

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION

annual report 1996

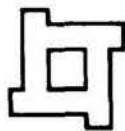


GLOSSARY

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

Annual Report

1996



BRAC

Research and Evaluation Division

Editor
Hasan Shareef Ahmed

Managing Editor
M Ghulam Sattar

Cover design
Nazma Dey

Copyright © 1997 BRAC

May 1997

Publisher:

BRAC
BRAC Centre
75 Mohakhali Commercial Area
Dhaka 1212

E-mail : red@amrbrac.bdmail.net
Fax : 880-2-883542, 883614
Telex : 632327 BRAC BJ
Cable : BRAC Dhaka
Telephones : 884180-7 (8 lines)

BRAC/RED publishes research reports, scientific papers, monographs, Bangla digest (*Nirjash*), *Watch* report, proceedings, manuals, and other publications on subjects relating to income poverty, health, education, gender, and environment.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	... vii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	... viii
25 YEARS OF BRAC	... 1
RED IN 1996: HIGHLIGHTS	... 3
RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION	... 7
<u>RDP Impact Assessment, Credit, Employment and Income Generation</u>	... 7
Impact assessment study (IAS) II	... 8
Costs and benefits of BRAC's sericulture programme: an economic analysis	... 9
BRAC's pilot savings project: monitoring and evaluation	... 9
VO (village organization) members' perception of area office (AO), village organization (VO) and sustainability of income generating activities (IGA)	... 10
<u>RDP Social Development, Training Impact and JMBP</u>	... 11
Impact of the oxbow lakes small scale fishermen project II on participant households	... 11
Baseline survey of potential erosion and flood affected areas of JMBP	... 11
Impact assessment of BRAC's human rights and legal education training	... 12
<u>RDP Matlab and Gender</u>	... 12
BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab	... 13
AIDS rally at Matlab	... 13
Plan for 1997	... 14
<u>Health and Population</u>	... 14
<u>Study on health, population, and essential health care</u>	... 14
Factors affecting implementation of FPPF in Kulaura thana under Moulvibazar district	... 15
Exploring women's perception on birth process with body mapping	... 15

Men: speaking about family planning	...	15
Study on consequences of low birth weight babies in rural Bangladesh	...	15
TBA programmes: a comprehensive literature review	...	15
Elderly care in Bangladesh	...	15

Social science and immunization: a multi-country research project	...	16
Evaluation of the 1997 National Immunization Days (NIDs)	...	17
Community demand for/acceptance of immunization and quality of immunization services in Bangladesh	...	17

Nutrition Group ... 18

Research collaboration with Umeå University (Sweden)	...	18
Effectiveness of iron supplementation programmes in pregnancy: the impact of dose frequency on compliance, side-effects and haematological outcome	...	18
Nutrition surveillance project	...	19
Nutritional impact study of the IGVDG programme	...	20
Study on intra-household food distribution in a rural area of Bangladesh	...	20
Socioeconomic development and human well-being: seasonal survey on nutrition	...	20
Impact of Muktagacha pilot nutrition initiative on nutritional status of women and children	...	20

WATCH Project ... 21

NGO-MIS	...	21
---------	-----	----

Education Group ... 22

Mainstreaming of BRAC/NFPE students	...	22
Development of a framework for educational research for BRAC	...	23
Chandina learning improvement project	...	23

Environment Group ... 23

Editing and Publishing ... 24

Launching ceremony of "A Simple Solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home"	...	24
Serial in newspaper	...	25
<i>Nirjash</i>	...	25
Annual Report	...	25
Watch Report	...	26
Working papers	...	26

Proceedings	...	26
RED news in <i>Access</i>	...	26
Readership survey	...	26
Decade of research in BRAC	26
<u>Dissemination of Research</u>	...	27
Scientific presentation in ASCON V	...	27
Conferences, seminars and workshops	...	28
Journal club	...	30
Thursday tea seminar	...	30
<u>Administration and Data Management</u>	...	30
INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION	...	31
Consultancy to Rural Development Project - 9 of BRDB	...	31
Consultancy to World Food Programme	...	31
Consultancy to World Bank in Nepal	...	32
Consultancy to UNICEF	...	32
Training support extended to other institutions	...	32
Internees	...	32
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT	...	33
Recruitment	...	33
Promotion	...	34
Training	...	34
Training support extended to other BRAC programmes	...	36
BRAC research impact project	...	36
Strengthening of research and evaluation activities in BRAC	...	37
PUBLICATIONS 1996	...	38
Internal publications	...	38
External publications	...	39
ABSTRACTS OF REPORTS AND PAPERS COMPLETED DURING 1996	...	41
ONGOING STUDIES	...	61
RED SEMINARS IN 1996	...	66
INDEX	...	68

Timeline of RED: Major Events

- 1972 : BRAC founded.
- 1975 : Research and evaluation activities initiated at BRAC.
- 1976 : RED initiated its first study through a survey in Sulla in cooperation with BIDS and ICDDR,B. Village study launched in four areas.
- 1977 : Baseline survey of Manikganj and a follow-up study of monthly *Gonokendra* done.
- 1978 : Research and Evaluation Division (RED) formally established.
- 1979 : "Who gets what and why: research allocation in a Bangladesh village" published.
- 1980 : Studies on Oral Therapy Extension Programme (OTEP) started.
: "The net: power structure in ten villages" published.
- 1983 : Rural Study Series launched.
- 1986 : Watch Project launched.
- 1990 : Village Study Project (VSP) launched.
: Nutritional Surveillance Project (NSP) started.
- 1991 : Research on the fallout of the 1991 cyclone conducted.
: "A tale of two wings: health and family planning programmes in a upazilla in northern Bangladesh" published.
- 1992 : Assessment of Basic Competencies (ABC), a new simple technique of education research developed.
: BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab initiated.
- 1993 : The Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of RDP initiated.
: A large scale survey on Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP) undertaken.
: Collaborative research with CDS, University of Wales, Swansea initiated.
: Collaborative work with IDS, Sussex started.
: Joint study with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine undertaken.
- 1994 : Helen Keller International Award for Best Performance in NSP received.
: Initiated a research project with the University of Manchester, UK.
- 1995 : *Nirjash*, Bangla summary of selected RED research reports first published.
: Standardized Achievement Test (SAT), a new education assessment tool introduced in cooperation with the Institute for Education Research, Dhaka University.
: Collaborative research with Karolinska Institute, Sweden initiated.
: Multi-country study on social science and immunization launched (with India, Thailand, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Malawi, the Netherlands, and the USA).
- 1996 : "A simple solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home" published.
: The second Impact Assessment Study (IAS II) of RDP begins.
: Joint study with the Umea University, Sweden initiated.
: Two studies on poultry and artificial insemination started with Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute.
: Studies on Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project initiated.

PREFACE

This is the tenth annual report of the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) which documents the activities of the Division during 1996. These activities include multi-disciplinary studies on various BRAC programmes and activities, collaborative research with national and international organizations, transnational study, impact and evaluation studies, surveys, staff development and training, conferences, seminars and workshops, dissemination of research findings and finance. List of acronyms and abbreviations used in this report appears on the back of the front cover.

Abstracts of completed studies and list of other more formal internal and external publications are also included in this report. These reports are readily available in the Ayesha Abed Library of BRAC. A list of ongoing studies is also included in the appendix.

Anyone wishing to make any comments on this report or would like to have more information on RED activities may 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; DGIS (Netherlands), KFW (Germany;) the governments of Bangladesh, Germany and the Netherlands; NOVIB; ODA (UK); Pathfinder International, Royal Tropical Institute (UK), Swiss Development Cooperation; UNFPA and UNICEF.

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.

25 YEARS OF BRAC

In February 1997 BRAC completes its 25 years of existence. On this silver jubilee occasion BRAC reflects on its past, reviews its current activities and thinks for the future. BRAC, operating in Bangladesh since February 1972, has now emerged as one of the largest national private sector development organizations.

BRAC implements three multi-sectoral field programmes to achieve its two major goals of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor through 18,533 regular staff and nearly 31,000 part-time staff throughout the country. At the end of 1996, there were 1.84 million participants of RDP, mostly poor rural women, in 54,238 village organizations (VO). Collectively they saved over one billion taka (US\$ 29.5 million). In 1996 alone they borrowed over five billion taka (US\$ 128 million) for income generating activities, in most cases, repaying fully on time. Nearly a million women were actively involved in poultry project.

Twenty-five million mulberry trees had been planted to support a sericulture enterprise which yield 43.5 metric tons of silk between 1992 and 1995, half of the entire national production.

Twelve million notebooks, 21 million textbooks and readers, and more than three million pencils were purchased in 1996 for 1.1 million students in BRAC's 34,175 non-

formal primary schools. At the end of 1996, the number of NFPE graduates reached 520,575. In 1996, BRAC purchased 42 tons of corn seed, 200 tons of corrugated iron sheet and 120 motor cycles for its various rural development projects. BRAC's health and population programmes covered around 11 million people in 13,260 villages.

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 1996 was over US\$ 95 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: a) make the programme participants aware of their own problems and difficulties, b) provide them with tools to unite into organized groups, and c) increase their capacity to exercise their legal and civic rights.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is the largest core programme of BRAC covering 32,102 villages. BRAC initiated rural credit in the 1970s among the rural poor to promote 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, fisheries, social forestry, irrigation, and small trading.

The Health and Population Division 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 Non-Formal Primary Education Programme runs 34,175 non-formal schools 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.

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, and a textile mill. A large dairy project, BRAC bank and BRAC university are being set up.

References:

- Smillie I. Words and deeds: BRAC at 25. Dhaka: BRAC 1997: 9.
- BRAC Annual Report 1996.

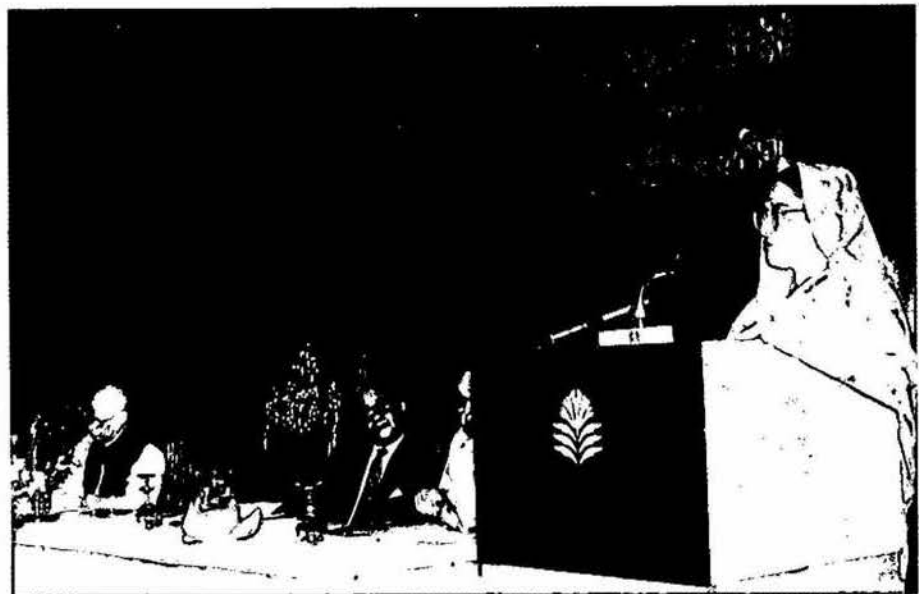
RED IN 1996: HIGHLIGHTS

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED), established in 1975, is an independent unit within BRAC. RED's mandate is to provide necessary research support to BRAC programmes. It also undertakes special studies on request from the government and other national and international NGOs, and UN bodies. In addition, RED also undertakes joint studies and collaborative research on various subjects related to rural development.

RED conducts wide range of studies including surveys, demographic surveillance, diagnostic studies, monitoring and evaluation studies, action research, and impact studies. Though most of the studies are conducted on ad hoc basis, RED has also been conducting longitudinal studies.

The year 1996 saw considerable progress of RED's activities despite political unrest in the first quarter of the year. RED strengthened its multi-disciplinary research on social issues and broadened its current critical focus on impact assessment of major BRAC programmes. To strengthen environmental issues in BRAC programmes, a new study group on environment research was set up in 1996 which added a new dimension to BRAC research. More emphasis has been given to promote qualitative approach. During the year, RED undertook a large-scale baseline survey on the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, a mega project of the Bangladesh government. The division also initiated two joint studies with the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, a specialized government institution, on the

Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of the government of People's Republic of Bangladesh addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Conference on Universal Primary Education in Bangladesh. BRAC/RED provided and managed the conference secretariat.



Sakhawat Hussain

use and potency of poultry vaccines and performance of artificial insemination in livestock development. A new two-year study on iron supplementation during pregnancy was initiated with the Umeå University of Sweden.

RED provided extensive support to the Conference on Universal Primary Education in Bangladesh, held in Dhaka during 6-10 August 1996. It also worked as the conference secretariat and provided logistic and technical support including translation, editing, and publishing services. A preliminary report on the conference was published, and the final report in the form of a book, to be published by University Press Limited of Dhaka, is under preparation.

RED conducted a special study to document the opinion of the rural poor on the country-wide non-cooperation movement of March 1996. Data were collected when the movement was at its peak (20-27 March) from 150 area offices of RDP throughout the country. The movement to make constitutional provisions for a neutral caretaker government to conduct general elections was successful. But sufferings of the common people, particularly the poor, was endless. Such sufferings often go unknown and unrecognized. The rural people were cynical and frustrated about the politics in the country. Many people were annoyed and passed bitter and sharp comments about the top political leadership of the country. This study documented some specific impact on the lives of the poor and on the development programmes of the non-governmental organizations.

The transnational (eight country) research project on social science and immunization

was put into operation in early 1996. For Bangladesh component of the study, BRAC became a core partner jointly with ICDDR,B and the government of Bangladesh. The study aims to enhance the sustainability and immunization coverage in the South and the North. The results of the study are expected in early 1998.

The BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab entered into the fifth year of operation. The third seasonal round of data collection was completed. The analysis of the first and second round data was completed, and four working papers were produced. The analysis of third round data was initiated.

The report of the Impact Assessment Study of RDP phase I (IAS I) was finalized in early 1996. The IAS phase II was initiated in August 1996. IAS II is a mid-term study with the same broad objectives of IAS I, which are to measure the socioeconomic impacts of RDP interventions over time on programme participants, in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The study would also provide a baseline information for the new phase of the programme (RDP Phase IV) which started in January 1996.

RED completed a three-year project which helped eight national NGOs in Bangladesh in developing their evaluation and monitoring capacities, particularly the management information system. RED also worked intensively in developing a sustainability workplan for BRAC programmes.

A training manual was produced for UNICEF, Bangladesh on participatory assessment, analysis and action. RED also provided consultancy service on introducing

the methods of participatory planning and monitoring of programmes to Rangpur Region Rural Development Programme, a donor-assisted government programme. This year RED hosted and provided necessary academic support to 10 internees and student volunteers, six from abroad.

RED has been maintaining 18 field stations throughout the country to collect wide range of information including demographic surveillance, rural employment, migration, literacy, and family planning. Analysis of these data provides valuable information and insight into various socioeconomic and demographic situations in rural Bangladesh.

To date RED has produced 518 research reports including 56 in 1996. The abstracts of papers and reports completed in 1996 are included in this report (see page 41). Results of the studies were made available to BRAC management, programme managers, field staff, and BRAC donors through seminars, reports, and a number of BRAC/RED publications. RED research findings are also used by the government of Bangladesh, different development organizations, academics and researchers. At the end of the year 56 studies were ongoing (see page 61).

Dissemination of research results was further strengthened during the year. Ten original scientific papers were published in renowned national and international journals such as: *Lancet*, *Health Policy and Planning*, *Population Studies*, *World Development*, *Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies Working Paper Series*, *Agroforestry Today*, *Bangladesh Journal of Agricultural Economics*, etc. Besides, four book chapters were also contributed by RED researchers. Nine presentations were made in the Fifth Annual Scientific Conference

(ASCON V) of ICDDR,B. One issue of the Bangla digest *Nirjash* containing summary of 22 selected research reports of RED, four working papers, three proceedings, four *Watch* reports, and an annual report were published. A book documenting BRAC's pioneering project on oral rehydration therapy was published by a reputed local publisher.

RED is financed mainly by BRAC. It also mobilizes external funds through contractual and collaborative research, consultative services, and grants against specific projects. In 1996, RED spent 25.23 million taka for its research activities, over 35% received from external sources.

In September 1996 RED moved into the newly built 20 storied **BRAC Centre** at 75 Mohakhali Commercial Area in Dhaka.



Field Research Activity

RED researchers make frequent field visits to monitor and supervise field activities, collect data for different studies, and to gather longitudinal surveillance data throughout the country. RED also has field researchers and other staff who are stationed in the field offices.



Nurul Amin

Interviewing the female VO members.



Interviewing a male VO member in his shop as he was not available in the VO meeting.

Shahnaj Akhter

RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

The activities of Research and Evaluation Division (RED) has been growing fast. To streamline these work for further strengthening of research, the work at RED has been decentralized into 10 study/working groups. Each group is headed by a senior researcher/staff who is called the study group coordinator (SGC). The coordinators are responsible to provide professional leadership, plan and coordinate the activities of the group, guide and supervise the group members, and also to initiate training programme for group members. The current groups are:

- a) RDP impact assessment, credit, employment and income generation;
- b) RDP social development, training impact, and JMBP;

- c) RDP Matlab and gender;
- d) Health, population, and nutrition;
- e) Nutrition;
- f) Watch project;
- g) Education;
- h) Environment;
- i) Editing and publishing; and
- j) Administration and data management.

The grouping was done on the basis of RED activities and BRAC programmes. These groups are not static, rather necessary reorganizations are made time to time to best suit the current needs of BRAC programmes and RED research. Major activities of RED in 1996 are discussed in the following sections broadly under these study/working groups.

RDP IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CREDIT, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION

This study group is responsible for development of an impact assessment system for BRAC's Rural Development Programme (RDP). It also conducts studies on credit, employment and income generation activities of RDP. Major studies include: RDP impact assessment, cost-benefit analysis of sericulture programme, monitoring of a pilot savings project, assessment of gender quality action learning (GQAL) programme, sustainability of BRAC VOs and institution

building. Current members of this group include: Shahnaj Akter, Md Nurul Amin, Ishrat Ara, Dilruba Banu, Md Sadiqunnabi Choudhury, Fehmin Farashuddin, Shantana R Halder, AM Muazzam Husain (group coordinator), Md Altaf Hossain, and Debdulal Mallick. Some of the group members conduct training courses on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) both within and outside BRAC, while some provided consultancy services to other institutions.

