported illness and most common cure for that was self medication – usually paracetamol tablets. For infectious diseases, the common practice was consulting a *kabiraj*. Beliefs on the super natural etiology of diseases and its cure were rarely recorded. The anthropometric measurements and health data suggest that the NFPE girls are able to take their own measurements and can record it on the health cards. The tendency of self medication is high which calls for strengthening health education to the NFPE adolescent girls to promote better health.

**NUTRITIONAL IMPACT STUDY OF THE INCOME GENERATION FOR  
VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT (IGVGD) PROGRAMME:  
REPORT OF JANUARY 1995 SURVEY**

*SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This report is based on the data collected in January 1995 on 665 households to assess impact of the IGVGD programme on nutritional status of the pre-school children. The study was conducted on 293 children aged 0-96 months whose mothers were enrolled in the programme during October 1992–September 1994 in Tangail Sadar thana. In addition, the study included 187 children from within the programme area and 185 children from outside the programme area (Kalihati thana) as controls. The data suggest that average height and weight of the programme children were higher than both types of control children. The proportion of stunting (height-for-age <-2 Z score) in programme children was 74% compared to 79% in the control children. The proportion of underweight (weight-for-age <-2 Z scores) was lower in programme children (64%) compared to control children from within the programme area (69%) and from outside the programme area (77%). In conclusion, it may be stated that the IGVGD programme, after two years of its implementation, was able to create impact in reducing the proportion of stunted and underweight children. Further data analysis is needed to know in detail the contribution of each programme input in reducing malnutrition.

**NUTRITIONAL IMPACT STUDY OF THE INCOME GENERATION FOR  
VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT (IGVGD) PROGRAMME:  
REPORT OF JULY 1995 SURVEY**

*SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This study assessed the impact of the IGVGD programme on nutritional status indicators of the pre-school children. This report is based on a cross-sectional survey conducted in July 1995 on 538 households and 702 children in Tangail Sadar and Kalihati thanas. Of the 702 children, 293 were drawn from the programme households (cases) enrolled from October 1992 to September 1994, 207 from non-programme households from within the programme villages (case-controls) and 196 from non-programme households from outside the programme area (controls). The study results suggest that 15% of the case children compared to 10% case-control and 6% control children ate egg in the preceding 24 hours of the survey. According to weight-for-age criteria, 5.1% children were suffering from severe under-weight as against 5.3% in case-control and 7.9% in control households. The proportion of wasted children was lower in the IGVGD households (4.1%) compared to case-control (4.8%) and control households (9.2%). Surprisingly, the proportion of stunted children was higher in the programme households compared to case-control households. However, the proportion of

stunting was further higher in the control households. The IGVGD programme at the 10th month of post-implementation, was able to produce measurable positive impact on weight dependent nutrition indicators of the pre-school children.

### **POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN BANGLADESH AND THEIR IMPACT ON NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS**

*SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This report briefly discussed poverty alleviation strategies and programmes of the government of Bangladesh and non-government organizations (NGOs) which may have impact on nutritional status of women and pre-school children. It is revealed from the report that since independence in 1971, many poverty alleviation programmes have been launched in Bangladesh by both the government and NGOs to improve nutrition situation of the country. However, emphasis should be given to deliberately incorporate nutrition considerations, components or objectives in all development programmes to produce meaningful and long-term positive impact on nutritional status of the vulnerable groups. This report contains some recommendations on how to translate benefits of the development programmes into improved nutritional well-being.

### **IMPACT OF A TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROJECT ON PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*M Nazrul Islam, Akramul Islam, Shah Noor Mahmud, Ahmed Ali,  
SM Rowshan Alam, Ali Mehryar Karim, Bivakar Roy and AMR Chowdhury*

To supplement the national tuberculosis (TB) control programme, BRAC has undertaken a community-based TB control programme in 10 rural thanas under Women's Health and Development Programme. The case finding rate was found different among these thanas. This study investigated the prevalence rate in low and high case finding thanas compared to non-programme thana (control). Sputa of 392 symptomatic cases in control, 246 in higher case finding programme thana and 178 in lower case finding thana were examined, and smear positive rates were 3.3%, 2.4% and 2.8%, respectively. The prevalence of TB was double (0.15%) in control thana compared to programme thanas (0.07%).