Impact Assessment Study (IAS) II

AM Muazzam Husain, Shantana R Halder, Md Altaf Hossain, Dilruba Banu, Md Nurul Amin, Md Sadiqunnabi Chaudhury, Debdulal Mallick, Fehmin Farashuddin, and Shahnuj Akter

The Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of RDP Phase II was initiated in August 1996. IAS II is a mid-term study with the same broad objectives of IAS I, to measure the socio-economic impacts of RDP/RCP programme interventions over time on programme participants, in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The study would also provide a benchmark for RDP Phase IV.

The IAS II would measure the material well-being of RDP participants and its correlates. However, a new dimension has been added in IAS II with its focus on measurement of food poverty and its correlates. A number of variables such as asset holding, education, family size, length of membership in BRAC, land holding, occupation, sex of the household head and so forth, have been selected. These will be analyzed to determine material well-being and the extent to which poverty is explained by them. Food stock data will also be analyzed to show how seasonal fluctuations correlate with poverty. Other variables such as child school attendance, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and savings and loans situations will also be analyzed to determine their association with poverty. Once a broad picture of the characteristics of BRAC households has been obtained, the findings will be compared with the nationally defined poverty and poverty correlates.

BRAC members will be decomposed according to their length of membership to

determine whether there is a positive relationship between membership age, status, and poverty reduction performance. The "critical mass" theory of IAS I will be elaborated in this conjunction. Key variables related to differences between lean and peak seasons will also be obtained to show how BRAC is having an impact in respect to the participants' seasonal vulnerability and their coping capacity. Panel data obtained from IAS I will be included in IAS II to compare changes of different indicators over time.

Membership performance will also be decomposed and analyzed on the basis of the characteristics of four groups involved with BRAC: those whose situations have improved; those whose situations have remained the same; those whose situations have declined; and those whose situations have deteriorated to the extent that they have dropped out of BRAC. Qualitative data will be obtained to provide a clear picture of BRAC coverage, identifying the number of target group (TG) and non-target group (NTG) in the village and the reasons for their inclusion or exclusion from BRAC.

As with the previous IAS, women's empowerment will be addressed in IAS II, but with a narrower and specified focus. IAS II aims to provide a partial analysis of women's empowerment. This will cover areas such as woman's ownership and control over assets, contribution to family, perception of her own well-being, confidence in dealing with family crises and emergencies, bargaining power within her family, reduced dependency on her husband for personal expenses, and her increased self-confidence and self-assurance. The draft report of IAS II is due in August 1997.



Wealth ranking exercise is a tool used in participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods of collecting qualitative data. Here, community members are sorting out different wealth groups to identify how many people from which wealth group are involved in BRAC activities. These data will be used in the IAS II of RDP.

Fehmin

Costs and benefits of BRAC's sericulture programme: an economic analysis

Shantana R Halder and Md Sadiqunnabi Choudhury

BRAC's income generating activities (IGA) and their impact on poverty alleviation have been evaluated extensively both within and outside BRAC. However, a limited number of studies were conducted on BRAC sector programmes that investigated the self-sustainability to identify its potentials and constraints. The programme sustainability depends mainly on programme's financial and economic feasibility and viability of the programme participants. A programme will be financially feasible if it can at least equalize the cost of the programme with its revenue earned. A programme will be economically feasible if it can meet the economic cost with the income it generates. Participant's viability can be judged on their economic and social welfare, loan repayment performance, and dropout behaviour. The study was undertaken in January 1996 to measure the efficiency of the programme

from the participants' as well as the organizers point of view by investigating the benefits and costs of the programme.

Ten RDP areas where sericulture programme has reached minimum two years of maturity were taken as sample. A household survey was carried out during March-April 1996 on 575 programme participants from different activities of the programme like plantation, rearing, reeling and weaving. Information related to programme performance were collected from area offices. Data will be analyzed during September-December 1997.

BRAC's pilot savings project: monitoring and evaluation

Karen J Moore and Md Sadiqunnabi Choudhury

During July-August 1996, BRAC-RDP initiated a pilot savings project (PSP). Three experimental savings systems were implemented in different areas of Bangladesh, with a proposed life span of two to three years. RED was asked to develop and initiate a

monitoring and evaluation process for the PSP. The objectives of the preliminary stage of research were essentially to gain an impression of how the PSP was understood and regarded by the management, staff, and VO members. This was to confirm the attitudes, objectives, and concerns surrounding different savings schemes, and to determine the quality of information dissemination. Sixty-four semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were held with BRAC VO members, staff, and management in nine branches and at the head office. On the basis of the objectives defined for the PSP during this preliminary stage of research, the objective of the monitoring and evaluation effort was defined to determine the progress of branches under the three PSP schemes in terms of:

- provision of access to clients' own savings,
- client well-being,
- reduced dropouts, and
- contribution of savings to BRAC's economic sustainability.

The preliminary report was presented in November 1996. Case study and spot-checking materials were then developed, for use during monitoring and evaluation of PSP in 1997. The purpose of spot-checking is two-fold: to determine any concerns and problems relating to the PSP models at the branch staff and VO member level, and to check how the relevant model is being run. The main objective of the in-depth case

studies was to allow issues regarding savings practices and the determinants of these practices, and VO members' opinions regarding various savings policies including those of BRAC, to emerge. A report on results from case studies, spot checking, and a preliminary financial review, is expected in April 1997. Monitoring and evaluation of the PSP will continue and the final report is due in December 1999.

VO (village organization) members' perception of area office (AO), village organization and sustainability of income generating activities (IGA)

Md Altaf Hossain and Shahnuj Akter

This exploratory study was initiated in May 1996 to have a clear idea about villagers' perception of VO, AO and IGA sustainability and their perception of impact indicators. Six VOs from three area offices of different age group were selected. Information were collected from VO members, village elite and BRAC staff of the respective area offices. Three sets of check lists were used for different group of informants. One of the major objectives of the study was to develop indicators for sustainability work plan matrix that was supposed to be completed in a series of consultancy meetings during September-December 1996. On the other hand, members' perceptions of impact indicators were looked for using them in the second Impact Assessment Study (IAS-II) of RDP.

This study group undertakes studies on social development of RDP, impact assessment of BRAC's training programme, and studies commissioned by the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA). The major studies conducted by this group include: impact assessment of Human Rights and Legal Education training, impact assessment of oxbow lakes project (Baor study), baseline survey of the potential erosion and flood affected areas of JMB project, and causes and consequences of VO dissolution. The studies which will be initiated in early 1997 include: impact of small group activities on the performance of RDP village organizations, use of uniform by the NFPE students, and poultry rearing of the IGVGD programme. Current members of this group include: Dilruba Ahmed, Shah Asad Ahmed, PK Chowdhury and Mohammad Rafi (group coordinator).

Impact of the oxbow lakes small scale fishermen project II on participant households

Dilruba Ahmed, Md Altaf Hossain and Shams Mustafa

The study was designed to explore the changes in the material well-being of the participant and non-participant households and the cause of displacement of the fishermen as a result of second oxbow lakes project (OLP II) intervention. The study collected data through surveys -- one in 1993 and another one in 1995 -- of 1,189 participant (fisherman) and non-participant (non-fisherman) households of several selected oxbow lake catchment areas. For information on fishermen displaced by the project the study relied on case studies in three oxbow

lake catchment areas. Both participants and non-participants are members of RDP.

Material well-being was measured by the improved condition of selected indicators like shelters, environment, household assets, income, credit, fish consumption and monthly expenditure over time, and by the difference between the participant and non-participant households. Some positive changes had taken place in the oxbow lake catchment areas as a result of the fishermen's participation in OLP II. The study found positive impact on majority of the material well-being indicators for the participating households both over time and compared with non-participant households. Since the non-participants were the members of RDP also, their performance was better somewhere than that of the participating households indicated by some of the indicators. Some fisherman households had been displaced from the OLP II and most of them were wage labourers while a considerable number of displaced households was addressed by different BRAC programmes. The final report is under preparation.

Baseline survey of potential erosion and flood affected areas of JMBP

Pijush Kanti Chowdhury, Mohammad Rafi, Md Jakariya and Shahidul Islam

The study was commissioned by the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority. The study covered an area of 12 km up and 10 km down the bridge including both mainland and *chars* (small islands in river) in the districts of Tangail and Sirajganj. The area covered 24,035 households who were interviewed.

The two major objectives of the survey are: 1) to identify and register all households owning property or residing or working within the survey area so that registration cards may be issued to the identified households; and 2) to provide certain information which may be used later on to conduct detailed socio-economic survey. The final report is expected in May 1997.

Impact assessment of BRAC's human rights and legal education training

Mohammad Rafi, David Hulme, Shah Asad Ahmed and Md Nurul Amin

The HRLE is an important programme of BRAC, manifested in its wide scale expansion in the past and for having similar expansion policy for the future. Such a policy facilitated through offering training raised question -- what is the impact of HRLE training on the VO members? This study aimed to answer this question. The objectives of this study are: 1) to develop a methodology to assess the impact of training

offered by BRAC; and 2) to assess the impact of HRLE training by using the methodology.

The quasi-experiential research technique was used in conducting this study. Data were collected from HRLE training sessions, VO members received BRAC's legal education (LE) in the past, VO members without LE and villagers from non-BRAC village.

It was observed that the training were effective as the level of learning of VO members who received LE increased satisfactorily due to the training. Within a three-year span, 61% of the observed VO members with LE conducted HRLE-related actions compared to 12% and 4% by the VO members without LE and villagers from non-BRAC village, respectively. Altogether 59 HRLE-related actions were conducted by the observed VO members with LE compared to 9 in case of VO members without LE, and 2 in case of the villagers from non-BRAC village.

RDP MATLAB AND GENDER

A team of researchers with multi-disciplinary background conducts studies on the impact of BRAC's socioeconomic intervention on human well-being and gender issues under the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab, 55 km south-east of Dhaka. This is a longitudinal research project initiated in 1992 using a four cell research design: areas with BRAC and ICDDR,B interventions; areas with BRAC intervention only; areas with ICDDR,B intervention only; and a comparison area with no intervention.

The Matlab field station of ICDDR,B is an area with a population of 200,000, half of whom are recipients of an intensive maternal and child health and family planning services. The entire population is part of the Centre's demographic surveillance system where health and occasionally socioeconomic indicators have been collected prospectively since 1966. A unique opportunity arose when BRAC decided to extend its rural development interventions in Matlab in 1992. ICDDR,B and BRAC joined hands to study

the impact of BRAC's socioeconomic interventions on the well-being of rural poor, especially of women and children, and to study the pathways or mechanism through which such impact is mediated.

The current members of this study group are: Syed Masud Ahmed (group coordinator), Elisabeth L Fulton, Samiha Huda, Shahed Husain, Mahmuda R Khan, Amina Mahbub, Simeen Mahmud, Hashima-E-Nasreen, Mok-sudur Rahman, AKM Masud Rana, and Hassan Zaman. Counterparts from ICDDR,B include: Patrick Vaughan, Abbas Bhuiya, Monirul Islam Khan, Mohsina Khatun, Ayesha Aziz, and Golam Mustafa; while Simeen Mahmud is from BIDS.

BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab

The year 1996 was a remarkable one for BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab, Chandpur. The major activities of 1996 include: nine presentations in the Fifth Annual Scientific Conference (ASCON V) of

ICDDR,B, at Dhaka; analysis of 1st round data on health, fertility, nutrition, household economy and women's lives; completion of 3rd round data collection; and starting of a data compendium (2nd and 3rd rounds). Moreover, some in-depth studies were undertaken and three were completed during the year.

Four working papers on micro-credit, clients knowledge of family planning, cultural construction of health and institutional measures, and process documentation on inputs of BRAC in Matlab were published. Analyzing first round data five reports were completed on health, fertility, nutrition, household economy and women's lives.

AIDS rally at Matlab. World AIDS Day was observed on 1 December 1996 by BRAC and ICDDR,B at Matlab, through holding rally and discussion meetings on AIDS. The rally was participated by over 300 students and teachers of local schools and colleges, workers from different government and non-government organizations as



Masud Rana

Partial view of the AIDS rally at Matlab on World AIDS Day on 1 December 1996.

well as people from different walks of the society.

The discussion meeting was held under the auspices of the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab. The meeting was attended by a large number of female members of BRAC's village organizations (VOs). AIDS awareness campaign was conducted by BRAC health workers through holding meetings with BRAC VO members from 150 VOs in different villages. In

addition to raising awareness, BRAC and ICDDR,B also have plans to conduct research on behavioural and other preventive aspects of AIDS.

Plan for 1997. The secondary analysis of the first round data was planned to start from January 1997. Moreover, some issues were identified for in-depth studies such as, health, women's empowerment, credit and income. These will ultimately help explain and fill in the gaps of quantitative data.

HEALTH AND POPULATION

The health and population study group has been involved in designing, planning and implementing evaluation studies and operations research primarily on BRAC's health, population and nutrition programmes including Essential Health Care (EHC). The latter is an important component of BRAC's Rural Development Programme (RDP).

A team of twelve researchers with multi-disciplinary background constitute this group. The present group members are: Kaosar Afsana, Ahmed Ali, Insana Begum, Shamim Ara Begum, Faiz Ahmed Bhuiyan, Rukhsana Gazi, Fazlul Karim (group coordinator), Suhaila H Khan, Shah Noor Mahmud, Dineke Mol, Shahaduzzaman and Shagufta Sultana.

Operationally the group is divided into two sub-teams. One is responsible to conduct studies on health, population, nutrition, and EHC activities. The other team is involved in a longitudinal study on social science and immunization which forms a part of a multi-country research.

STUDY ON HEALTH, POPULATION, AND ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE

The primary aim of the studies on these programmes is to help ensure the continued relevance, visibility and effectiveness of various components of the programmes. In 1996, the group completed 10 studies covering a wide a range of issues on different elements of these programmes. The core aspects including among others were: community-based antenatal care services and their quality; impact of safe motherhood activity on post-partum infections; post-partum contraception behaviour of the mothers; health knowledge, attitudes and practice of the adolescent girls undergone special curricula of non-formal primary education under the aegis of HPD; male involvement in health programmes; evaluation of various aspects of community-based tuberculosis control programme, etc. Besides, there are four ongoing studies which are intended to assess the level of functional relationship between the government health and family planning wings and BRAC; male perceptions on family

planning; and reasons for not using the trained TBA services.

Factors affecting implementation of FFPF in Kulaura thana under Moulvibazar district

AMR Chowdhury, Shah Noor Mahmud, and Ahmed Ali

This study aims at exploring the causes responsible for resistance, if any, from the government family planning staff in implementing BRAC's Family Planning Facilitation Programme (FPFP) in Kulaura, Moulvibazar. Study design is being completed. Data are being collected through informal interview and discussions with government officials and staff of family planning and other departments, local leaders and elite, and staff of BRAC FFPF and other programme's as well as other NGOs. A report is expected in June 1997.

Exploring women's perception on birth process with body mapping

Shahaduzzaman and AMR Chowdhury

This study was conducted to assess 'body mapping' as a new approach of information gathering and also to explore and compare the perception on birth process among three categories of women; trained TBA, untrained TBA, and general women. Data were collected in November 1996. Final report will be completed by June 1997.

Men: speaking about family planning

Shahaduzzaman

This study aims at exploring male perception on family planning in terms of understanding of the term 'family planning', knowledge and opinion about different contraceptives, experience of male method acceptors and

knowledge on BRAC's FFPF. Data were collected in December 1996. Data analysis and report writing are underway. Final report is expected in July 1997.

Study on consequences of low birth weight babies in rural Bangladesh

Rukhsana Gazi, Ahmed Ali, and Fazlul Karim

A longitudinal study was designed to identify the consequences of low birth weight on growth and morbidity of the infants and to obtain information on infant feeding practices in rural Bangladesh. Data were collected from three unions of Manikganj district during 1993-95. Findings of the study would be presented in three parts, of which two are expected in April 1997. The main report will be finalized in July 1997.

TBA programmes: a comprehensive literature review

Suhaila H Khan, Md Nazrul Islam, and Ahmed Ali

The objective of this review is to identify various issues in TBA programme, and also to identify the gaps in research conducted so far. The review is in progress.

Elderly care in Bangladesh

Zarina Nahar Kabir and Nazrul Islam

A study on Elderly Care in Bangladesh was undertaken in collaboration with the Karolinska Institute of Sweden in November 1995 and was completed in January 1996.

Elderly people are a neglected group in the country. There is no specific State policy exists for the welfare of the elderly people. Very little is known about their present condition, how they survive, whether they

SEMINAR
**SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN BANGLADESH:
 WHAT DO WE KNOW?**
 JANUARY 16, 1996. DHAKA. ORGANIZED BY BRAC

Ganesh Halder



RED hosted a seminar on the "Situation of the Elderly in Bangladesh: What Do We Know?"

get proper care and treatment on time. A very few research have been conducted on them so far. Only one non-governmental welfare association is working in a limited scale for the welfare of the elderly people. At present there are approximately six million elderly people, aged 60 years and above, in Bangladesh while only a small paragraph of the Fourth Five Year Plan tells about the State responsibilities. According to a UN report, the number of elderly people in Bangladesh will be 10 million by the year 2000 and 24 million in 2025. Nearly 72% of the elderly people live in developing countries.

The situation of the elderly was reflected in a seminar on "Situation of the elderly people in Bangladesh: what do we know?" held on 16 January in Dhaka. The seminar was organized by BRAC. Three papers were presented in the seminar: a) The Bangladesh situation by Zarina Nahar Kabir, PhD student from Karolinska Institute, Sweden; b) Elderly situation in Sweden: a historical perspective by Marta Szebehely of Karolinska Institute, Sweden; and c) Some practical experience of working with the elderly in Bangladesh by AAM Abdul Jabbar of Probin Hitaishy Shangha of Dhaka.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND
 IMMUNIZATION: A MULTI-COUNTRY
 RESEARCH PROJECT

AMR Chowdhury, KMA Aziz, Abbas Bhuiya, Fazlul Karim, Dineke Mol, et al.