### **TRENDS OF DIARRHOEAL MORTALITY IN BANGLADESH: FEASIBILITY OF A META-ANALYSIS**

*Md Shafiqul Islam, A Mushtaque R Chowdhury and Abbas Bhuiya*

Diarrhoea is still the most crucial survival issue for millions in Bangladesh. There is no straightforward trend of diarrhoeal mortality. According to the findings from Matlab's DSS since 1966, the overall death rate due to diarrhoeal diseases fluctuated from 1966 to 1987 except three sharp rise in three different situations such as in 1971 (war period), 1974-75 (famine period) and 1984 (epidemic period). But from 1988 onwards, death due to diarrhoeal diseases fell steadily until 1990 and then increasing gradually from 1991 to 1993. With the changes of time, risk of deaths due to certain diseases changes as curative measures become available to people, some new diseases also become visible as the scientific development takes place. Deaths due to acute dehydrating diarrhoea was declining but diarrhoeal deaths of other etiologies showed an increasing trend. Persistent diarrhoea and bloody dysentery may be related to the increasing trend in causes of mortality after 1990. This finding from 1988 to 1993 is consistent with the BRAC's longitudinal demographic surveillance system (Manikganj and

Joypurhat). Now the question is how representative is this finding because of areal variation of sociocultural factors as well as differences in health programme and also variation in cause of death diagnosis. And the other question is whether this finding is real or due to chance. To reduce sampling error of estimates of effect through study design, we have to have a larger sample size. In a longitudinal study, the critical issue is not the number of people followed-up, but the number of events (deaths, etc.) that are observed in the study. Ultimately combining the result of each of these studies conducted at Matlab at different time periods with the results of BRAC's, CCDB's and NIPSOM's studies can be pooled together in a single analysis (meta-analysis) which will give more precise results by increasing the power of the study.

### **VERBAL AUTOPSY AS A TOOL OF IDENTIFYING THE CAUSES OF CHILDHOOD DEATH: ASSESSING THE BRAC SYSTEM**

*FM Kamal and Abdullahel Hadi*

Verbal autopsy (VA) is being used as an epidemiological tool to ascribe causes of death of children who were not under medical supervision at the time of death. It refers to a method of retrospective interview of individuals who have attended the terminal days of the deceased. Although it shows some potential but still subject to scrutiny for any unwarranted optimism. This study assessed the validity of VA in all the villages that lie within 15 km from Manikganj town. The study sample consists of all the children aged below 12 years dying as in-door patients in Manikganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital during April 1993–December 1994. The diagnosis made at hospitals was considered standard and compared case by case with the diagnosis derived by the VA. Of all deaths, only 2 cases were aged 5 and above, 6 within 1-4 years and the rest were under 1 year of age. Of infant deaths, 34 were neonatal and only 4 were post-neonatal. Both the VA and the hospital diagnosis identified neonatal or birth asphyxia in equal number of cases and it happened to be the number one killer (43.5%) in the study population. Acute respiratory infections (ARI) (13%) were the second and prematurity (10.9%) was the third largest killer. In the hospital, both ARI and prematurity were found to be the second commonest cause of death. The study shows that the sensitivity and specificity of the VA widely vary from disease to disease. For some diseases, the sensitivity and specificity were found higher than 80%, but in others very disappointing. The study also reveals that VA can correctly identify (sensitivity) 80% of deaths of neonatal or birth asphyxia. For prematurity and ARI, the sensitivity was 57.1%. The VA could determine cancer of malignancy as cause of death with 100% accuracy. But for sepsis or septicaemia, the sensitivity fell to 33.3%. The VA could exclude false diagnosis (specificity) of neonatal or birth asphyxia in 84.6% of cases. For ARI and prematurity, the specificity was 94.9% and 97.4%, respectively. For malignancy the specificity was 100%. The study also showed that the spectrum of VA can cover some common diseases with higher sensitivity and specificity. For relatively uncommon causes of death, its validity is doubtful.

### **ACCELERATING THE PROCESS OF EMPOWERMENT: THE CASE OF A POULTRY PROGRAMME**

*Mahmuda Rahman Khan*

Poultry rearing is an integral part of the farming system in Bangladesh and is predominantly a rural activity. The rural women rear poultry by using their general knowledge. BRAC in collaboration with the Department of Livestock has initiated a poultry programme. BRAC designed a viable model for poultry development in 1993. This paper examined how successful these women were in raising their income from a gender perspective. By the end of December 1993, 265,859 women were actively involved in BRAC's poultry programme. BRAC's intervention in poultry development has made significant contributions in raising the income of these disadvantaged women. In rural Bangladesh, where women are most deprived group, providing only credit is not enough for their empowerment. A well developed model for poultry rearing which includes training, credit, and establishment of feed



sales centres, is the main reason behind raising the income of the poor women. However, due to socioeconomic impediments prevailing in the rural areas and natural disaster the women involved in poultry rearing face different constraints. As a result, through examining all these, this paper comes up with some important learning which ultimately help guiding Gender Research and Training Project's future activities.

### **THE EFFECTS OF WAGE EMPLOYMENT AND CREDIT FOR WOMEN IN BANGLADESH**

*Mahmuda Rahman Khan*

This study examined the effect of wage employment on women's work, both within and outside home, and any change in gender relations that might occur as a result. Of particular interest is how women's contributions to the household affect their status and position within the household, and the perceived costs and benefits of wage employment. The study was conducted on the wage workers in Jamalpur Ayesha Abed Foundation. The study reveals that the women also exert control over how the income from their wages is spent. Although the women may choose to make expenditures on household consumption and welfare, they report active involvement in decision making. The study also shows that women's income is highly valued and gives the women more leverage over a range of household decision making, including sex. It is important to note that men value women's economic contributions to household consumption and welfare and have cited these contributions as a reason why domestic violence may be decreasing. These also evidence that the distribution of household tasks is changing to accommodate women's wage employment, relieving the women of some of their household burdens. The study has also come up with programmatic and policy recommendations with opportunities for future research.

### **A BASELINE SURVEY FOR INTERACTIVE RADIO INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME**

*Md Kaisar Ali Khan, Monira Hasan and MA Kalam*

This survey attempted to know the present level of knowledge on English language among the NFPE learners before starting the Interactive Radio Instruction programme. The survey was conducted in 20 schools in both rural and urban areas. The survey shows that out of 150 selected words, on average, a learner could give the correct meaning of about 24 words. The boys performed better than the girls. The urban learners performed better than the rural, and the NFPE learners performed better than the BEOC learners.

### **WHY STUDENTS DROPOUT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF ENROLLMENT: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON BRAC'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

*Md Kaisar Ali Khan and AMR Chowdhury*

This study attempted to know the reasons for dropout, replacement and attendance scenario of NFPE schools. Data were collected from five team offices of five regions. Data were generated from the learners and their parents, NFPE teachers, and BRAC staff. Data show that, 16.3% of the learners (total enrollment) dropped out during the three-year course and the proportion of boys (19.2%) is higher than the girls (14.8%). Around 10% of total enrollment were replaced and 7% of final enrollment were not replaced. The dropout figure may vary from the dropout rate of NFPE. Around 71.7% of the learners completed the full course from the beginning of schooling and the proportion of girls (74.9%) was higher than the boys (65.0%). The data further shows that, 93.2% of the learners attended the



NFPE schools, and the rate of girls (94.7%) was also higher than the boys (90.6%). Due to misunderstanding about BRAC schools and religious reasons, some learners were withdrawn by their parents. Due to poor economic condition, some learners had to work and migrate for their livelihood. Some of the learners were expelled from BRAC schools by office management due to underage, overage and irregular attendance.

### **FAMILY SIZE PREFERENCES AMONG MATLAB COUPLES**

*Shahriar Reza Khan, AMR Chowdhury and Abbas Bhuiya*

This study was designed to explore similarities and differences between husbands' and wives' responses to family size and preferences before BRAC's intervention. Baseline survey data of the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab were used in this study. The baseline survey was administered in 60 villages of Matlab and the respondents were currently married women aged 15-49 years, and their husbands. We have analyzed the data by BRAC eligibility criterion and found that BRAC non-eligible couples preferred larger family size and also they had larger families compared to BRAC eligible couples. The study also found significant difference in family size preferences between husbands and wives among both samples. The multivariate analysis revealed that age difference between husbands and wives, multiple marriages, education, religion and geographic location demonstrated a significant variation in family size preferences for both samples. Both husbands and wives reported around two as an ideal family size which may have proved to be an optimum family size already comprehended by rural couples. However, in reality, the actual and preferred family size was always significantly higher irrespective of their social and economic status. This poses a challenge to identify why the desired level of fertility is higher than the reported ideal family size. This study did not adequately address this issue.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS FOR BRAC NFPE SCHOOLS (FOR GRADE III)**

*AH Latif, Muhammad Nazmul Haq, Mir Jahan Ara Arzoo,  
Shaheen Akter and Monira Hasan*