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 since 1996 in Bangladesh, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, and USA. Malawi and Ethiopia joined the study later in 1996. The title of the study being carried out in Bangladesh under this project is "Immunization in Bangladesh: studying sustainability through social science approaches." To reach the overall objective, the Bangladesh study is divided into nine sub-studies (see ongoing list).

The Bangladesh team, in close collaboration with the government of Bangladesh, has completed the pilot phase of the study during December 1995-January 1996. Two concise but comprehensive reports were prepared.

A study on the 1996 National Immunization Days (NID) was conducted to understand the effectiveness of NID in terms of implementation and coverage of the target children with a particular focus on demand and quality of services. A short report in Bangla on Round 1 was prepared. The summary of the report was published in various local dailies both Bangla and English. Later, a report was prepared combining both the rounds of 1996 NID.

The Bangladesh team hosted the "Monitoring Meeting on Fieldwork Experiences" in Dhaka on 7-9 August 1996. The participants included a WHO representative and field researchers from The Netherlands, USA, The Philippines, India and Bangladesh. AMR Chowdhury, the principal investigator from BRAC attended a meeting in Manila in early 1996 to develop indicators for a transnational theme for transnational comparison.

Shamim Ara Begum, a field researcher, is seen conducting an exit-point interview with a mother attending an NID session on 16 April 1996 at Moulvibazar. Exit-point interview takes place outside of the service delivery venue while the recipients return to home after receiving the services. Such interview helps know the satisfaction of the recipient on the services received, quality of services, and the nature of interactions taken place between the providers and the recipients.



Fazlul Karim

In 1996, the Bangladesh team initiated the following studies:

Evaluation of the 1997 National Immunization Days (NIDs)

This study aims to critically understand the effectiveness of NIDs in terms of implementation and coverage of target children with special focus on social demand, and quality of services vis-à-vis factors that affect demand and supply. The data on Round 1 of NID (held on 8th December 1996) were collected from some selective villages/mohallas in Bhairab thana representing both rural and urban settings. Analysis of these data are underway. The Round 2 of NID would be held on 8 January 1997. Combining both the data set, a draft report will be prepared by July 1997.

Community demand for/acceptance of immunization and quality of immunization services in Bangladesh

This study was undertaken to explore mechanisms to enhance the coverage and sustainability of immunization programmes in

Bangladesh by improving the critical understanding of the socio-cultural aspects, supply factors, and quality of services affecting the demand and supply related sustainability of the immunization programmes.

This has been a descriptive and exploratory study being conducted in high and low coverage areas measured by child immunization status. Bhairab thana has been selected as one of the low coverage areas while Kushtia district as high coverage area.

The data collection is progressing in phases. Phase 1 that deals with the immunization coverage census was completed in November 1996. The qualitative data from the sub-samples of mothers, elite, health workers and their supervisors including NGO staff, are being collected using multiple anthropological techniques and tools. The draft report is expected in July 1997. In light with the Bhairab experience, the study design may be improved to implement in Kushtia.

NUTRITION GROUP

The nutrition study group is responsible for conducting research on nutrition-related subjects directly or indirectly associated to BRAC programmes. The group operates four field stations at Sakhipur, Kajipur, Satoria and Mymensingh. Other than the collaborative studies, the group is conducting studies on IGVDG programme, Muktagacha pilot nutrition initiative, and Bangladesh integrated nutrition project (BINP). The group is also putting continuous efforts to incorporate nutrition considerations in BRAC's development interventions. Current group members are: SM Ziauddin Hyder (group coordinator), Masuma Khatun, Sabrina Rasheed, Rita Das Roy and Sabah Tarannum.

Research collaboration with Umeå University (Sweden)

A research collaboration between the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden was initiated in mid-1996. The aim of the

collaboration is of two folds; a) to conduct a study entitled "Effectiveness of iron supplementation programmes in pregnancy: the impact of dose frequency on compliance, side-effects and haematological outcome," and b) to develop research capacity of RED through providing training of the researchers involved in the project. The project is partially funded by SEDA/SAREC through the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Umeå University. BRAC is also making significant financial contribution to this project particularly in conducting the field work. The study is planned to be carried out in 50 antenatal care centres of Mymensingh district operated by BRAC's Reproductive Health and Disease Control (RHDC) programme.

Effectiveness of iron supplementation programmes in pregnancy: the impact of dose frequency on compliance, side-effects and haematological outcome

Eva-Charlotte Ekström, A Mushtaque R Chowdhury, SM Ziauddin Hyder, Lars Åke

*Persson, Sadia A Chowdhury, Bo
Lönnerdal, and Jean-Pierre Habicht*

Clinical trials show that iron supplementation during pregnancy is an efficacious means to increase haemoglobin concentration. However, iron supplementation programmes for pregnant women had limited success. Some recent trials suggest that less frequent doses of conventional iron supplement may produce the same haematological response as daily dosing. The efficacy of less frequent, or intermittent, iron supplementation schedules are currently evaluated in a series of studies using ferrous sulphate tablets. However, because these ongoing trials supervise iron supplement intake they do not consider the impact of dose frequency on compliance, and will thus, not provide information on programme effectiveness.

In this study, the effectiveness of iron supplementation during pregnancy will be evaluated, especially the impact of dose frequency on compliance, side-effects and haematological outcome. The impact of intermittent iron supplementation schedules on compliance, side-effects and hematological status will be studied in 200 pregnant women attending 50 ANCCs of BRAC in Mymensingh district. Ongoing supplementation activities will be used to apply daily and weekly doses of iron supplement during a three-month trial, starting at 18-24 weeks of pregnancy. Compliance will be monitored continuously by MEMS[®], a micro-chip equipped pill bottle, which registers date and time when being opened. Side-effects will be estimated repeatedly through weekly morbidity recalls, and through an interview at the end of the trial. Haemoglobin concentration will be measured monthly by use of HemoCue[®] haemoglobin photometer. Iron status (S-ferritin and S-Transferrin

receptors) will be assessed at the start and end of the trial at 30-36 weeks of pregnancy. The same group of women will be followed till six weeks post-partum to assess their haemoglobin and iron status.

The findings of this study will provide information on the biologic efficacy of a reduced dose schedule and it will be included in a WHO coordinated meta-analysis of the efficacy of intermittent dosing of iron supplements. Furthermore, as the study assesses compliance it will provide information on programme effectiveness which is a prerequisite when findings from biologic efficacy trials are implemented in the programmes.

Nutrition surveillance project

SM Ziauddin Hyder and Sabah Tarannum

BRAC/RED has been carrying out the nutrition surveillance project (NSP) since April 1990 in collaboration with Helen Keller International (HKI). NSP is a nutritional surveillance network participated by other NGOs and coordinated by HKI, Bangladesh. The system provides opportunity to monitor health and nutritional status of children over a certain period of time. The NSP is collecting data on nutritional, health and other socioeconomic parameters every two months on children under five mainly to assess the impact of natural and other disasters on children's nutritional status. RED is regularly collecting data on 2,500 children from 125 villages of 5 rural thanas such as Sauria, Santhia, Kajipur, Mirzapur and Sakhipur. This data set provides an opportunity to evaluate the nutritional impact of BRAC's development intervention on a regular basis. A report is expected by the end of 1997.

Nutritional impact study of the IGVD programme

SM Ziauddin Hyder

The Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development (IGVD) 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 conducted a longitudinal study in 66 villages of Tangail Sadar and Kalihati thanas on the IGVD 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 were studied. Anthropometric and socio-economic data of these children and their respective households were collected every 6 months. Six short reports based on cross sectional survey have been prepared and the data set is ready for the final cohort analysis. A final report (monograph) is expected to be completed by August 1997.

Study on intra-household food distribution in a rural area of Bangladesh

Rita Das Roy, SM Ziauddin Hyder and Alayne Adams

This study examined different types of food allocation within the households as well as the behaviour in relation to preferential food distribution pattern between a boy and a girl child residing in the same household. This study was conducted under the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab data analysis is in progress. The final report in the form of a monograph is expected by mid-1997.

Socioeconomic development and human well-being: seasonal survey on nutrition

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Masuma Khatun, Sabah Taranmum and Sabrina Rasheed

This study, initiated in April 1995 under the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab, assessed the impact of BRAC's development interventions on nutritional well-being of the target population. The final report on first-round data is expected in May-1997. The second round data analysis was completed and the third round data analysis is in progress. Three working papers are planned on the first round seasonal survey.

Impact of Muktagacha pilot nutrition initiative on nutritional status of women and children

Masuma Khatun and SM Ziauddin Hyder

BRAC is operating a pilot nutrition project in Muktagacha thana of Mymensingh district. This project aimed at improving nutritional well-being of women and children through food supplementation, nutrition education, growth monitoring, social mobilization, and so on. This study aims to assess the impact of this programme through conducting a series of studies which would lead to assess the impact of the project on different nutritional parameters based on a conceptual framework developed together with the HPD programme. Two studies were conducted in three areas of Muktagacha. One of them assessed nutrient content and consumption of the supplementary foods, and the other assessed the project participants and the community towards the pilot nutrition initiative. Studies for 1997 are being planned within the conceptual framework.

WATCH PROJECT

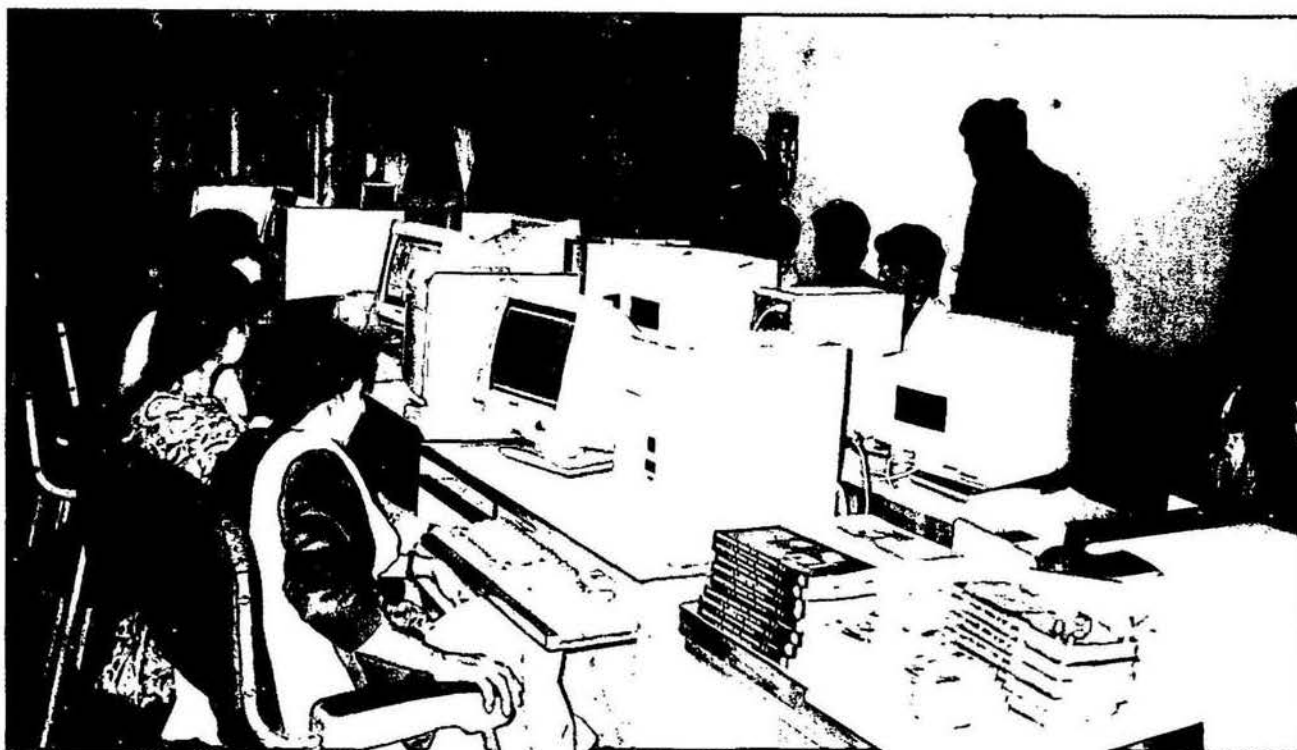
Watch project started in 1986 in three rural unions of Manikganj district. In 1987, the project expanded to another three unions of Joypurhat district. In 1995, it received a major re-engineering. To make the project more nationally representative, instead of former six unions in two districts it was expanded to 10 rural areas in ten districts. Now it operates in 70 villages, more than half of these are covered by BRAC's credit programme. The objective of the project is to monitor changes in health and demographic indicators that are expected to be outcomes of BRAC interventions. The project regularly produces reports on non-economic benefits of BRAC micro-credits such as demographic changes, immunization coverage, reproductive behaviour, women's autonomy, household violence and enrolment of school-going children. Current groups members are: Abdullahel Hadi (group coordinator), Shahidul Islam and Feroz M Kamal.

The *Watch* papers prepared in 1996 mostly focused on sanitary practice, impact of national immunization days on EPI, differentials and sustainability of immunization programme, impact of credit on women's autonomy, impact of non-formal education on basic competencies, women's autonomy, socialization and child labour, issues related to enhancing programme performance of Health and Population Division of BRAC, living condition of the rural poor and their vulnerability. Several ongoing studies will examine linkages between women's empowerment and contraception, impact of micro-credit on marital violence and association of credit with women's autonomy and reproductive behaviour.

In 1997, the project plans to launch a joint study with the monitoring department of BRAC to know the reasons as to why some village organizations (VO) of BRAC RDP are sick. *Watch* also plans to take up a joint study with HPD on Family Planning Facilitation Programme (FPFP). *Watch* team will also conduct studies on changes in nuptiality in rural Bangladesh and impact of international migration. A baseline survey will also be conducted for another NGO named 'Fulshind-UK Primary Health Care Project' in Sylhet.

NGO-MIS

A 3-year NGO-MIS project was launched in 1993 with financial support from The Ford Foundation. The project was successfully completed in December 1996. Through this project the *Watch* team provided technical assistance to eight medium-sized NGOs in developing their evaluation and monitoring capacities, particularly the management information system (MIS). These NGOs are: Friends in Village Development in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, Gano Unnayan Prochesta, Unnayan Shohojogi Team, Assistance for Social Organization and Development, Institute of Integrated Rural Development, Community Development Association and Community Health Care Project. Three 10-day training workshops were held to develop manpower skill of the participating NGOs. Each partner NGO was given a customized software for data entry and management. The last training workshop was held on how to use these softwares.



PIACT

Partial view of the NGO-MIS training workshop held in December 1996. Sixteen representatives from eight NGOs participated in this workshop.

EDUCATION STUDY GROUP

The education group was formed in 1991 to study the progress and impact of Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) programme of BRAC. Initially the group was composed of 4/5 researchers collected from different fields having experience in non-formal education. Currently the group is composed of three foreign trained researchers, two locally trained personnel and a part-time consultant. The group members are: Shaheen Akter, Feroza Begum (group coordinator), Monira Hasan, Abul Kalam, and Kaiser A Khan.

The group has developed expertise in assessment of educational attainment, observation of children's progress in school

and evaluation of various aspects of education associated with NFPE programme. The group always keep close contact with the programme and keep track with the changes of children in the field.

Mainstreaming of BRAC/NFPE students
Gajendra K Verma, Tom Christie, Feroza Begum, Shaheen Akter and Pauline Macaulay

This study was undertaken in collaboration with the Manchester University of UK. This study aimed to determine the problems faced by the NFPE graduates mainstreamed in the formal primary schools. A large number of samples derived from the teachers, students

and programme personnel involved in the study. The study provided a large input in the programme concerning their future strategy of educating out-of-school children in Bangladesh.

Development of a framework for educational research for BRAC

Gajendra Verma and Tom Christie

The purpose of this study was to identify and prioritize the current and future research needs in the context of rapid growth in BRAC's educational programme. The study was mostly based on theoretical framework of what the Education Group can do. The researchers reviewed a large number of

current studies and explored the capabilities of the researchers to determine their group strengths and weaknesses.

Chandina learning improvement project

This is a new intervention to enhance the quality of education in NFPE schools. The programme started in mid-1996 and some preliminary activities were completed by the end of the year. Two researchers are attached to the programme to monitor the progress in the project. Under this scheme, the education group conducted a baseline survey prior to the beginning of the project at Chandina, Comilla.

ENVIRONMENT GROUP AT BRAC

BRAC has initiated a process of integrating an environmental component into its operational programmes. The organization thus set up an Environment group in December 1995 and placed it with its Research and Evaluation Division (RED) to coordinate BRAC's environmental activities. The environment group aims to strengthen and where necessary to incorporate environmental dimensions into BRAC's programme activities to achieve sustainable development in Bangladesh.

The group comprised of a team drawn from research, training and operational programmes of BRAC. Current members of the group are: Rachael Acott, Nasima Akter, Md

Jakariya, Mizanur Rahman, and MG Sattar (group coordinator).

The group developed five specific objectives for its future activities: i) research, ii) programme management, iii) monitoring and evaluation, iv) training, and v) communication. Each objective will have a number of components providing more details on what the group would undertake. The group conducted Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) of some key programmes of BRAC such as, agriculture, fishery, sericulture, and dairy. The group also initiated environmental training for BRAC staff and programme participants, and identified several issues for research during 1997.

EDITING AND PUBLISHING

The editing and publishing working group has been playing a vital role in supporting dissemination activities of the Research and Evaluation Division (RED). The group extends editing, publishing, reviewing, translation, and indexing services to RED researchers. Besides, the group plans, organizes, and publishes research reports, monographs, Bangla digest, annual reports, working papers, proceedings, and manuals. In 1996, one issue of the Bangla digest *Nirjash* (summary of selected research reports of RED), four working papers, three proceedings, four *Watch* reports, and an annual report were published. Besides, 41 research reports, 51 articles, and 94 abstracts were edited. In addition, 18 research reports were summarized in Bangla by contractual journalists/translators. Some papers were also submitted to different national and international journals for publication. An

extensive book on BRAC's pioneering project on oral rehydration therapy was published by a reputed publisher of Dhaka. Current group members are: Hasan Shareef Ahmed (group coordinator), Mir Reazul Kabir, and AKM Ahsan Ullah. A panel of highly experienced editors, reviewers and translators are enlisted with the group for contractual specialized/ technical services. A list of RED publications appears in the following chapter.

Launching ceremony of "A Simple Solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home"

"A Simple Solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home" by Mushtaque Chowdhury and Richard Cash, was formally launched on 18 August 1996 in Dhaka. This book was written on the experience of



Sakhawat Hussain

Professor Demissie Habte, Director of ICDDR,B speaking at the launching ceremony of the book on ORT. Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed, publisher of the book, and Mr Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC are seen on the podium, while a section of the audience is also seen.

BRAC's pioneering 'Oral Therapy Extension Project' (OTEP) for diarrhoea treatment. "This is a tale of how a medical technology was adapted, revised and presented to an illiterate public in Bangladesh through house-to-house health education by a small group of dedicated health workers. Readers of this book will find numerous lessons, not only for the application of oral rehydration therapy, but for the implementation of various kinds of public health programmes in countries round the world, and a guideline to good development strategies in every sector" said Dr Jon Rohde in his foreword of the book.

Prof. Demissie Habte, Director of ICDDR,B, Mr FH Abed, Executive Director of BRAC, Prof. Patrick Vaughan, Division Director of Community Health Division of ICDDR,B, Dr Eric Laroche, Chief of Health and Nutrition of UNICEF, Ms Mukti Saha, a health worker of BRAC, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Director Programmes of BRAC, and Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of University Press Limited (Publisher) spoke on the occasion. The launching ceremony was organized jointly by ICDDR,B, BRAC and University Press Limited. The *Journal of Social Studies* and the *Social Science and Medicine* have published review of the book.

Serial in newspaper

RED conducted a special study to document the opinion of the rural poor on the country-wide non-cooperation movement of March 1996. The popular version of this research report was published as a serial post-editorial in the *Bhorer Kagoj*, a national daily in Bangla published from Dhaka, during 10-14 August 1996.

Nirjash

The third issue of *Nirjash* was published in September 1996 containing 22 selected research reports of RED, 10 of which were on socioeconomic issues and the rest were on health issues. The fourth issue is planned to be published in February 1997 to mark the silver jubilee celebration of BRAC. The fourth issue will contain 27 selected RED research reports of 1994. The fifth issue, with the selected reports of 1995, is progressing well and planned to be published in the second half of 1997. *Nirjash* was highly acclaimed by people from media and other NGOs. Interesting comments and useful suggestions were also received from within and outside BRAC. Some major dailies also published critical reviews on the second issue, such as

"Superbly produced this 104-page book is primarily designed to give the field workers engaged in rural development projects a pen picture of the latest socioeconomic conditions prevalent in the villages."

- The Bangladesh Observer, 19 April 1996.

Copies of *Nirjash* were distributed to all field offices and other departments of BRAC, other NGOs in Bangladesh, relevant government offices, news media and national dailies, and other interested persons. A total of 3,250 copies of *Nirjash* were distributed in 1996.

Annual Report

The 1995 RED annual report was published in April 1996 in a more scientific approach with new get up and design. A total of 450 copies were distributed in 1996 both within and outside the country.

Watch Report

Four issues of *Watch Report* were published containing summarized information on various studies of Watch project (see page 38)

Working Paper

Four working papers were published on different studies of the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab, Bangladesh (see page 38).

Proceedings

Two proceedings were published on RED's two joint meeting with Rural Development Programme (RDP) and Health and Population Division (HPD) of BRAC for sharing of research results. Besides, a report on the Conference on Universal Primary Education in Bangladesh was published. The group also significantly contributed in the preparation of a book on the outcome of this

conference. The book is being published by a reputed local publisher.

RED news in Access

Thirteen short notes on different RED activities were published in BRAC's quarterly newsletter *Access* in 1996.

Readership survey

A readership survey of *Nirjash* is planned for mid-1997. It will help assess the quality of *Nirjash* articles and its production, and will identify the need of the field staff who are its primary audience.

Decade of research in BRAC

RED has planned to publish a monograph to document significant achievements and major activities of RED during the last 10 years. This will highlight a decade of BRAC research.



DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) made further efforts for wider dissemination of research results. These include: presentation of research findings in conferences, workshops, and seminars both within and outside BRAC; publication of research reports as monographs and journal articles; publication of summary findings of selected reports as Bangla features in *Nirjash*, book chapters, dissemination of executive summaries of all research reports in Bangla, and publishing features in popular magazines and newspapers.

Presentation of research findings in in-house seminar is made primarily for sharing the findings with the management of BRAC programmes. On the other hand, executive summaries in Bangla are prepared mainly for disseminating the results among the BRAC field staff who are involved in programme implementation. A total of 22 in-house seminars were held during 1996. In addition, three joint workshops were organized in 1996 for disseminating research results exclusively with the field managers of BRAC's three core operational programmes -- Rural Development Programme, Non-Formal Primary Education Programme, and Health and Population Division.

Several research papers, articles and abstracts were published in national and international journals. A special book on BRAC's most acclaimed 10-year research project -- Oral Therapy Extension Project was published (see page 24). All publications and study reports of RED are available in the Ayesha Abed Library of BRAC.



ICDDR,B

Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC, delivering the annual lecture at ASCON V of ICDDR,B at the Sasakawa International Training Centre, Dhaka.

Scientific presentation in ASCON V

The Fifth Annual Scientific Conference (ASCON V) of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) was a unique forum for sharing current research results with the scientific community. The conference theme was 'Health and Development: Social and Bio-medical Perspective.' BRAC/RED actively participated in ASCON V. This year (1996) the Annual Lecture was delivered by Mr Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder and Executive Director of BRAC. The title of his paper was "Health and development: lessons from the grassroots." Besides, nine presenta-

tions were made by the researchers of BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab which are as follows:

1. Socioeconomic development and human well-being: exploring pathways to change. Phase II of the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint project in Matlab -- *Mushtaque Chowdhury and Abbas Bhuiya*
2. Impact of BRAC's socioeconomic development programme on fertility and mortality in Matlab -- *Abbas Bhuiya, Mushtaque Chowdhury and Shahriar Reza Khan*
3. Impact of BRAC's programme on literacy and enrollment of children in school in Matlab -- *Mushtaque Chowdhury, Samir Nath and Abbas Bhuiya*
4. Effect of BRAC's development inputs on women's lives -- *Samiha Huda, Shahriar Reza Khan and Simeen Mahmud*
5. Vulnerability of divorced and abandoned women and the role of BRAC's socio-economic development programme in Matlab -- *Mehnaaz Momen, Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury*
6. A standard of living index for Matlab -- *Hassan Zaman, Gazi Mahmud Hasan and Shahed Husain*
7. Quality of life and psychological well-being of rural women -- *Nasreen Wadud, Abbas Bhuiya, Mushtaque Chowdhury and Mohsina Khatun*
8. Health care seeking behaviour of individuals from the BRAC-member and non-member households -- *Syed Masud*

Ahmed, Mushtaque Chowdhury and Abbas Bhuiya

9. Cultural construction of health and institutional measures of change in rural Bangladesh: cases of BRAC's village organization and ICDDR,B's MCH-FP programmes -- *Monirul I Khan, Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury*

Conferences, Seminars And Workshops

A number of RED staff attended the following national and international conferences, seminars and workshops (listed alphabetically):

Hasan Shareef Ahmed, Syed Shoaib Ahmed, Shaheen Akter, A Alim, Shahjahan Babul, Feroza Begum, AMR Chowdhury, Abdullahel Hadi, Monira Hasan, Syed Musfiqul Hoque, Nurul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Ataul Karim, Abu Zafar Khan, Shiraj H Khan, Pauline Macaulay, Samir R Nath, Md Abdur Razzaque, MG Sattar attended the Conference on Universal Primary Education in Bangladesh at Dhaka, 6-10 August.

Anisa Akter and Parul Lata Biswas attended the Workshop on Women's Career and Development at TARC, Comilla on 2 June.

Nasima Akter, Md Jakariya and Mizanur Rahman attended a Seminar on Environmental Protection, organized by the Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS), Dhaka on 18-19 December.

Shahnaj Akter, Nurul Amin, and Dilruba Banu attended a three-day National Convention on Women and Poverty, organized by Women for Women, Dhaka during 26-28 October.

Nurul Amin, Ishrat Ara, Sadiqunnabi Choudhury, Shantana R Halder, and Md Altaf Hossain attended a Seminar on Maintenance of Purdah in the Face of Increased Economic Activity organized by Grameen Trust on 10 April.

Sadiqunnabi Choudhury and Shantana R Halder attended a Seminar on Cost efficiency of Grameen Bank on 31 July.

AMR Chowdhury attended the Review Meeting of A Cross-national Theme of the Social Science and Immunization Project, at the De La Salle University, the Philippines, January.

He also attended the Conference of Social Science and Medicine, Peebles, Scotland, September.

He also attended the Workshop on Health-Development Link, organized by George Washington University at Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, Italy, October.

Fehmin Farashuddin attended a Sustainability Workshop organized by Plan International, Bangladesh at CDM, Rajendrapur, 7-11 April.

Abdullahel Hadi attended the Third Canadian Conference on International Health in Ottawa, Canada, 10-13 November.

He also attended the IUSSP Seminar in Islamabad, Pakistan, 17-20 December.

Shantana R Halder and Debdulal Mallick attended a national seminar on Population and Environmental Dynamics, Poverty and Quality of Life in Bangladesh, organized by BIDS, 12 December.

Shantana R Halder and Debdulal Mallick attended a lecture on Rural Poverty in Bangladesh, organized by Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 12 December.

Monira Hasan attended the Ninth World Congress of Comparative Education in Sydney, Australia, 1-6 July.

Md Altaf Hossain attended the Fourth Indian Fisheries Forum in Cochi, Kerala, India, 24-28 November. He also participated in a field exposure on the Fisheries Project in South India, 29 November-5 December.

AM Muazzam Husain attended a Seminar on Interlinkage Between Banks, NGOs and Informal Credit Sectors for Rural Development in Bangladesh organized by BIBM on 16 April.

He also attended the Workshop on Rural Livelihood Project organized by BRDB at Dhaka on 12 May.

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Masuma Khatun, Sabrina Rasheed, Rita Das Roy, and Sabah Tarannum attended a two-day Workshop on Incorporation of Nutrition Considerations into Agricultural Development Plan in Bangladesh, organized by BIRTAN at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Dhaka, 13-14 August.

SM Ziauddin Hyder attended the finalization workshop of the Bangladesh National Plan of Action for Nutrition on 26-27 August.

SM Ziauddin Hyder gave a seminar on Prevalence of Anaemia Among Men and Women in Rural Bangladesh at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden on 3 November.

He also gave a seminar on State of Nutrition in Bangladesh at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden on 18 November.

Hassan Zaman and AMR Chowdhury attended the International Conference on Poverty and Micro-finance, organized by IDPAA, BIBM and CDF, Dhaka, August.

Journal Club

The journal club was established in 1995 to keep the RED researchers updated on recent developments in health, nutrition, population, education, environment, gender and socioeconomic research. The journal club sits separately with two groups of researchers -- the health group and the

socioeconomic group. Papers for discussion are normally selected from national and international journals. The researchers are expected to analyze, criticize, and discuss the merit of the paper being presented. It helps develop understanding of research methods, recent trends, and stimulate academic discussions. In 1996, five socioeconomic and 10 health related papers were discussed.

Thursday Tea Seminar

The Thursday Tea Seminar is an informal weekly forum where RED staff share their recent experiences in different fields, and discuss matters of common interest. This half-an-hour session facilitates staff to have wider interactions among them.

ADMINISTRATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

The administration and data management group coordinates the routine administration of the division and manages data processing with the help of a team of skilled coding assistants. RED gather a huge set of short term and longitudinal data for its various research projects throughout the year. These data set provide a unique baseline information for further research. In 1996 RED recruited 17 professional staff, both local and overseas (see page 33) on regular/contractual basis to strengthen its

research and dissemination capacities. Fifteen RED staff resigned during the year. The group provides all sorts of logistic support to facilitate research and dissemination at RED. The group also initiates staff development programme for RED. It further maintains all sorts of liaison with its collaborating institutions and donors. Current members of the group are: Syed Shoaib Ahmed, Gulshan Ara, Abdul Mannan Mia, Arabinda Nath, Md Abdur Razzaque, and Md Ghulam Sattar (group coordinator).

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) has been conducting studies in collaboration with renowned national and international institutions, and the government of Bangladesh since its inception. RED not only conducting collaborative research, but also collaborates in many other ways, such as providing training and consultancy services. In 1996, RED continued collaboration with the following institutions on institutional or individual basis:

Bangladesh Agricultural University,
Mymensingh;
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
(BIDS), Dhaka;
Bangladesh Rural Development Board;
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;
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 Baños, the
Philippines; and
Umeå University, Sweden.

CONSULTANCY TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – 9 OF BRDB

Rural Development Project-9 (RD-9) is a poverty alleviation project of the government of Bangladesh and implemented by the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) in Rangpur region. On request from BRDB, BRAC/RED offered a consultancy to RD-9 project. The objectives of this 11 week consultancy were to develop methodology and appropriate tools for introducing participatory monitoring and planning in the organization and to introduce the project staff to the PRA techniques. Nurul Amin, Staff Sociologist, and Ishrat Ara, Research Economist were assigned for providing consultancy service.

The first phase of the consultancy was done in January 1996. The second phase was done in September 1996 to evaluate the participatory monitoring system introduced in the first phase and to make recommendation on whether to expand the system.

CONSULTANCY TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Mahmuda Rahman Khan, Research Economist of RED, provided a six-week consultancy to World Food Programme, Dhaka during September-October 1996 to conduct case studies of successful women

under vulnerable group development (VGD) programme. The study aimed to focus on the entrepreneurship skills of ex-VGD women and the extent to which they used those skills in establishing commercial activities for their long term socioeconomic benefits. The study also identifies the socioeconomic factors that contributed to the entrepreneurial success of women. The final report was produced entitled "Women micro-entrepreneurs: case studies on ex-VGD women."

CONSULTANCY TO WORLD BANK IN NEPAL

AMR Chowdhury, Director Research, was involved in the health sector work in Nepal, sponsored by the World Bank, Washington, D.C.

CONSULTANCY TO UNICEF

Based on the findings of a RED research report, UNICEF Dhaka requested RED to develop a guideline for their grassroots workers who would be involved in ADA (Accelerated District Approach). Alayne M Adams, Consultant and Amina Mahbub, Staff Anthropologist of RED prepared "Participatory assessment, analysis and action: a guide for development workers" for UNICEF Dhaka during June-August 1996. Further to this work, UNICEF requested RED to develop an easier training manual for grassroots workers. This task was assigned to Amina Mahbub and Rita Das Roy, Field Researcher of RED. The training manual is under preparation.

TRAINING SUPPORT EXTENDED TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Md Altaf Hossain conducted a UNDP sponsored Sensitization Course on Training-cum-Field Study Programme on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for participants from UNDP, BARD, Planning Commission, and Ministry of LGRD, at BARD, Comilla, 13-18 January.

Md Altaf Hossain attended the Commonwealth Regional Training Programme on Environmental and Sustainable Agriculture in Rural Development held at BARD, Comilla on 18 May 1996 as resource person.

INTERNEES

RED hosted 10 internees and student volunteers during 1996 from various educational institutions of USA, UK, Canada, France, India, and Bangladesh. 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:

Rachael E Acott, Canada; Md Marafat Ali, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Marje-Jo A Curlijo, University of Paris, France; Md Sajjad Hossain, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Md Wahidul Islam, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Jamille Jinnah, Aga Khan Foundation, UK; Andrew J Mckim, Fordham University, USA; Karen Moore, University of Toronto, Canada; Sabrina Rasheed, Jadavpur University, India; Md Mahbub Zaman, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

RED has been continuously enhancing its capacity to cope up with the increasing demand for conducting research and evaluation studies on different programmes of BRAC as well as on request from other collaborating institutions. Several strategies were adopted to meet this challenge which include hiring of consultants, research and professional staff, and improving their capacity through training and joint studies.

As on 31 December 1996, RED had a team of 166 regular staff consisting of 54 core researchers, 93 field staff and 19 supporting staff. Nearly 35% of them were female. During 1996, a good number of researchers took part in various courses both at home and abroad. A total of 14 research staff participated in overseas training, two went on field visit to Philippines to observe PRA application and regional visit, 35 researchers took part in in-country training organized by BRAC and other institutions.

RECRUITMENT

Regular appointment

The following staff were recruited during 1996 (listed alphabetically):

Nasima Akter, MSE (Environmental Risk Assessment) from Chiang Mai University, Thailand joined in March as Environmental Researcher;

Insana Begum, MSS (Anthropology) from Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh joined in October as Research Associate;

Faiz Ahmed Bhuiyan, MSS (Anthropology) from Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh joined in September as Research Associate;

Elisabeth L Fulton, MS (International Development and Appropriate Technology) from University of Pennsylvania, USA joined in April as Research Associate;

Md Jakariya, MSc (Geography) from Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh joined in June as Environmental Researcher;

Suhaila Haque Khan, MBBS (Dhaka University), MPH from Harvard University, USA joined in April as Medical Officer (Research);

Debdulal Mallick, MA (Economics) from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India joined in May as Economist;

Dineke Mol, MA (Anthropology) from University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands joined in April as Research Associate;

Shagufta Sultana, MSS (Sociology) from Chittagong University, Bangladesh joined in February as Research Associate;

AKM Ahsan Ullah, MSS (Public Administration) from University of Dhaka joined in May as Translator.

Faria Zaman, MS (Public Administration) from University of Delaware, USA joined in January as Environmental Researcher.

Consultants

In 1996 the following professionals worked for RED as consultants:

Tom Christie, University of Manchester, UK (education research), Md Nazmul Haq, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (education research); AM Muazzam Husain, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh (impact assessment study); Pauline W Macaulay, UK (education research); Simeen Mahmud, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh (BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project); Indrani Pieris-Caldwell, Sri Lanka (Consultant Demographer), and Gajendra K Verma, University of Manchester, UK (education research),.

PROMOTION

The following researchers were elevated to higher level:

Md Altaf Hossain, Trainer, was made Senior Trainer, and

Firoz Mahboob Kamal, Senior Medical Officer, was elevated to higher level.