An attempt was made to develop a paper-pencil standardized achievement test battery for NFPE third year students. The test battery comprised of four sub-tests in four subjects – Bangla, social science, mathematics and English. It can measure learners' knowledge and achievement in respective areas. For development of the test battery about 800 test items were prepared for four subjects on the basis of NFPE curricula, text books, teacher's guide and class-room experience. The items were reviewed, edited and finalized for pre-test and analysis. The draft test, consisting about 100 items per subject were then administered to about 200 sample of learners. The completed answer sheets were fed into the computer for item analysis. Items having difficulty level between 30 and 70 were selected for the final test, provided item discrimination and item total co-relation were .40 and above. Thus, 30 items were retained in each of the four sub-tests and 25 items were retained in the English sub-test. The validity and reliability of the test battery was determined in terms of their correlation matrix among sub-tests and "Split-half reliability" of each sub-test. In both the cases the validity and reliability co-efficient were found to be high. Finally, distribution of norms were developed for both boys and girls in each subject, so that any student taking the test can be compared with the respective norm for his/her actual achievement.

## **A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF SOME SOCIOECONOMIC ISSUES IN SOUTH UDDAMDI, MATLAB**

*Amina Mahbub, Maliha Mayeed and Rita Das Roy*

We tested the feasibility of using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques to understand the baseline situation and the mechanism of change. The purpose of the study was to explore some socioeconomic issues such as income, occupation, wealth category, power structure, education, cohesiveness, poverty and coping capacity. The study also aimed to identify indigenous indicators of socioeconomic and poverty situation. The findings revealed that the villagers had their own perception about social and economic stratification determined by regularity of income, prestige of the *bari* (kin group) and education. The villagers identify poverty situation by ratio of dependents on earning people and lean and pick season of agriculture. The villagers share some common crises which they try to overcome through asking help from neighbours or relatives, taking loan from money lenders and selling harvested crops. Use also identified some major changes in the village over the last two decades.

## **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAINING: THE CASE OF BRAC VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS**

*Shamin Mahbub, Manzurul Mannan,  
Shahriar Reza Khan and AKM Masud Rana*

This study aimed to explore the role of capacity development of beneficiaries in measuring the growth of village organization (VO) by examining the nature and the extent of transaction between BRAC and its beneficiaries. This is an exploratory study conducted in three village organizations (VO) in Uddamdi village of Matlab, during the later half of 1995. The study findings revealed that group members who were provided with capacity development training, are better-off socially and economically than those who did not get this opportunity. Their performance in credit, savings and attendance is significantly higher than those who did not receive training. Marital status, age and education were important factors in describing the condition of trained members. In general, effective skill development had a positive impact on group members lives. Therefore, it can be said that endurance of VOs can be achieved from various tools of capacity development. The study also shows that members perceive VO as a mechanism of receiving services and inputs from BRAC and create pressure on BRAC staff to provide them with these inputs. However, VO members and BRAC staff pursue for increased interdependency to protect the interest of VOs from external pressures and incursions. Skill development training is only one among many factors for the growth of a viable grassroots organization.

## **A FOLLOW-UP OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME OF BRAC**

*Shah Noor Mahmud, Md Nazrul Islam,  
Ahmed Ali and Fazlul Karim*

Two years after implementation of the community-based tuberculosis (TB) programme of BRAC, the Research and Evaluation Division conducted a study to compare the performance of the present development of the TB control programme with the findings of a previous study. The study results show that 47% of patients received treatment within 7 days of case identification, and 55% of the cases were found to have regular sputum follow-up. About 83% of the cases in intensive phase got follow-up visits by shasthya shebikas or shasthya karmi, within 7 days of the interview, while in continuation phase it was 46%. Sputum conversion rate was 97% after 2 months of treatment and majority (73%) of the patients were found to be regular in drug intake. In 86% of the cases,

streptomycin injection was given with sterilized equipment. Seventy-three (26%) cases reported about adverse effects and/or drug reactions during treatment, but only 5 patients were found to be referred to the government TB clinics for consultation. Most patients (93%) knew about the length of their current treatment course. The comparative results between the studies of 1994 and 1993 showed significant improvement in most of the indicators such as initial treatment by the POs, regularity of sputum follow-up, sputum conversion rate and rate of previous history recording in patients' cards. Initiation of treatment for all patients within 7 days of case identification, regular sputum follow-up, regular drug intake, and use of sterilized equipment for injection were recommended.