TRAINING

Overseas training

The following researchers are pursuing doctoral programme:

Ishrat Ara (Economics) at Portland State University, Oregon, USA, 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:

Kaosar Afsana (Public Health), Harvard School of Public Health, USA; Kaiser Ali Khan, (Adult Education), University of Manchester, UK; and Samir R Nath (Education), University of Oxford, UK.

The following researchers returned after successfully completing their masters' programme:

Shah Asad Ahmed (Economics), University of Manchester, UK; Dilruba Banu (Gender and development), University of Sussex, UK; MA Kalam (Adult education and literacy for rural development), University of Manchester, UK; and FM Kamal (Public health), University of North Carolina, USA.

Shamim Ara Begum, Fazlul Karim, Amina Mahbub, and Shagufta Sultana participated in the "Third International Course on the Anthropology of Health and Health Care" in the Philippines during 22 January-29 February 1996.

Ishrat Ara and Altaf Hossain went to the Philippines on a field visit during 17-27 March to observe PRA application on programme development and monitoring in the northern region of the country.

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Senior Research Nutritionist, attended a five-unit course on epidemiology and field research methods from 18 May to 15 June and two 10-unit courses on Biostatistics and Advanced Epidemiology from 01 September to 30 November 1996 in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden. The study was funded by the Department under a research collaboration between BRAC and Umeå University, Sweden.

In-country training

Monira Hasan had successfully completed a one-year Robert S McNamara Fellowship of the World Bank in November 1996.

Parul Lata Biswas, Rita Sen, and Sabah Tarannum attended a PRA training workshop for RMs of RDP from 14-22 January 1996 at CDM, Rajendrapur. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Kamal Kar of India.

Mahmuda Rahman Khan attended the workshop on "Gender Analysis in Development Policy and Planning: A Workshop for Training of Trainers" during 22 January-01 February at Savar, Dhaka.

Fehmin Farashuddin attended a training course on Research Methodology and Women's Issues, organized by Women for Women, Dhaka during 5-14 May.

She also took part in the Gender Awareness and Analysis Course (GAAC) organized by BRAC at CDM, Rajendrapur in January.

Suhaila H Khan and Shahaduzzaman attended a training workshop on "Epidemiological Approach to Reproductive Health" at BIRPERHT, Dhaka during 12-23 May 1996.

Nurul Amin, Ishrat Ara and Mahmuda Rahman Khan conducted a Training Workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal for new recruits of RED at CDM, Rajendrapur during June 15-20. The following researchers attended:

Anisa Akter, Shaheen Akter, Shahnuj Akter, Parul Lata Biswas, Shadhana Biswas, Sadiqunnabi Choudhury, Fehmin Farashuddin, Gazi M Hasan, AM Shahed Hossain, AM Muazzam Husain, Samiha Huda, Masuma Khatun, Sharmin Mahbub, Rita Sen, Shagufta Sultana, and Sabah Tarannum.

Nasima Akter, Nurul Amin, Sadiqunnabi Choudhury, Fehmin Farashuddin, Gazi M. Hasan, Altaf Hossain, AM Shahed Hussain, Md Jakariya, Masuma Khatun, Sharmin Mahbub, Shah Noor Mahmud, Debdul Mallick, Anis Pervez, and Mohammad Rafi attended a training workshop on Research Proposal Development, organized by BRAC at CDM, Rajendrapur, 20 July-01 August.

Nurul Amin, Ishrat Ara, Shamim Ara Begum, Parul Lata Biswas, Md Altaf Hossain, Mahmuda R Khan, Amina Mahbub, Rita Das Roy, and Rita Sen participated in a six day PRA workshop organized by BRAC on 'Analyzing the Field Data and Preparing Quality Reports' during 3-8 August.

Fehmin Farashuddin, Gazi M Hasan, Samiha Huda, AM Shahed Hussain, Masuma Khatun, Amina Mahbub, Sabrina Rasheed, and Sabah Tarannum participated in an in-house statistical course at RED, during 11-14 August.

Nasima Akter attended the 5th Environmental Law Training Programme organized by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Dhaka during 29 September-03 October.

Training of field investigators

To ensure quality data collection, RED regularly arranged training for the newly recruited field investigators and supervisors. The following staff were given such training in 1996:

- 1 Two field interviewers were given training in data collection on the re-use of NFPE books,
- 2 Ten field investigators were given 7 days training on the Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of RDP,
- 3 Sixty field investigators and field supervisors were given training on methods and techniques of data collection for the IAS of RDP,
- 4 Seventy-two field interviewers were given training on survey and data collection for a study on Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP),
- 5 Eight field investigators were given training on data collection for baseline survey of 100 BRAC schools for Chandina Learning Improvement Project (CLIP),

- 6 Ten field investigators were given training on data collection for an economic study on BRAC sericulture programme, and
- 7 Four head office-based researchers and 12 field interviewers were given training on the techniques of data collection for the social science and immunization study for three days.

TRAINING SUPPORT EXTENDED TO OTHER BRAC PROGRAMMES

Nurul Amin and Mahmuda Rahman Khan conducted a Training Workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal for the Monitoring Division of BRAC at Mymensingh TARC, 10-18 July.

BRAC RESEARCH IMPACT PROJECT (BRIP)

The BRAC Research Impact Project (BRIP), initiated in May 1993 with support from ODA-UK, was completed in September 1996. The project had five major components: a) Bangladesh-based training of BRAC staff and programme monitoring, b) UK-based short and long training courses, c) regional visit to observe the application of PRA/RRA methods, d) collaborative research with international experts, and e) development of BRAC Resource Centre. A large number of BRAC staff (112) involved in research, training and programme management took part in training on PRA/RRA, monitoring, and research methodology in Bangladesh which were facilitated by expatriates. Most of them took part in PRA/RRA training which helped large scale application of PRA/RRA tech-

niques in programme planning and impact assessment. The PRA/RRA techniques have been used by BRAC researchers in over 22 studies. Research collaboration was established with several UK universities/specialized institutes. Two studies were done jointly by BRAC researchers and UK experts on mainstreaming of NFPE students in formal schools and impact assessment of human right and legal education (HRLE) training at BRAC. In all, nine BRAC staff took part in short and long courses in different UK universities. The subjects of study included gender, education, rapid research and rural policy.

The ODA-UK evaluated BRIP activities by external evaluators. BRIP was largely successful in meeting its objectives and increasing RED's capacity for participatory research. Suggestions were also made for possible ways to enhancing the effectiveness of BRAC research and development of the BRAC resource centre.

STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES IN BRAC

RED operated another three-and-a-half-year capacity building project which also ended in

December 1996. Supported by the Ford Foundation Bangladesh, the project contained four major components: a) BRAC-ICDDR,B joint study at Matlab, b) assistance to small Bangladeshi NGOs in building their evaluation and MIS capacity, c) publication of ENHR newsletter, and d) research internship. The joint project at Matlab, which aimed at determining the impact of BRAC's development intervention on health and well-being of the programme participants, opened a new dimension of research in BRAC. The study involved a wide range of methods and approaches and specifically looked at exploring the pathways through which changes in health and well-being have occurred.

The NGO MIS capacity building project helped eight Bangladeshi NGOs in developing their MIS and monitoring capacity. Two staff members from each of these NGOs were given specialized training by BRAC in computerized MIS evaluation methods and information processing. Through this project, RED also hosted eight Bangladeshi university graduates as research interns who worked under the guidance of senior RED researchers. Publication of the ENHR Newsletter was also supported through this project.

PUBLICATIONS 1996

A INTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report

RED Annual Report 1994. April 1996. 53p.

Bangla digest

Nirjash, Issue 3, September 1996. 111p.

BRAC-ICDDR,B Working Papers

Zaman H. Microcredit programmes: who participates and to what extent? Dhaka, 1996. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. 21p. (Working paper no. 12)

Nasreen H, Chowdhury M, Bhuiya A, Rana AKMM and Indrani P-C. An assessment of client's knowledge of family planning in Matlab. Dhaka, 1996. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. 31p. (Working paper no. 13)

Khan MI, Bhuiya A and Chowdhury M. Cultural construction of health and the institutional measures of change in rural Bangladesh: the cases of the BRAC village organization and the ICDDR,B MCH-FP programmes in the selected villages of Matlab. Dhaka, 1996. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. 15p. (Working paper no. 14)

Studies on the inputs of BRAC in Matlab: sanitary latrines, training, monthly meetings, legal awareness and credit. Dhaka, 1996. BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project. 69p. (Working paper no. 15)

Proceedings

Ahmed HS, Mahbub A and Husain S. Proceedings of the joint RED-RDP meeting on sharing of research results. 20 October 1996. Dhaka, BRAC. December 1996. 12p.

Khan SH and Sattar MG. Sharing research results in BRAC: proceedings of the joint RED-HPD meeting. 19 December 1996. Dhaka, BRAC. December 1996. 17p.

Quality primary education for all: report of the conference on universal primary education in Bangladesh 1996, August 1996. Dhaka: August 1996. 36p.

Watch Report

Nath SR. Gender equity in education: what BRAC school graduates think? *Watch Report* no. 22, March 1996. 4p.

Hadi A and Nath SR. Literacy and school enrollment in rural Bangladesh: role of

BRAC. *Watch Report* no. 23, May 1996. 4p.

Hadi A and Nath SR. National immunization day 1996: performance and differentials. *Watch Report* no. 24, May 1996. 4p.

Hadi A and Nath SR. Raising sanitary latrine use in rural Bangladesh: can BRAC play any role? *Watch Report* no. 25, May 1996. 4p.

B EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Original scientific papers and short communications

✓ Abed FH. Health and development: lessons from the grassroots. *J Diarrhoeal Dis Res* 1996;14(2):119-24.

Adams AM, Evans TG, Rafi M and Farnsworth J. Socioeconomic stratification by wealth ranking: is it valid? *World Dev* [in press]

Bhuiya A, Chowdhury AMR. Impact of divorce on child survival. *Pop Stud* [in press].

Chowdhury AMR, Karim F, Sarkar SK, Cash RA, Bhuiya A. The status of ORT in Bangladesh: how widely is it used? *Health Policy Plann* [in press]

Chowdhury AMR, Chowdhury S, Islam MN, Islam A and Vaughan JP. Community health workers can control tuberculosis: the BRAC experience in Bangladesh. *Lancet* [in press]

Evans T, Rafi M, Farnsworth J, Adams A, and Chowdhury M. Barriers to participation in BRAC RDP. Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies Working Paper Series No. 96.01. Cambridge, USA.

Rahman S, Sriboonchitta S. Joint determination of demands for inputs and choice of rice varieties in northern Thailand. *Bangladesh J Agricultural Econ* 1995 Jun;18(1):1-20.*

Rahman S. Energy demand forecasts in Bangladesh. *Grassroots* 1996 Apr-Jun; 5(19):5-16.

Rahman S. The fine arts of silk production: spin-offs for rural women. *Agro-forestry today* 1996 Jul-Sep;8(3):9-11.

✓ Rahman S. BRAC and women's empowerment. *Gender, technology and development* 1996 [In press]

Chowdhury AMR, Islam MN, Afsana A, Mahmud SN, Ali A, Karim F, Chowdhury SA, Islam MS. The forgotten diseases: evaluation of a community tuberculosis control programme in rural Bangladesh. *In Touch* 1996;14(153-156) [serial publication in four issues]

Books, book chapters and review articles

Abed FH and Chowdhury AMR. The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee: how BRAC learned to meet rural people's needs through local action. *In: Krishna A, Uphoff N, and Esman M* [editors]. *Reasons for hope: instructive experiences in rural development*. Connecticut: Kumarian Press [in press].

* not listed in 1995 annual report

Chowdhury AMR and Alam MA. BRAC's poverty alleviation programme: what it is and what it achieved. *In*: Wood GD and Sharif IA [editors]. Who needs credit? Poverty and finance in Bangladesh. Dhaka: The University Press Limited [in press].

Chowdhury AMR and Cash RA. A simple solution: teaching millions to treat diarrhoea at home. Dhaka: University Press Limited, 1996. xxiv, 149p.

Selim GR. Transforming women's economies: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee. *In*: Carr M, Chen M, and Jhabvala R [editors]. Speaking out: women's economic empowerment in South Asia. London:

Intermediate Technology Publications Ltd., 1996:45-65.

Zaman H. Micro-credit programmes: who participates and what does it matter? *In*: Wood GD and Sharif IA [editors]. Who needs credit? Poverty and finance in Bangladesh. Dhaka: The University Press Limited [in press].

Editorials, letters and abstracts

Mustafa S, Hossain A, Alam MS. Impact of community based fisheries management on fishing households [abstract]. *In*: Nair NU, et al. eds. The fourth Indian fisheries forum abstracts. Kochi. Asian Fisheries Society, Indian Branch, 1996:233.

ABSTRACTS OF REPORTS AND PAPERS COMPLETED DURING 1996*

Client Satisfaction with Services Provided at the Antenatal Care Centres of BRAC *Kaosar Afsana and AMR Chowdhury*

This study measured the satisfaction of women with the services provided at the antenatal care centres (ANCCs) of BRAC in three thanas of Bogra region. Thirty-three ANCCs were observed to assess competence of the programme organizers (POs). Two pregnant women who received services from each of the 33 ANCCs were randomly selected. Following their attendance at the ANCCs, women were interviewed at home to know their satisfaction with the services provided. Client satisfaction was measured by focusing on eight quality aspects which included overall quality, accessibility, availability, cost, interpersonal relations, competence of the PO, facilities and continuity of care. Satisfaction was ranked according to the proportion of women satisfied, i.e., higher the proportion the more was the rank. The overall quality, facilities and accessibility are ranked at the top, which are related to the structural quality. The bottom five ranks reflect the process of antenatal care as well as the socio-psychological factors of the clients. A vast difference was observed between the top and the lowest rank. Women's satisfaction with the continuity of care was very low (64%)

compared to satisfaction with overall quality (98%). The findings give some impression about women's view on quality of care.

Competence of the Programme Organizers in Antenatal Care: An Issue of the Quality of Care

Kaosar Afsana, AMR Chowdhury, Shah Noor Mahmud and Fazlul Karim

This study measured the quality of care in terms of competence of programme organizers (POs) in antenatal care. Thirty-three POs were observed at the antenatal care centres (ANCCs) of BRAC over 210 consultation sessions with pregnant women in three thanas of Bogra region. Competence of the POs in each of the services rendered at the ANCCs was rated on a scale with five levels. Overall competence was rated on a scale with three levels. Competence in measuring height and weight and providing relevant information was rated as high and moderate-high respectively. Competency in measuring blood pressure and fundal height and providing relevant information was rated moderate and low-moderate. Competence in measuring anaemia and oedema and providing relevant information was rated low. Competence in providing information on possible side-effects of iron tablets, haemorrhage, and urinary tract infection was rated low. Poor

* Listed author-wise alphabetically.

screening at the ANCCs may overlook many grave consequences of pregnancy-related problems. Besides, inadequate information dissemination at the ANCC causes women to be unaware of the importance of antenatal care. To improve competence of the POs in antenatal care, improvement of their training, post-training follow-up, supervision, motivation and working environmental need to be considered.

Academic Achievements of the NFPE Learners in BRAC School *Shaheen Akter*

The study aimed to measure NFPE graduates' academic achievement in different subjects, parents' socioeconomic status, and the effect of mass-media on the achievement. Eight schools were selected from four areas (Dhaka, Narsingdi, Manikganj and Mymensingh). The NFPE achievement test (NAT) was used for assessment of learners' achievement. Some other variables (no. of siblings, parent's education, occupation, effect of mass-media, etc.) were also studied to see whether there is any relationship among those variables and performance of the graduates. A total of 177 NFPE graduates were studied. The findings indicate that the overall performance of girls was poor than the boys, particularly in Maths and English. A very small number of children have access to mass media as a source of education. Similarly, only a few of the parents have enough education to supplement their children's knowledge at home.

Credit Support to the RDP VO Members: A Study on Utilization Practices and Profitability *Shahmuj Akter and Mohammad Rafi*

The study investigated the behaviours related to receipt, use and repayment of loans taken

by VO members, and assessed profits made from these loans. A total of 338 loans were investigated which were issued by RDP Jamalpur area office during 1991-1994. About 40% of these loans were invested in productive schemes (i.e., investment which could yield profit), 23% were used in non-productive schemes (i.e., yield no profit), while 37% were used in schemes which were both productive and non-productive. In cases of loans invested in different productive schemes, female borrowers made maximum profit by investing on paddy husking (Tk. 800 per month), and the male borrowers made similar profit by investing on rickshaws (Tk. 780 per month). About 8% of the borrowers repaid their loan before it was due and 51% repaid on time. In contrast, 41% of the borrowers defaulted by not repaying their loan on time. About 83% of the borrowers were of the opinion that they were benefited by taking loan from RDP compared to 10% who mentioned that they became looser by doing the same. The study recommends that RDP should ensure that the borrowers invest their loans in the productive schemes.

The Health Situation of Adolescents: A Literature Review *Ahmed Ali and Shah Noor Mahmud*

This review paper addresses the health situation of the adolescents. Most of the studies we found were conducted in countries other than Bangladesh. The medical care of the adolescent has always been neglected in the developing world until recently. While their medical needs are now being considered with an increased emphasis, their psychological needs, which are also important have not been adequately addressed. A few studies have been conducted in Bangladesh on issues of reproductive health. These studies suggest that early marriage is a

serious problem for adolescent girls resulting in early pregnancy and thus enhance other reproductive health problems.

Assessment of Birth and Death Recording Activities in Reproductive Health and Disease Control Programme of BRAC

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

This report attempts to determine the accuracy of recording births, deaths and still births in all 30 areas of 10 thanas of Women's Health and Development Programme (WHDP) (presently known as Reproductive Health and Disease Control Programme) during April-May 1995.

Difference between Research and Evaluation Division survey and WHDP programme records in case of live births was 10.7%, stillbirths 42.9%, and deaths 25%. In all parameters this finding is better than that of 1992 survey results. The overall scenario suggests that though improvement in birth and death recording has taken place but still there is much to do by the programme in recording of births and deaths.

Knowledge and Practices of NFPE-AG Graduates Regarding Menstruation

Ahmed Ali, Shah Noor Mahmud, Fazlul Karim and AMR Chowdhury

This study present the level of knowledge retained vis-à-vis practices of adolescent girls (AGs) who graduated from BRAC's non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme in 6 selected Reproductive Health and Disease Control programme areas regarding menstruation. The NFPE-AGs knew better than never schooling adolescent girls (NS-

AGs) about the age at marriage, interval between two menstrual periods and duration of menstrual period. But NS-AGs knew better than NFPE-AGs about the meaning of menstruation, and food practices during menstruation. However, this difference in knowledge was not statistically significant. The management of menstrual episodes by the girls was not adequate, and proper hygiene and food practices were not followed. These issues need proper attention.

Knowledge of NFPE-AG Graduates on Reproductive Health and Nutrition

Ahmed Ali, Shah Noor Mahmud, Fazlul Karim and AMR Chowdhury

This study presents the level of knowledge retained vis-à-vis practices of adolescent girls (AGs) who graduated from BRAC's non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme in 6 selected Reproductive Health and Disease Control Programme areas regarding reproductive health and nutrition issues. The NFPE-AGs had correct knowledge on many aspects of reproductive health and nutrition issues such as marriage, pregnancy, safe motherhood and contraception, delivery care, lactating mother, child care, anaemia, and goitre. The level of knowledge on different issues was better among NFPE-AGs than never schooling adolescent girls (NS-AGs). Among both groups, married girls knew better than unmarried girls in most of the issues. However, family planning practice was better among NS-AGs. Children under one year old of NFPE-AG mothers were more protected than NS-AGs. For better health practice, the NFPE-AGs have to be provided with fresh knowledge in every aspect of reproductive health and nutrition.

Enrollment Status of NFPE Graduates Studying in Secondary Schools

Feroza Begum

The study aimed to determine the status of NFPE graduates studying in secondary schools. Data were collected from the area managers of five regions of BRAC's non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme. The study results show that the highest number of NFPE graduates were enrolled in secondary schools in Dhaka region followed by Mymensingh region, while the lowest number of graduates were found in Rangpur region. The findings also revealed that highest number of male NFPE graduates were enrolled in class VI in Dhaka region followed by Mymensingh region. Similar trend was also observed in other classes. Percentage of enrollment of NFPE graduates declined as they moved towards the higher classes (class VI to class X). Similar result was also observed for female graduates. The number of male and female NFPE graduates enrolled in secondary schools decreases with the distance of the schools from their homes increases.

A Study on Status of Adult Literacy Centre

Feroza Begum and Shaheen Akter

This study aimed to know the status of BRAC's adult literacy centres. A total of 120 learners (female 90) and 12 teachers were studied from Jessore, Jamalpur, Sylhet and Rangpur regions of BRAC's non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme. Majority of learners were from 15-25 years age group, mostly housewives. Learners mentioned that this non-formal education was helpful to guide their children, help family, earn more, keep accounts properly, get good job, etc. They showed interest for training in poultry and livestock, sewing, driving, fisheries, technical, farming, etc. They also said that they did not

face any major problem. Among the teachers, 50% were from 26-30 years age group. Though they showed positive interest in learning there were some problems also e.g., duration of course was short, lack of social security in case of female learners, some learners lagged behind in writing, etc. Increased duration of course, introducing social studies, offering income generating training and introducing co-curricular activities are recommended.

Exploring the Status of BRAC Ganakendra Pathagar

Feroza Begum and Shaheen Akter

This investigation aimed to explore status of BRAC Ganakendra pathagars (library). In all, 240 readers (male 216) and 12 librarians were interviewed from Jessore, Jamalpur, Sylhet and Rangpur regions. Results reveal that 56% of the readers were within 15-25 years and 41% passed SSC to HSC level, 80% were students and teachers while the rest were businessmen, farmers, village doctors, service holders, etc. Moreover, majority of the library users came to know about these pathagars from BRAC staff and teachers of BRAC and other schools. Relating to preference of training that might be given through pathagar, they preferred poultry and livestock, sewing, technical, handicrafts, sericulture, computer, etc. They also expressed that it would be helpful for earning, self improvement, savings, getting job, etc. Regarding problems, majority of the librarians referred to shortage of books and games materials while few mentioned that some members do not want to pay subscription, etc. The findings suggests that, a separate reading table can be booked or two days a week may be fixed for female learners to encourage them to use library. Income generating training may be introduced in pathagars.

A Feasibility Study on Reusing Textbooks in NFPE Schools
Feroza Begum, Shaheen Akter and Ahsan H Quazi

The study aimed to probe into the physical condition of text books used by NFPE students to ascertain the probability of reusing these books. Data were collected from 396 students of Matlab, Jamalpur, and Manikganj areas. These books were examined to see their physical condition (good, average, or not useable). Out of four books provided to each student, 2-15% were in good condition, 9-18% in average condition, while 49-75% were not useable. In case of books of second year students, 5-21% were in good condition, 19-22% were in average condition, and 43-46% were not useable. Interview of 12 teachers and 458 guardians were conducted to determine their reaction and feelings regarding reusing of their books, 54% felt that it would dishearten students if books were taken away. About 44% of the students felt that it would deter younger siblings from education. It is therefore, recommended that students should be allowed to retain their books.

Selling latrines to the poor: how effective it is?

Sadhana Biswas and Syed Masud Ahmed

To understand how effectively the programme is being implemented, this study explored the current status of the latrines sold by Matlab RDP. Data were collected from those persons (mostly female) to whom the latrines were sold. Of the 262 latrines sold by RDP-EHC in Matlab during July 1994-October 1995, more than 60% were installed and around 12% of the installed latrines remained unused. Both the installation and current use of latrines were greater for BRAC non-eligible households compared to

eligibles. The reasons for not installing latrines were: lack of additional money required for installation and fencing (49%), not getting promised government subsidy (37%), and inundation by flood (12%). Majority of the installed unused latrines were built too recently to be used. A little more than 30% bought latrines with their own money, 17% with BRAC loan and 53% supplemented by government subsidy. The subsidy (of July 1995) was a major factor motivating the villagers to buy latrines (60%). Some VO members mentioned that they bought slab latrine because BRAC workers assured them of getting the subsidy or housing loan. When the government failed to provide the subsidy on time, BRAC workers faced problems in handling the situation. Many recipients complained about the quality of the slabs and rings. We recommend to encourage the villagers to use in-expensive materials for fencing, provide loans to VO members and other deserving poor households to cover installation costs, ensure quality control of slab and rings produced and follow-up of the latrine recipients to identify obstacles in installation and to take appropriate measures.

Prevalence of Post-partum Genital Tract Infections in the Mother and Selected Neonatal Infection in Rural Bangladesh

Rukhsana Gazi, AMR Chowdhury, Shah Noor Mahmud and Fazlul Karim

The study aimed to estimate the prevalence of post-partum infection and two selected neonatal infections in Women's Health and Development Programme of BRAC. The study also aimed to identify the factors and determinants related to these infections and to compare the results with those of a non-programme area. A total of 400 women (200 from the programme area and 200 from the

comparison area) were interviewed retrospectively. Low prevalence of post-partum infection and selected neonatal infections was observed in the programme area. But this difference between the programme and the comparison areas was not statistically significant. The performance of trained TBAs and untrained TBAs was almost similar in terms of outcome of post-partum infection. Delivery complications were found to be associated with increased risk of infection. Cultural practices of using unclean water for washing the materials used as vaginal pads found to be associated with increased risk of post-partum infections. Perineal hygiene after childbirth should be promoted through hygiene education. Non-interference during delivery processes should be emphasized during TBA training programme. Prophylactic antibiotic treatment for mothers who experienced complications during delivery may be introduced through the BRAC health centres.

Post-partum Reproductive Behaviour Regarding Contraception and Breastfeeding in Rural Bangladesh
Rukhsana Gazi, Fazlul Karim, AMR Chowdhury and Shah Noor Mahmud

This was a comparative study between the programme area of BRAC (Bogra Sadar thana) and a non-programme area (Joypurhat). Retrospective data were collected from 400 randomly selected women who were in 6-12 week of their post-partum period. The study aimed to obtain information on knowledge of mothers about fecundity after childbirth and their reproductive behaviour regarding breastfeeding, post-partum abstinence and contraceptive practices. In general, women are most unlikely to adopt contraception unless they

resume menstruation as they believe that fecundity returns only after the resumption of menstruation. They tend to resume sexual activity quite soon after a childbirth.

Although a significantly higher proportion of women in the programme area were found to have fed colostrum than in the non-programme area, they were unlikely to breastfed exclusively. Therefore, the mothers were losing contraceptive benefits of breastfeeding soon after delivery and were at risk of subsequent conception. As reliance on lactational infertility alone is not advisable due to the early weaning and partial breastfeeding, the concerned programme should increasingly promote the use of appropriate contraceptive methods since the early post-partum period.

National Immunization Day 1996: Performance and Differentials
Abdullahel Hadi and Samir R Nath

This report assesses the performance of *National Immunization Day (NID)* and examines the role of voluntary development agencies on NID performance in rural Bangladesh. By analyzing a nationally representative sample survey data, the study reveals that social mobilization aspects of NID created a positive environment in preventing poliomyelitis and nightblindness by immunizing under 5 children. The impact of credit-based development programmes of NGOs was significant in raising the participation in NIDs, although considerable demographic, socioeconomic and regional differences in participation were visible. Social mobilization activities must be a regular and routine activity, as practiced by NGOs, if the national performance level is to improve in future.

Raising Sanitary Latrine Use in Rural Bangladesh: Can BRAC Play Any Role?

Abdullahel Hadi and Samir R Nath

This study estimates the sanitation coverage and investigates impact of the participation in development programme on the sanitation behaviour in rural Bangladesh. Findings reveal that nearly a quarter of the study population has been using sanitary latrines. But there were differences in use in terms of age, sex, education, occupation, land size and involvement with credit-based development programme. The multivariate analysis reveals that households involved with BRAC programmes are 3.66 times more likely to use sanitary latrine ($p < 0.01$) than those who are socioeconomically similar with BRAC members but not involved in such programme controlling for education and occupation of the household head. When other factors such as religion, ownership of land, housing condition, level of media exposure and the presence of BRAC programmes are systematically added to the regression equation, the role of BRAC on sanitation behaviour is still found significant. Social and behavioural aspects of the organized development programme in rural Bangladesh can significantly increase safe sanitation practice in a traditional society.

Credit Programme, Women's Autonomy and Reproductive Behaviour: Evidence from BRAC villages, Bangladesh

Abdullahel Hadi, Samir R Nath and AMR Chowdhury

This paper investigates the role of women's autonomy on their acceptance of contraceptive method in 87 BRAC villages in Manikganj. Data were obtained from 1995 sample survey of married women of reproductive age. Findings reveal that

women's autonomy, as measured by the extent to which she believes that the wife should have a decision-making role in five different areas of family life, is positively associated with contraceptive use. Socio-economic differentials in the acceptance of contraceptives are noticeable in terms of age, number of children ever born, years of schooling, exposure to mass media, land size and occupation of husband. The contraceptive practice among women involved in credit programme is found significantly higher than those not similarly involved. The multivariate analysis reveals that participation in credit programmes was positively associated with women's empowerment when socioeconomic differentials were taken into account. On the other hand, women having high autonomy score were nearly 36% more likely to use contraceptives ($p < 0.05$) than those having low autonomy score, controlling for age and number of children ever born. When other factors such as involvement in credit programme, years of schooling, household ownership of land, occupation of husband and exposure to mass media are systematically added to the regression equation, the influence of women's autonomy on contraceptive use remains high with the same level of significance. Credit-based income generating programme has the potential to bring a significant change in reproductive behaviour of women through increased autonomy.

Does Health Development Improve Socioeconomic Well-being in Less Developed Communities?

Abdullahel Hadi, Samir R Nath and AMR Chowdhury

This paper examined the contribution of health development in improving the socioeconomic well-being of rural

communities in Bangladesh. Data came from the 1995 sample household survey covering 70 villages in 10 districts where development organizations have intensive income generating activities and essential health care for the poor. Findings reveal that participation in income generating activities is positively associated with improved health status. But the role of health development in improving socioeconomic well-being, is not significant. When primary health services are supported by the income generating activities, the participants of such activities appeared to have better standard of living than non-participants. This indicates that income generating programme has the potential to bring a significant change in the socioeconomic well being through increased knowledge and access to health care in the rural community. The multivariate analysis also reveals that household members having better knowledge and access to health care are more likely to enjoy better standard of living ($p < 0.05$) than those having poor knowledge and access. The contribution of health programmes to socioeconomic well-being in rural areas can be raised if development programme incorporates income generating components in it focusing on lower socioeconomic groups.

Improving Living Condition of the Rural Poor: Role of Poverty-focused Development Programmes

Abdullahel Hadi, Samir R Nath and AMR Chowdhury

This paper assessed the role of poverty-focused development programmes in improving living condition of the rural communities in Bangladesh. Data were gathered from 1995 sample household survey covering 70 villages in 10 districts where NGOs have intensive credit-based income

generating activities. Findings reveal that living condition, as measured by food consumption and assets ownership; income deficit; access to health services, schooling and work, varies considerably by socio-economic characteristics, regional differences and participation in income generating activities. The paper concludes that the socioeconomic well-being in rural areas in Bangladesh can be raised if development programme incorporates income generating components in it focusing on lower socioeconomic groups.

Education for Empowerment: A Note on BRAC's Human Rights and Legal Education Programme at Matlab

Samiha Huda

This study aimed to assess the process of human rights and legal education training at Matlab and to elicit the participants' perception of the programme and to evaluate the contents of the training manual. Data were collected through direct observation of training sessions in 15 villages at Matlab during April-May 1996. Although the programme started in January 1996, none of the *shebikas* received training manual. Credit was found to be an important factor in motivating enrollment in the training. Some of the VO members were not interested in the course at the beginning but once they started attending, they became interested and continued. A common objection of the VO member's husband was teaching of Muslim Family Law. Recommendations were made for ensuring supply of the training manual, further illustration of flip charts, develop a strong follow-up system and suggestions for including Hindu Family Law and Laws of Inheritance and domestic violence in the course contents.

Features of loan disbursement at Matlab RDP during 1992-1995

Shahed Husain and Karen Moore

This study attempted to understand the loan portfolio under Matlab RDP during 1992-1995 and concentrated on membership and loan portfolio growth, loan repayment, average loan size and the distribution of loan schemes. Data on loan disbursement from RDP AO were used. Analysis shows that membership and loan portfolio growth rate was slower compared to other AOs, probably due to difficulty in communication in the area. Matlab RDP showed no overdue loans and negligible late loans during the study period. Average loan size increased with no. of loans taken. Multiple and concurrent loans were not common. About 44% loan was used for agricultural activities, primarily for those not supported by BRAC training and inputs. Small scale trading accounted for 27% of loan use and 10% for transport, mainly rickshaws. These three largest credit destinations reflect Matlab environment where agriculture and trade, particularly in fruits and vegetables is the major source of employment and communication is difficult. The study recommends to closely follow loan distribution patterns for monitoring growth in targeted employment and income generating sectors, which had not been major loan destinations in Matlab to the end of 1995.

The Prevalence of Anaemia Among Men and Women in Rural Bangladesh

SM Ziauddin Hyder

The study aimed at investigating the prevalence of anaemia among men and women in a typical Bangladeshi rural community. The survey was conducted in a perceived healthy population in March 1996 in 12 villages of Fulbaria Thana of

Mymensingh District, about 100 km north of Dhaka city. A total of 106 males and 228 non-pregnant females aged 11-48 years were purposively selected. Information were obtained on haemoglobin concentration, parasitic infestation and household socioeconomic status. About 69% of males and 70% of females were found to be anaemic according to WHO anaemia criteria. There was no difference in anaemia prevalence between males and females. Literacy and perceived economic status were associated to anaemia prevalence among females, but not among males. Anaemia was also more common among those holding little or no land and among those having current ascaris infestation. The findings suggest that anaemia is highly prevalent in the rural communities of Bangladesh which affects both males and females equally. Further studies should be undertaken to confirm the findings and also to examine the causes of anaemia in rural population.

Community Perception on the Muktagacha Pilot Nutrition Initiative of BRAC

Masuma Khatun and SM Ziauddin Hyder

This study aimed to determine community perception regarding the food supplementation project of BRAC in Muktagacha. Information were collected through focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interview. Findings revealed that in all the areas most of the concerned groups were well aware of the purpose of providing food supplementation to the target children and mothers during a specific time. The most common reason to provide supplementary food to the children was to increase their weight and to the pregnant mothers was to ensure well-being of the future baby. It was also revealed that the project activities received active support from all segments of

the community as they understood the benefits the project caused to them. In conclusion, it may be stated that the Muktagacha Pilot Nutrition Initiative was well accepted by the community which could bring about positive changes in nutritional knowledge and behaviour of the participating households and also to some extent of the community.

Pregnant Women's Knowledge on Health and Iron Supplementation

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Rita Das Roy and Sabah Tarannum

This study aims to assess knowledge of RHDC programme participants on concepts of health, illness, anaemia, iron medication and to explore the commonly occurred diseases among women and adolescent girls in rural community including local names and types of treatments. Eight villages of Trishal and Shambhuganj Thana of Mymensingh district were randomly selected. In April 1996 data were collected through 14 in-depth interviews and 4 focus group discussion from RHDC programme participants. A total of 42 subjects, 20 pregnant and 22 lactating mothers aged 16-45 years, participated in this study. Majority of them categorized a healthy person should be able to work, move or eat adequately without any physical or mental disturbances and should be free from diseases. It is revealed that most of the respondents were aware of anaemia. The common symptoms of anaemia reported by the respondents were inadequate strength in legs and arms, vertigo, weakness and dizziness and pale appearance in eyes and face. Symptoms, causes and treatments of anaemia were known to most of the respondents. It is a positive impact of BRAC's health initiatives.

Proceedings of the Seminar on Situation of the Elderly in Bangladesh: What Do We Know?

Md Nazrul Islam and Hasan Shareef Ahmed

Situation of the elderly people (≥ 60 years) is increasingly becoming a matter of global concern. Bangladesh is one of the 20 countries in the world with the largest elderly population. In Bangladesh, it is expected that proportion of elderly will be 7% of the total population by the year 2000 and 12% by the year 2025. BRAC organized a seminar on the situation of the elderly in Bangladesh to highlight the extent of problems of elderly population as the result of emerging trends of single family, migration of children particularly sons. The proceedings documented three papers presented in the seminar and discussions there on. The papers were on elderly situation in Bangladesh and Sweden. Some research issues were raised, such as: the social factors responsible for immobility of elderly people; people's perception about elderly care; workload of elderly people; and who was the richest person in a family and why a richest person was not cared by other family members?