### **NEED ASSESSMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED POST-GRADUATE COURSE ON DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

*Manzurul Mannan, Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury, Rita Sen  
Iqbal Anawar and Golam Samdani Fakir*

The development professionals of developing countries enrich themselves from their work experience in development intervention. Thus, they accumulate vast experience and knowledge. But, they are facing two constraints; a) non-availability of professional and academic degrees in development, and b) problem of admission to western universities for higher degrees in the field of development. Keeping the above reality in mind, it was felt necessary to develop a post-graduate programme for development managers and practitioners. This need assessment study was undertaken to identify the current need in development and perhaps future marketing prospects. This need assessment study has drawn several inferences. There is a clear need for advance and post-graduate course in development management. The practitioners learn about their job and tasks mostly by experiential learning. Many NGO managers cover up their professional shortcoming by attending different short training courses. NGO managers need three types of education. First, they need general management education that would help develop administrative and financial skills. Secondly, they require the development management education that would offer subjects like programme management and community development. Thirdly, they require development education like training, research and evaluation, and development and policy issues/advocacy that will support the above two areas of general management and development management education. To develop a comprehensive course curriculum, a combination of the above three areas is required.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY OF RDP: FINAL REPORT**

*Shams Mustafa, Ishrat Ara, Altaf Hossain,  
M Mohsin, Dilruba Banu and Azmal Kabir*

This study aimed to gain a more extensive understanding of the socioeconomic impact of RDP on its beneficiaries, in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The criteria for the indicators that would measure impact were: a) the members well-being; b) vulnerability to seasonality and crisis coping capacity; c) changes in women's lives; and d) the development of village organizations (VOs) as 'institutions'. Information were collected through household survey in both peak and lean seasons, and from case studies of VOs. Positive improvements were observed with respect to material well-being, reduction in seasonal vulnerability, strengthened coping capacity and well-being sustainability, and improved status of women. The institutionalization of the VOs did not appear very strong. The study suggest that the participating VO members need to reach a 'critical minimum' level of RDP inputs before improvement is noticeable. In addition, the poor VO members and the households having only female VO members achieved comparatively greater improvements in well-being than their counterparts who were better-off and were males respectively, having met 'critical mass' criteria. A potential weakness of the programme was discontinuation of VO membership due to inability to maintain programme discipline, dissatisfaction towards local BRAC management, and expectations which were unmet or falsely

committed by field staff. To maintain and strengthen the positive improvements in the lives of the rural poor, RDP needs to increase its efforts to reduce dissatisfaction among VO members. The concept of 'institution building' needs to be replaced and experimentation with alternative strategies of organization development are required.

### **GENDER, PARENTS' RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND CHILD IMMUNIZATION: A CASE FROM RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Samir R Nath*

This study presents the findings of EPI coverage survey conducted in January 1995 in two rural areas in Bangladesh and identified if there is any difference in coverage with respect to gender and religious belief. A total of 1,848 children aged 12-23 months were included in the study. The study findings reveal that gender variation was found only among the Muslim children of the central area. Girls of these households were the most disadvantaged children compared to others. Remarkable gender disparity existed among the better off compared to the poor children of the Muslim households of the central area.

### **IMPACT OF BRAC'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON ENROLLMENT AND LITERACY IN MANIKGANJ**

*Samir R Nath, Abdullahel Hadi and AMR Chowdhury*

This study assessed the role of BRAC's education programme in raising the overall national educational achievements. In this study educational achievement consists of gross and net enrollment rates, and literacy rate of the persons aged 6-16 and 10-20 years, respectively. A total of 1,647 persons were interviewed. It was observed that 28.9% of the currently enrolled children were enrolled in BRAC schools and nearly 38% of the literate persons went to or currently enrolled at BRAC schools. This study also explored that, a) children from neighbouring villages were also enrolled in BRAC schools, b) people from the target households, specially the women were benefited more than others from BRAC's education programme, c) BRAC's education programme raised enrollment in general and helps the children of disadvantaged and poor, and d) BRAC contributed to raise literacy particularly in villages having no other schools.

### **ROLE OF EDUCATION ON CHILD LABOUR**

*Samir R Nath*

This study shows the relationship between child labour and their education as well as parental education in two rural areas in Bangladesh. A child aged between 10-14 years engaged in any type of work for at least three hours on the reference day was considered as a child labour. Information of 3,809 children were analyzed. Along with bi-variate analysis, probability of child's being participated in labour force was also calculated. It was revealed that increased education of the children and their parents helped reduce child labour. Of the three types of education, child schooling was the most responsible factor to discourage child labour followed by father's and mother's education.



## **SOCIAL FACTORS UNDERLYING GENDER VARIATION OF SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: A CASE OF RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Samir R Nath*

This study revealed gender variation in school enrollment of rural children and identified social factors underlying such variation. Data originated from a representative sample survey of 5,163 children aged 6-15 years in 87 villages in Manikganj, Bangladesh. Findings reveal that enrollment rate was higher among boys than girls ( $p < 0.01$ ). Remarkable socioeconomic disparities in enrollment existed among children of both sexes and gender variation was much higher in socioeconomically better off households. Five factors such as age of children, mother's education, household land size, labour sale status, and housing condition appeared to be important determinants of enrollment. Mother's education contributed most to promote enrollment among girls while land ownership promoted enrollment among boys. The multivariate analysis revealed that girls were 15% less likely to be enrolled than the boys ( $p < 0.05$ ) when other variables such as age of children, mother's education, household land size, housing condition and labour sale status were controlled. Measures such as motivation of parents to send their daughters to schools and targeting poor children for enrollment should be undertaken to minimize this gender disparity.

## **VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME: SOCIOECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DIFFERENTIALS**

*Samir R Nath*

This study explored the findings of vitamin A capsule (VAC) coverage survey conducted in February 1995 and identified socioeconomic and community variation in two rural areas in Bangladesh. A total of 8,114 children, aged 6-71 months, eligible to receive VAC during the 38th cycle of distribution were investigated. It was observed that vitamin A coverage was lower in 38th cycle and the rate varied over time. Difference in coverage rate by selected socioeconomic characteristics was not prominent. But significant community differential in coverage was still wide in the rural areas.

## **EFFECT OF SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS ON DROPOUT OF CHILDREN FROM NFPE URBAN SCHOOLS**

*Ahsan H Quazi*

The study aimed to investigate the socioeconomic factors responsible for dropout of students from NFPE urban schools. Data were collected from 20 dropped out students of 10 NFPE urban schools in five slums of Dhaka city, the parents of dropped out children, NFPE programme organizers and teachers. The study also included observation of parent-teacher's meetings and informal group discussions with parents. The study findings reveal several socioeconomic reasons for dropout, such as a) involvement in income generating activities to support their families, b) migration of families for better employment opportunities; c) lack of motivation from parents towards education, d) gender biases, e) lack of security for girl students, and f) bullying by older students.

## **PILOT STUDY ON INTRA-HOUSEHOLD FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

*Rita Das Roy and SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This study was conducted under BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab in November, 1995 to develop an instrument to examine the existing inequality in food distribution among boys and girls in



rural households. Fifteen pair of school-going brothers and sisters aged 8-16 years from 15 different households in Uddamdi village of Matlab thana were included in the study. All sample households belonged to BRAC's target group. The brothers and sisters were interviewed about previous day's food intake. At least one complete meal of the each pair was observed to gather in-depth understanding on mother's behaviour in relation to household food allocation. The study results revealed that this tool can be used with some degree of modification to examine existing gender inequalities in food distribution among household members in the rural areas. The results further show that proportionately more brothers (13 out of 15) took snacks at and outside home than their sisters (9 out of 15). In the morning meals, 11 brothers ate adequately compared to 10 sisters. In the evening meals, 12 brothers informed to eat adequately compared to 11 sisters. When we tried to convert the results into quantitative terms, 10 out of 15 brothers had higher scores than the sisters which suggests that the brothers were given more preference over their sisters of similar age and occupation in daily allocation of foods. However, further research is needed to improve this tool before being replicated on a larger sample.

## LITERATURE REVIEW ON INSTITUTION BUILDING

*Rita Sen*

This paper aims to explain the concept and distinctive features of institution and tries to see how BRAC's institution building (IB) process confirms the concept and features of an institution. Both sociologists and development workers consider the institution as a necessity to regulate as well as to bring positive changes in the community. But the development workers put more emphasis on the functional aspects of institution and consider the IB process as a modern process of development. This process includes the enlightenment of backward communities with the programme of mass mobilization and participation. In the development process the concept of IB is different from the theoretical concept of institution. They also mentioned some distinctive features of an institution such as, discipline, problem solving capability, group cohesiveness, etc. Like many other NGOs, BRAC put more emphasis on IB to bring the change in the community. In BRAC's Rural Development Programme IB plays a pivotal role. It involves in establishing village organizations (VOs), building up members' resources, etc. In this perspective, BRAC has also undertaken some indicators which confirms the characteristics of an institution. But BRAC do not have any specific time frame to discuss institutional characters of an institution. IB is a lengthy process and it is difficult to say when BRAC can build up its VO as an institution. BRAC should fix a specific time for its VOs to assume the characters of an institution.