Relapse of Tuberculosis in Rural Areas of Bangladesh

Md Nazrul Islam, Shah Noor Mahmud, Ahmed Ali, Kaosar Afsana, Hashima-E-Nasreen, Akramul Islam, AMR Chowdhury and Sadia A Chowdhury

The study conducted to investigate the relapse rate of tuberculosis in two thanas (Kahaloo and Fulbari) of Reproductive Health and Disease Control (RHDC) programme in August 1995. Of the 482 study cases, 435 (90%) treatment completed cases were interviewed, 4.7% died, 2.7% migrated and the rest did not response. The overall

relapse rate was 4.1%. Relapse rate was more than double (6.6%) in Kahaloo compared to Fulbari thana (3%). The rate was found to be highest among those who completed treatment for more than two years. Ten out of 18 relapse cases were identified by the tuberculosis control programme of WHDP. All the relapse cases were previously treated with anti-TB drugs for more than two months before the initiation of BRAC treatment. Routine sputum examination for cured patients with complains of cough might be a strategy for identification of all relapse cases on time.

**Social Science and Immunization:
A Pilot Study in a Rural Area of
Bangladesh (The first report)**

Md Shafiqul Islam

This report documents the study background, objectives, methodologies and variables/ indicators including their completeness and relevance to the study proposal vis-à-vis learning from their implementation. The study was conducted in two villages of Araihsar thana in Narayanganj district. Data were collected from mothers having children aged under two, women of reproductive age group, pregnant women, service providers and their supervisors, and village elite including local representatives. Vaccination sessions were also observed. Data were collected through household survey, in-depth and exit point interview, participant observation, wealth ranking and focus group discussion. Data thus collected covered wide range of variables/indicators including immunization coverage, quality of services, consumers KAP on the immunizable diseases and vaccination, etc. Almost all the methods and instruments were useful except a few, such as the exit point interview. The study addressed, to a greater extent, the issues of

social demand for/acceptance of immunization and supply factors, and to a much lower extent the political, technological and financial dimensions. Instead of interviewing the parents in the exit point and the vaccinators in the vaccination sessions, they could be better interviewed for longer time at their houses on the following day of the vaccination. Since the same vaccinators work in outreach centres, repeated observation and investigations on the same vaccinators is likely to be influenced as he/she may become sensitized affecting the outcome. The study results provided useful insights to decide on the methodologies, the areas of inquiry and the research instruments to be employed in (or omitted from) the study.

**Social Science and Immunization:
A Pilot Study in a Rural Area of
Bangladesh (The second report)**

Md Shafiqul Islam

This report highlights the core results including their programmatic implications vis-à-vis relevance for the main study. The results showed that mothers'/women's perceptions, knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practice on vaccine-related diseases, their causes, prevention and vaccination were very poor. The interactions of the vaccinators with the parents were also very weak. The parents complained of much crowding in the centre, refusal of vaccination, and discrimination between social groups. Some vaccination sessions were held in open or semi-open space or even under trees with no signs indicating the vaccination sites. The users reported the shortage of vaccines and vaccination cards in the sessions. The data, collected from the providers at various levels, also corroborated such claims. Besides, problems associated with vacancies of EPI staff posts, materials/ equipment, logistics,

supply and finance were found to be persistent at each layer from grassroots level through Thana Health Complex. Immunization coverage in the pilot study villages was found to be low, only two-fifths of the children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized. Around a half (46%) of the currently pregnant women received two doses of TT.

Enhancing the Effectiveness of Acute Respiratory Tract Infection Control Programme of BRAC

Firoz Mahboob Kamal

This study aimed at evaluating the Acute Respiratory Tract Infection Control Programme of BRAC. Instead of mere diagnostic deliberation, problem solving has been the major imperative of the study. Of two programme thanas, Dinajpur Sadar was selected. The study has been based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected in December 1995 through in-depth interview and focus group discussions with the key service providers and the recipients, and also through direct observation of the process. The secondary data were collected from the programme MIS. The study identifies four problem solving strategies for enhancing its effectiveness. These are:

- a) deployment of adequate number of doctors in the programme and to make them easily accessible to the rural people;
- b) incorporating treatment facilities for all common illness in a rural community instead of exclusive ARI control;
- c) integration of the ARI control programme with BRAC's health center in each area office with full-time resident doctor to enhance accessibility of the rural poor to health care and feeder system at the village level by SS;
- d) qualitative differentiation of service by development of more skill in SS or treating common illnesses.

Differentials of the Immunization Programme in Rural Bangladesh

Firoz M Kamal, Abdullahel Hadi and A Mushtaque R Chowdhury

The study investigates association of immunization coverage and price affordability with some selected socioeconomic variables in rural Bangladesh. Thereby, the study examines the self-sustainability of the programme. It was conducted in 75 villages in 10 districts of five administrative divisions. The eligible interviewees were the mothers having a child of 12-23 months of age living in the selected villages. Both the paternal and the maternal education have been found to have statistically significant influence on immunization provided it is imparted by at least 4-5 years of schooling. No statistically significant association exists between immunization coverage and child's sex, household land and sale of labour. Parental religion impacts significantly. Exposure to media like radio increases predictability of immunization by about two folds. Most people favour none or minimal user-fee, therefore, restricts self-sustainability of the programme. Increase in parental education enhances affordability of user-fees.

National Immunization Days in Bangladesh: An Evaluation of the 1996 Rounds

Fazlul Karim, AMR Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya, KMA Aziz, Ahmed Ali, Md Nazrul Islam, Shah Noor Mahmud and Dineke Mol

This study assessed the effectiveness of two National Immunization Days (NIDs) of 1996 in terms of implementation and coverage in 16 municipalities and 56 rural thanas. Four vaccination sessions (1 in urban and 3 in rural areas, twice each) were observed. In addition, OPV and VAC coverage survey was conducted in 70 villages of 10 districts. Preparatory

activities relating to NIDs were reported to be universally accomplished, although 8 thana and 2 municipal authorities had reported shortage of vaccine carriers and icepacks. Retention of knowledge appeared to be consistently lower among the rural providers. In contrast to what the higher supervisors had said, only 5 of 16 rural volunteers, and 4 of 6 municipal volunteers were trained on NID. Ten percent of the rural ANCCs were held under trees risking the vaccine potency. Although the supervisors visited the centres, over one-fourth of the rural and one-fifth of the municipal centres were not visited at all by any supervisors. The degree of parental knowledge of the vaccine was higher in municipal areas. Over two-thirds of the target children received both doses of OPV during the NIDs while VAC was given to 73% of the children aged 1-5 years.

Monthly meetings of RDP: documenting the situation of ten village organizations in Matlab

Mahmuda Rahman Khan

This study documented the situation of 10 village organizations in Matlab thana in holding fortnightly health forum and *gram shava* or issue-based meetings. Five health forum and five *gram shava* sessions were observed. The VO members never initiated any meeting if the PA was absent. They never met together on their own initiative. The members never selected the issues to be discussed. The issues were pre-selected and a lecture was given by the PA. Issues related to credit were raised in *gram shava* which should have been resolved in weekly credit meetings. The meetings were mostly non-participatory and only leading VO members spoke prompted by the PAs. In most cases, the meetings were held irregularly. In April 1996, of the 142 scheduled *gram shava*, only

85 were held with 31% members attending, and of the 38 scheduled health forum meetings, only 23 were held with 46% of the members present. Males were not present in any observed meetings. The VO members were not clearly informed why their husbands should be present in the meetings and the males were not even contacted. The Implementation Committees were non-functioning. Most members were not sure about the relevance of the meetings. The PAs lacked training and motivation in conducting the meetings in an interactive way. The health PAs being females, were found to be better interacting with the female VO members. The health meetings were held in the first half of the day. There was continuous movement of members in the meetings. It is recommended to conduct the *Gram shava* by a separate PA, train and motivate the PAs in conducting the meetings in a participatory manner, selection of issues by the VO members themselves based on their felt needs, change the timing of the health forum to improve attendance including participation by the males, and strengthening the Implementation Committees for follow up of the decisions reached.

Cultural construction of health and the institutional measures of change in rural Bangladesh: the cases of the BRAC village organizations and the ICDDR,B MCH-FP programmes in the selected villages of Matlab

Monirul Islam Khan, Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury

This study examines the role of development interventions in changing health care behaviour in addition to verification of different aspects of traditional health behaviour, knowledge and attitudes to illness and disease. Ten poor women from each of

four villages, one each with or without BRAC interventions outside DSS area and one each with or without ICDDR,B's MCH-FP interventions inside DSS area, were informally interviewed. The respondents conceptualized disease more by the notion of 'illness' instead of pathological processes. Health education intervention changed the concept to more scientific ones for certain diseases e.g., diarrhoea. Regarding illness causation, they had strong beliefs in evil spirit such as *alga batash*. Communicable diseases are believed to be less influenced by *alga batash* than diseases like convulsions or hysteria. Gender relations, predominant norms or the structural features embedding the power relations play important role in constructing the illness. Traditional and spiritual healers play an important role in articulating the explanatory model of illnesses. The mode of treatment combines both traditional and modern elements depending upon types of diseases. Socioeconomic condition, gender relation and other structural features of the society influence their choice of treatment. The choice of treatment on the part of the villagers have already undergone significant changes. However, the existence of traditional health practices sometimes delay in obtaining modern treatment when urgently needed. The ICDDR,B and BRAC interventions should be continued despite the slow effect for sustaining the positive results already achieved.

Assessment of Supplementary Food in Muktagacha Pilot Nutrition Initiative of BRAC

Masuma Khatun and SM Ziauddin Hyder

Since 1993 BRAC has been operating a pilot nutrition initiative in 158 villages of Muktagacha thana. This study was conducted

out to determine the nutritional quality and the cost of the supplemental foods as well as the actual additional calorie consumption of the recipients from the food supplementation project. Nutrient analysis of the foods was done on randomly selected 12 packets of supplemental foods. Cost per packet of adult and child food was Tk. 7.50 and Tk. 4.30 respectively. It was estimated that supplementary food, if taken completely, could provide energy equivalent to 752 Kcal to a mother and 212 Kcal to a child under two. However, mothers consumed around 75% of the food which provided 564 Kcal/day. The food was shared mostly with young children and husbands. In-depth interviews with mothers also suggest that they usually skip breakfast if the food is given in the morning. The children liked the food because of the taste and unless the child was sick or had some food before coming to the centre, he ate the food completely (212 Kcal/day). Although the main purpose of the project was to provide nutrition education, it was observed that the activities at the feeding centre was limited to food distribution and had very little to do with communication of nutritional messages. Therefore, the service providers should be trained to communicate nutritional messages effectively.

Seasonal survey report on nutrition: first round BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project in Matlab

Masuma Khatun, Andrew Mckim, Sabah Tarannum, SM Ziauddin Hyder, Mushtaque R Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya, Monirul Islam Khan, and Alayne Adams

Since 1992, BRAC and ICDDR,B have been implementing a joint research project in Matlab, Bangladesh to assess the pathways of impact of BRAC's development interventions on human well-being. The project identified

improved nutritional status as one of the components of human well-being. This report documents the nutrition component of the first round seasonal survey findings conducted during mid April to August 1995 using the four-cell survey design. A total of 2076 households were interviewed to collect data on household food security, infant and child feeding practices and on anthropometry. Data on preceding one week's household food inflow and outflow were collected to describe food security at the household level. The anthropometric survey was conducted for all household members aged >2 years. Data on different parameters are shown in the report stratified by BRAC member, BRAC eligible non-member and BRAC non eligible non-member.

Perspective of Women About their Own Illness

Amina Mahbub and Syed Masud Ahmed

This study aimed to understand women's illness from their own perspective and to know the underlying factors influencing their health seeking behaviour. The findings revealed that women defined their ill health according to their own ideas. While listing, illnesses related to reproductive organs and sexual conditions came at the end. They identified the relation between different illnesses according to their beliefs about illness causation. Immediate threat to life was of prime concern to them while determining the severity of a condition. They had explanatory models of every illness they experienced. These were based on folk theories such as hot, cold, purity, pollution, evil wind, evil eyes, etc. Social network was significant in identifying the illness and consultation about its treatment. Therapeutic choice largely depended on beliefs about the causes of illness, explanation of illness,

availability of health services, socioeconomic condition, and past experience about efficacy of treatment. Attitude of the society and family towards illness acted as an influencing factor in every step from identification to treatment seeking behaviour. Women often tried to conceal some illnesses which have social stigma attached. In such situation, women tried not to disclose the illness to their in-laws and husbands, rather getting treatment themselves through peer network and as a last resort, went to natal home for treatment.

An Emic Towards Well-being

Amina Mahbub and Rita Das Roy

This study was conducted as a part of BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab. The study aimed to find out the indigenous indicators of well-being and to understand the pathways and processes through which the notion of well-being could be fulfilled. A rapid appraisal technique was used to gather the qualitative data on perceptions of well-being. The study revealed that the villagers had their own definition of the state of well-being and according to the notion they classified the village households into different categories. The women under study identified money, fixed income, children, well-built house, three meal a day as the indicators of well-being. On the other hand money, livestock, peaceful life and well-built house were mentioned by all male informants as indicators of well-being. The villagers constructed linkages between different indicators to develop a sustainable model of well-being. In this respect, the models were different for the different group (TG, BRAC, NTG). In discussing the underlying reasons of the recession position of the households the villagers also identified different interrelated problems.

**Capacity development through training:
the case of the BRAC village organizations**

*Sharmin Mahbub, Manzurul Mannan,
Shahriar R Khan and Masud Rana*

This study looked at the effect of capacity development of BRAC participants on their performance as VO members as well as use of skill gained. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from 3 VOs of South Uddomdi village in Matlab thana where BRAC started working in early 1992. About 27-39% of the VO members chosen for training were largely selected by VO management committee in consultation with PAs and POs. Sometimes a member received up to five training on different areas out of which only two or three were used. The BRAC non-eligible members in the VO appeared to influence the selection process to a large extent. *The reason behind recruiting BRAC non-eligible members was due to the short time given for motivation and VO formation by the Area Office --* states a RDP staff. Thus, VO management committee members and small group members are more likely to be selected. The training is not need-based in most of the instances, rather oriented towards fulfilling programme's target for a particular period. Significant effect of skill training on savings and credit was noted. Group members who received training in addition to various inputs were better-off socioeconomically. Also, they were found to be more regular in attending the VO meetings. Problems identified in using skill gained were: lack of opportunities and support from peers and BRAC staff. The members perceived the VO as mechanism through which they can access loans and services and they exert pressure on BRAC staff to provide them with these inputs.

Members were skeptical about the training in the beginning, but when the benefits started coming, they viewed it positively as an opportunity to better life. The newly acquired skill improve the group's credit operations and other sector programmes. More follow-up is necessary to ensure that the skill gained is retained, shared, disseminated and applied by trainees in income-generating activities.

Reasons for Discontinuation of Tuberculosis Treatment Provided by BRAC

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

This study presents the reasons for discontinuation of treatment from BRAC's community-based TB control programme. Reasons for discontinuation of treatment were collected from programme records, the patient or his/her relatives, *Shasthya Shebikas*, programme organizers, area managers and medical officers through in-depth interviews during June-August 1994 for the patient who enrolled between June 1993 and May 1994. The reasons cited by all the groups were similar. The reasons recorded/stated for dropped out cases were: side effects, change in regimen, fear of injection, influence of fundamentalists, patient believed that s/he had no TB, and return of deposit money. Reasons recorded/stated for migrated cases were: side effects, non-resident of programme area, loan pressure, and fugitiveness. The reasons recorded/stated for referral were: undergoing private treatment, skin rash, fear of injection, patients were suffering from jaundice, diabetes, severe abdominal pain and difficulty in urination, unconsciousness, drug resistance, diarrhoea, vomiting, and severe weakness.

Beacon of Hope: An Impact Assessment Study of BRAC's Rural Development Programme

Shams Mustafa, Ishrat Ara, Dilruba Banu, Altaf Hossain, Azmal Kabir, Mohammad Mohsin, Abu Yusuf, and Sarwar Jahan

This study aimed to gain a more extensive understanding of the socioeconomic impact of RDP on its participants, 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 the 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 suggested that the participating VO members need to reach a 'critical minimum' level of RDP inputs before improvements are 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 the 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 reduce dissatisfaction of VO members. The concept of 'institution

building' needs to be replaced and experimentation with alternative strategies of organization development are required.

An assessment of client's knowledge of family planning in Matlab

Hashima-e-Nasreen, Mushtaque Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya, AKM Masud Rana and Indrani Pieris-Caldwell

This study explored the level of effective knowledge on different contraceptive methods. Data were collected from 600 women of reproductive age from two villages in Matlab, one each from ICDDR,B's intervention and comparison areas. About 56% women in MCH-FP area were currently practicing contraception compared to 33% in comparison area. Women in MCH-FP area could name five methods compared to three in comparison area. Virtually all women in both the villages had detailed knowledge about pill and ligation while only few had any idea about IUD and condom. Women had little or no knowledge on the specific indications of each method. Even in MCH-FP area, women did not know what to do when two pills are missed. Women's general perception about the mechanism of action of different methods was that these act by damaging the sperm or ovum. They had no clear idea about the relative advantages of any method. They had little knowledge about the side-effects or their management. The field workers were the principal source of information in the MCH-FP area compared to government health workers, relatives and friends in the comparison area. Service providers put emphasis on pill and injection and did not provide IEM about other methods such as IUD, ligation and male methods. Both contraceptive users and non-users did not possess adequate knowledge for making informed choice.