## PERCEPTION OF THE IGVGD PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS ON THE EFFECTS OF THE PROGRAMME ON SOCIOECONOMIC AND NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING

*Sabah Tarannum, Farid Ahmed and SM Ziauddin Hyder*

This study aimed to examine the impact of the IGVGD on nutritional status of the participants particularly of women and children and to examine general well-being of the participants due to their involvement in the programme. Six villages of Tangail thana were randomly selected and 6 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with IGVGD participants. Major issues discussed during the FGDs were: training of the poultry workers and key rearers, credit schemes for poultry, vaccine/drugs, issue-based meetings, food aid (wheat), control over household resources, women's status within and outside the household, health and nutritional status and sanitary conditions of the households. This study shows that the participating women are more conscious about health and nutrition related issues compared to pre-involvement in the programme. They were able to improve their socioeconomic conditions through skill development training and poultry rearing. The women's mobility and their day to day contact with local Union Parishad members and development workers had increased. They

could gradually overcome problems and their attitudes have begun to change resulting in increased self-esteem. The IGVD programme could reach target population successfully which helped improve their socioeconomic conditions and nutritional status.

<b>ONGOING STUDIES</b>
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<b>A. RDP-RELATED STUDIES</b>	
1. Evaluation of IGVGD programme.	Rita Sen and S Mustafa
2. Material well-being and livelihood in the oxbow lake community.	Shams Mustafa and A Hossain
3. An exploratory study of patron-client relations in Shekhpara, Kutamoni villages, Jamalpur: poor women in ten patronage clusters.	Dipti Das and GR Selim
4. Loan histories of seventy one target group women in Kutamoni and Shekhpara villages of Jamalpur district.	Parul Lata Biswas and GR Selim
5. Human rights and legal education training impact assessment study.	Md Rafi and N Amin
6. Credit support to RDP VO members: a study on the utilization practice and profitability.	Shahnaj Akter
7. Institution building at the membership organization: the BRAC case.	Mahmuda Rahman Khan and PL Biswas
8. Social transformation in the inland fishing community in Bangladesh.	Akhter Hussain Mallick and S Mustafa
9. Cost-benefit analysis of BRAC sericulture programme.	Shantana R Halder and MS Choudhury
10. Village study project: extend the study of a base village (Narayanpur) to the region.	Rita Sen, MA Kalam, AH Mallick, S Akter and SA Begum
11. Pilot study on the BRAC- RDP on women.	Gul Rukh Selim
12. Development of indicators for monitoring VO's.	Rita Sen and N Ahmed
13. A longitudinal study on the seasonal variations and trends in the labour force, participation, income and expenditure; TG BRAC and TG non - BRAC.	Md Rafi and N Amin
14. Barriers to participation in RDP BRAC, Part II.	Timothy G Evans, Md Rafi, AM Adams and AMR Chowdhury

<p><b>B. HEALTH STUDIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health behaviour in a village of Jamalpur district.</li> <li>2. Process documentation on different package services delivery in HPP.</li> <li>3. Assessment of birth and death recording in HPP areas.</li> <li>4. Reasons for discontinuation of TB treatment in HPP.</li> <li>5. Cohort analysis of growth monitoring.</li> <li>6. Consequences of low-birth weight babies in Manikganj.</li> <li>7. Fertility and mortality status in WHDP areas.</li> <li>8. Effective knowledge of women on family planning.</li> <li>9. Relapse of TB treatment cases in two thanas of Bangladesh.</li> </ol>	<p>Rita Sen, MA Kalam, AH Mallick, S Akter and SA Begum</p> <p>Ahmed Ali, MN Islam, SN Mahmud and F Karim</p> <p>Ahmed Ali, SN Mahmud, MN Islam and F Karim</p> <p>MN Islam, A Ali, SN Mahmud and F Karim</p> <p>Ahmed Ali, SN Mahmud and F Karim</p> <p>Rukhsana Gazi, A Ali and F Karim</p> <p>Fazlul Karim, A Ali and SN Mahmud</p> <p>Hashima-E-Nasreen, AMR Chowdhury and A Bhuiya</p> <p>Md Nazrul Islam, AMR Chowdhury, A Islam, SN Mahmud, A Ali and SA Chowdhury</p>
<p><b>C. WATCH PROJECT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Covariates of childhood diseases in selected rural areas of Bangladesh.</li> <li>2. Impact of immunization of child survival.</li> <li>3. Trend of ARI deaths in rural Bangladeshi children (0-5 years) in years from 1988 to 1994.</li> <li>4. Mortality and its causes in rural Bangladesh in 1993: a case of 150 villages.</li> <li>5. Child immunization coverage in RDP villages: can it be sustained?</li> <li>6. Environmental degradation process in the rural areas: are people aware?</li> </ol>	<p>Abdullahel Hadi</p> <p>Shahriar Reza Khan</p> <p>FM Kamal</p> <p>FM Kamal</p> <p>A Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury</p>

7. Safe sanitary practice in rural areas: does RDP play a role?	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury
8. Credit program, women's autonomy and reproductive behavior: evidence from BRAC village, Bangladesh.	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury
9. Women's employment and contraception : is there a link?	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury
10. Living condition and vulnerability of the poor in the rural areas: role of poverty-focused development programmes.	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury
11. Role of BRAC in raising enrollment and literacy among the rural poor.	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath and AMR Chowdhury
12. Assessment of basic competencies of the graduates of BRAC's education programme.	Samir R Nath and AMR Chowdhury
13. Assessment of acute respiratory infection control program of BRAC and enhancing its effectiveness.	FM Kamal
<b>D. MATLAB STUDY PROJECT</b>	
1. Case-tracking of women receiving loans from RDP.	A Mushtaque R Chowdhury and AKMM Rana
2. Dynamics of village organization: the women status production work.	Manzurul Mannan and SA Begum
3. Cash, credit and capital: an anthropology of money circulation among the poor.	Manzurul Mannan and SA Begum
4. Emic perspective of rural women about their own illness.	Amina Mahbub and SM Ahmed
5. Effect of BRAC's development inputs on women's lives.	Samiha Huda, SR Khan and S Mahmud
6. Morbidity and types of treatment sought in rural Matlab: some socioeconomic differentials.	Syed Masud Ahmed, AMR Chowdhury and A Bhuiya
7. Cohesion among VO members: effects of RDP?	Sharmin Mahbub, A Mahbub and AKMM Rana
8. Night-blindness in rural Bangladesh: some socioeconomic differentials.	Syed Masud Ahmed
9. Night blindness in rural Bangladeshi children: some socioeconomic defferentials.	Syed Masud Ahmed



<p><b>E. EDUCATION STUDIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The enrollment pattern of NFPE graduates studied in secondary schools.</li> <li>2. Dropout and replacement situation in urban schools of Dhaka city.</li> <li>3. Comparative achievement in different subjects of NFPE learners in grade III.</li> <li>4. Participatory development and BRAC: Improving basic literacy for disadvantaged children.</li> <li>5. Evaluating quality of education of NFPE schools.</li> <li>6. Exploring the needs of union pathagar: a probe into need assessment.</li> <li>7. Women education and religious opposition: the case of Bangladesh.</li> <li>8. Does education bring any change for women? Learning from BRAC -.</li> <li>9. Content analysis of NFPE curricula.</li> </ol>	<p>Feroza Begum</p> <p>Ahsan H Quazi</p> <p>Shaheen Akter</p> <p>Monira Hasan</p> <p>Education Study Group</p> <p>Feroza Begum, AH Quazi and S Akter</p> <p>Monira Hasan</p> <p>Monira Hasan</p> <p>Feroza Begum and S Akter</p>
<p><b>F. NUTRITION STUDIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BRAC-HKI nutritional surveillance project (NSP).</li> <li>2. Nutritional impact study of the IGVGD programme.</li> <li>3. Knowledge and attitude of the rural mothers towards the use of latrine.</li> <li>4. Nutritional status of under-five children and income differences.</li> <li>5. Does VAC reduces ARI and diarrhoeal morbidity among the pre-school aged children?</li> <li>6. Effects of vitamin A supplementation on childhood respiratory infections and growth: an analysis of the NSP data.</li> <li>7. Impact of BRAC's nutrition supplementation programme on nutrition status during pregnancy and pregnancy outcome.</li> </ol>	<p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder and S Tarannum</p> <p>Sabah Tarannum and SMZ Hyder</p> <p>Sadia A Chowdhury, SMZ Hyder and M Khatun</p>

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