Level, Pattern and Socioeconomic Determinants of Enrollment in Formal Schools of the Graduates of BRAC's Education Programme

Samir R Nath

BRAC has been operating two models of primary education for children of poor households since 1985. After graduation from BRAC schools these children enroll in formal schools for further education. This study identified the level, pattern and determinants of enrollment in formal schools of the BRAC graduates. Information of 1,259 children who were graduated from BRAC schools in early 1995 were collected at the end of 1995. Both bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed. About 80% of the graduates of BRAC's education programme were continuing education in formal schools. No gender variation in enrollment was found. Graduates who were younger in age, whose mothers have some schooling, and whose households were non-eligible for BRAC membership were more likely to get further education in formal schools compared to other groups. Availability of formal school in their own village was also found as a determinant of girls enrollment. Considering the underdeveloped socioeconomic condition of Bangladesh it can be said that enrollment rate of the graduates was satisfactory. Motivation to the parents and supervision of the programme organizers of BRAC may be improved further.

Basic Competencies of the BRAC School Graduates of 1995

Samir R Nath and AMR Chowdhury

This study assessed the basic competency of BRAC school graduates in 1995, and identified their socioeconomic determinants. Respondents satisfying all four criteria of

reading, writing, numeracy and life skills were considered to have the minimum level of basic competency. Graduates of three categories of BRAC schools, viz. Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) under Rural Development Programme (RDP), NFPE under Education Support Programme (ESP), and Basic Education for Older Children (BEOC) under RDP were studied. Data were collected within 10 months of graduation using 30-cluster methodology. Among 1,259 graduates interviewed, 74% satisfied all four criteria of basic competency. Among the graduates of three school categories, those of BEOC in RDP areas performed best (76%), followed by NFPE under ESP (75%) and NFPE in RDP areas (73%). On average, 74% of the girls and 73% of the boys had basic competency. The graduates of BEOC-RDP areas performed best in all skills except in writing skill, where graduates under ESP did best. Graduates currently in school, whose fathers have some schooling, whose households have more than 50 decimals of land and those having access to television were more likely to have basic competency. More than half of the graduates came from non-target group households. Around 80% of the graduates were enrolled in formal schools at the time of survey.

Role of Education in Reducing Child Labour: A Case from Rural Bangladesh

Samir R Nath and Abdullahel Hadi

This paper explores the hypothesis that formal education of children and their parents plays a major role in reducing child labour. Data generated from a representative sample survey of 3,809 children aged 10-14 years in 150 villages of Manikganj and Joypurhat districts. Findings reveal significant inverse relationship between child labour and years of schooling. Six factors such as age of

children, child education, mother's education, father's education, land ownership of household and father's occupation appeared to be important determinants of child labour.

Probabilities of children to be in the labour force also indicate that years of schooling of children is the most influential variable to eradicate child labour followed by father's and mother's education. To eliminate child labour from the society schooling of children should be ensured through motivating parents, making available of schools in rural areas, and creating an environment of learning.

PRA: How It Can Be Used in BRAC Programmes - Discussion and Recommendation from A PRA Training Workshop for the RMs of RDP

Rita Sen, Sabah Tarannum and Parul Lata Biswas

The objective of the workshop on PRA was to orient the Regional Managers of Rural Development Programme (RDP) on PRA techniques to identify the relevant programme areas where PRA could be applied. The workshop, organized by the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC, was held at CDM, Rajendrapur during 15-22 January 1996. Twenty-four mid-level participants from RDP and RED attended the workshop. For field work, the participants were divided into four groups and four villages were chosen where different types of RDP activities were in operation. The groups presented their field activity reports in a session which was attended by the senior BRAC officials. Some useful feedback on the use of PRA techniques emerged from the workshop.

Involving the Other Half: Male Perception on BRAC's Health Programme

Shahaduzzaman, AMR Chowdhury and Fazlul Karim

As men play a key role in making decisions in different spheres of women's life, this study was therefore done to determine the perception of the male population of community regarding BRAC's 'Women Health and Development Programme' (WHDP). Information were gathered by staying for nearly a month (June 1996) with a family in a typical village of a WHDP working area. Informal conversation, key informant interview and observation of health care service delivery was done. The study reveals that men have a generalized feeling of being neglected by the health programme. Men know only the curative components of the programme but have no or vague knowledge about the preventive components. Contradictory attitudes were found among men regarding BRAC's program. However, a strong felt need was expressed by most men regarding health information and service. To ensure more involvement of men in the programme, measures were suggested like, strengthening male forums, specification of male audience, male only clinic, employing male community health workers etc.

Micro-credit programmes: who participates and to what extent?

Hassan Zaman

This paper uses data from the BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab to explore several inter-related issues with regard to targeting and member participation in RDP's credit programme. Around 28% of

BRAC members in the 10 sampled villages were found to be non-eligible NTG. Using a set of socioeconomic indicators the NTG member group were found to be significantly better-off than the TG group, but worse-off than the NTG non-members: Hence this group can be considered part of the village middle class. The eligible BRAC members were less wealthy than eligible non-members because female-headed households are under represented within BRAC. Multivariate analysis shows that the number of earners per household size is a significant negative factor influencing the decision to join BRAC. The third issue is the factors influencing 'depth' of participation. Five indicators were used to proxy for 'depth'. NTG members have

significantly higher average loan sizes but TG members borrow more frequently but smaller amounts. In the multivariate analysis female headedness emerged as a constraint to participation. Flexible financial services to meet the needs of the female-headed households and poor members need to be put into place e.g. open savings, consumption loans. However, the costs of doing so have to be monitored. Moreover, the paper discusses the reasoning behind retaining a portion of NTG members in the VO. Larger loans can be delivered to NTG members (improving RDP sustainability and potentially creating medium scale enterprises) and it may improve the VO's social acceptability in the village.

ONGOING STUDIES

A. Socioeconomic studies	
1 Cost-benefit analysis of BRAC sericulture programme.	Shantana R Halder SN Choudhury
2 Barriers to participation in RDP, BRAC part II.	Timothy G Evans, M Rafi, AM Adams, and AMR Chowdhury
3 Costs and benefits of BRAC sericulture programme: an economic analysis.	Shantana R Halder
4 Impact assessment study of BRAC's RDP (preparatory stage of IAS-II).	AM Muazzam Husain, SR Halder, I Ara, A Hossain, D Mallick, N Amin, and S Akter
5 A study on developing impact indicators and indicators of VO, AO and IGA sustainability.	Altaf Hossain
6 Impact of the oxbow lakes project on participant households.	Altaf Hossain and D Ahmed
B. Environmental studies	
1 Environmental awareness training for BRAC's H/O staff.	Nasima Akter, M Jakariya, M Rahman, and RE Acott
2 Initial environmental examinations of BRAC dairy project.	Nasima Akter and M Jakariya
3 Material preparation for TOT of the environmental awareness programme.	Nasima Akter and M Jakariya
4 Initial environmental examinations of BRAC health centre.	Nasima Akter and RE Acott

C. Matlab studies		
1	Second round survey of Matlab study phase II.	Data Management group
2	Third round survey of Matlab study phase II.	Data Management group
3	Baseline survey report on health, sanitation and child care (First round).	Syed Masud Ahmed, A Bhuiya, and AMR Chowdhury
4	Baseline survey report on nutrition (First round of phase II - Matlab).	SM Ziauddin Hyder, AMR Chowdhury, M Khatun, and S Tarannum
5	Baseline survey report on household economy (First round of phase II-Matlab).	Shah Noor Mahmud, GM Hassan, S Husain, and H Zaman
6	Baseline survey report on demography and family planning (First round of phase II).	Shahriar Reza Khan, A Bhuiya, and AMR Chowdhury
7	Baseline survey report on women's lives (First round of phase II).	Samiha Huda, MR Khan, and SR Khan
8	RDP-MIS at Matlab area office.	Moksudur Rahman, AKMM Rana, A Bhuiya, and SM Ahmed
9	Determinants of knowledge of AIDS among rural women in Bangladesh.	Elisabeth L. Fulton, N Kamal, SM Ahmed, and MI Khan
10	Providing AIDS awareness education through women's credit organization.	Hashima-E-Nasreen, AMR Chowdhury, SM Ahmed, A Bhuiya, and AKMM Rana
11	Integrating sexual and reproductive health into the BRAC and ICDDR,B collaborative research and development initiative.	Abbas Bhuiya, AMR Chowdhury, S Chowdhury, H Nasreen, PL Biswas, and SM Ahmed
12	A study in health communication network as influenced by BRAC intervention in Matlab.	Abbas Bhuiya, AMR Chowdhury, SA Begum, and S Islam

<p>D. Health studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Consequences of low-birth weight babies in Manikganj (Longitudinal). 2 Combined health services delivery: an observational study. 3 Immunization in Bangladesh: studying sustainability through social science approaches (part of a multicountry study). 4 The reasons for under-utilization of trained TBAs. 5 Exploring TBA's perception on birth process with body mapping. 6 Review of TBA programmes: a literature review. 7 Study on causes and factors related to infant death: results from a prospective study. 8 Birth practices in rural Bangladesh. 9 Factors affecting implementation of FFPF in Kulaura thana under Moulvibazar district. 10 Male perceptions of family planning. 	<p>Rukhsana Gazi, F Karim, and A Ali</p> <p>Ahmed Ali, SN Mahmud, and F Karim Fazlul Karim</p> <p>Suhaila Hoque khan, Shahaduzzaman, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Shahaduzzaman and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>MN Islam, A Ali, and SH Khan</p> <p>Rukhsana Gazi, F Karim and A Ali</p> <p>Rukhsana Gazi and F Karim</p> <p>AMR Chowdhury, SN Mahmud, and A Ali</p> <p>Shahaduzzaman</p>
<p>E. Nutrition studies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Nutritional impact study of the IGVGD programme (Longitudinal). 2 Effectiveness of iron supplementation programme in pregnancy. 3 The impact of nutritional surveillance project on BRAC member and non-BRAC member: a comparative study. 4 The nutritional impact of seasonality in children and adult: BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project in Matlab. 	<p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>Sabah Tarannum</p> <p>Masuma Khatun</p>

<p>5 Effect of BRAC membership on nutritional status: an inter-category study.</p> <p>6 Survey report on nutrition: third seasonal round of BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project in Matlab on three broad issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food availability and consumption - Anthropometric status of the study population (6 month-60+ years) - Calorie consumption from major staple crops. <p>7 Study on intra-household food distribution in the rural areas of Bangladesh.</p> <p>8 Nutrition Surveillance Project (NSP).</p> <p>9 BRAC-ICDDR,B joint research project nutrition component.</p>	<p>Sabrina Rasheed</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder, AMR Chowdhury, M Khatun, and S Rasheed</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder and RD Roy</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p> <p>SM Ziauddin Hyder</p>
<p>F. WATCH project</p> <p>1 Women's empowerment and contraception: is there a link?</p> <p>2 Vital registration report 1986-1996.</p> <p>3 Impact of international migration on demographic and socioeconomic change in rural Bangladesh.</p> <p>4 Change in nuptiality in rural Bangladesh: role of NGOs.</p> <p>5 Environmental degradation process in the rural areas: are people aware?</p> <p>6 Impact of rural credit programmes on marital violence in Bangladesh.</p>	<p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Firoz M Kamal, A Hadi, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury</p> <p>Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury</p>

7	Credit program, women's autonomy and reproductive behaviour: evidence from BRAC villages, Bangladesh.	Abdullahel Hadi, SR Nath, and AMR Chowdhury
8	Impact of non-formal education on women's autonomy and socialization: experience from BRAC village.	Firoz M Kamal
G. Education studies		
1	A study on the impact of BRAC's education programme on adolescent girls.	MA Kalam
2	A study of former garments children in urban school.	Monira Hasan
3	Work on reviewing the study of ABC and developing new test items.	Shaheen Akter
4	Baseline survey of BRAC school for Chandina learning improving project.	Feroza Begum, MA Kalam, and S Akter
5	Parents' contribution to the management of NFPE urban schools through parents meetings.	Ahsan Habib Quazi

RED SEMINARS IN 1996

Date/Month	Topic	Speaker
January - 01	Cost benefit analysis of BRAC sericulture programme	Shantana Rani Halder MS Nabi Choudhury
- 10	Impact of BRAC's nutrition education and food supplementation programme on nutritional status of the mother and offspring	Sadia A Chowdhury SM Ziauddin Hyder Masuma Khatun
- 15	Empowerment of women	Sidney R Schuler, USA
- 16	Situation of the elderly in Bangladesh: what do we know?	Zarina Nahar Kabir Abdul Jabbar Marta Szebehely
- 18	Investigating the impact of BRAC's rural development programme on various indicators of economics and nutritional well-being	Andrew McKim
- 18	Enhancing the effectiveness of respiratory tract infection control programme of BRAC: a strategic management perspective	F M Kamal
- 24	Credit support to the RDP VO members: a study on utilization practices and profitability	Shahnaj Akter
February 11	Gender quality action learning: from rhetoric to reality?	Fehmin Farashuddin Manzurul Mannan Ishrat Ara, MR Khan
- 18	Effect of vitamin A supplementation on childhood respiratory infection and growth: an analysis of the NSP data	Sabah Tarannum Ziauddin Hyder

April - 08	Consumer credit and food security	Osman Gani, USA
- 25	Designing a new impact assessment study	Nazmul Huq Abdullahel Hadi
May - 19	Devising a training course on research methodology: an interacting process	AM Muazzam Husain
June - 18	Role of the environmental research	Faria Zaman Md Jakariya Nasima Akter Geneviene Chicoine
- 23	Small enterprise creation and income generation: BRAC carpentry workshop project	Jamille Jinnah
- 27	Role of environmental research group	Faria Zaman Md Jakariya Nasima Akter Geneviene Chicoine
July - 25	Mainstreaming of NFPE graduates/students	Gajendra K Verma, UK
August - 29	Human rights and legal education training impact assessment study: major findings	Mohammad Rafi David Hulme
September - 16	Pilot savings project	Karen Moore Marie-Jo A Cortijo MS Nabi Choudhury
October - 02	Statistical analysis of women's AIDS knowledge in Matlab	Elisabeth L Fulton
November - 10	Environmental impact assessment of BRAC's sericulture programme	Jacques Berube
November - 28	RUSHA: a different approach to community development	Rajaratnam Abel Jolly Rajaratnam, India
December - 05	Child +ponds: extension materials development	Jean Macgrory, ODA

INDEX

A

- Aarong* 2
- Abstracts of reports and papers 41
- Academic achievements 42
- Access 26
- Acknowledgment viii
- Acute respiratory tract infection 52
- Administration and data management 30
- Adolescents, Health situation of 42
- Adult literacy centre 44
- AIDS awareness campaign 14
 - Day 13
 - discussion meeting 14
 - rally 13
- Anaemia, Prevalence of 49
- Annual lecture, ASCON V 27
- Antenatal care centres 41
- Antenatal care services, Community-based 14
- Artificial insemination 4
- ASCON V 5, 13, 27
- Ayesha Abed Library 27

B

- Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute 3
- Baseline information 4
 - survey 11, 21
- Basic competencies 55
- Birth and death recording 43
- Birth process, Women's perception of 15
- Body mapping, Women's perception of 15
- Book chapters 39
- Book on ORT 5, 24, 27, 39
- BRAC, 25 years of 1
 - bank 2
 - Centre 5
 - ICDDR,B joint research project at Matlab 4,
12, 13, 25, 28, 52
 - resource centre 36

- research impact project 36
- staff 1
- university 2
 - University of Manchester joint study 22
- Breastfeeding 45
- Budget, BRAC 1
 - RED 5

C

- Capacity development 33, 56
- Chandina Learning Improvement Project 23
- Chars* 11
- Child labour 58
- Client satisfaction 41
 - well-being 10
- Cold storage 2
- Collaborating institutions 31
- Collaborative research 3
- Community perception 49
- Conference on UPE in Bangladesh 3, 4, 25
 - secretariat 4
- Conferences, seminars, and workshops 28
- Constitutional provisions 4
- Consultancy 4, 7, 31, 32
- Consultants 34
- Contraception 45
- Contraceptive use 15, 21
- Corn seed 1
- Corrugated iron sheet 1
- Credit programme 47
 - support 42
- Critical mass 8

D

- Dairy project 2
- Decade of research 26
- Demographic situations 5
 - surveillance 5, 12, 21

Disadvantaged women 1
Dissemination 5, 27
Doctoral programme 34
Donors viii, 5

E

Editing and publishing working group 24
Editorial 40
Education for empowerment 48
 programme 58, 55
 research framework 23
 study group 3, 21, 27
Elderly care in Bangladesh 15
 people 16
 situation in Bangladesh 50
Employment generation 2, 7
Empowerment of the poor 1
 of women 8, 21
 group 23
ENHR Newsletter 37
Enrollment in formal school 58
 status 44
Environmental group 23
Essential health care 2, 14
Exit point interview 17
Experimental savings system 9
Exploratory study 18

F

Family planning, Male perception of 15
Family planning facilitation programme 2, 15, 21
Feasibility study 45
Field research activity 6
 staff 5
 station 5
 visit 6
Finance viii, 5
Financial sustainability 2
Food poverty, Measurements of 8
 stock data 8
Fourth Five Year Plan 16
Fulshind-UK Primary Health Care Project 21

G

Ganakendra pathagar 44
Garment factories 2
General election 4
Government of Bangladesh 4, 5, 35

GQAL 7
Group coordinator 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 22-24, 30

H

Haematological outcome 18
Haemoglobin concentration 19
Health and population programme 2, 21, 25, 27
Health development 47
 forum 53
 programmes, Male involvement in 14, 59
Helen Keller International 19
Highlights 3
Household survey 9
HRLE at Matlab 48
HRLE, Impact assessment of 11, 12, 37
HRLE-related action 12
Human well-being 20

I

IGVGD 18
Illness, Perspective of women about 55
Immunization coverage 4, 16, 18, 21
 programme 52
Impact assessment of BRAC's socioeconomic
 interaction 12
 of Oxbow Lakes Project 11
 system 7
Impact study 4, 8, 10, 57
In-depth study 10, 13
Inaugural ceremony 3
Income generating activities 2, 7, 9, 10
Infant feeding practices 15
Initial Environmental Examination 23
Institution building 2
Institutional collaboration 31
Internees 5, 32
Intra-household food distribution 20
Iron status 19
Iron supplementation during pregnancy 4, 18, 19
Iron supplementation, Knowledge of 50
Issue-based meetings 53

J

JMBA 11
JMBA 3, 11
Joint studies 3
Journal club 30

K

- Knowledge and practice of NFPE graduates 43
- Knowledge of iron supplementation 49

L

- Latrines, Selling 45
- Launching ceremony 24
- Learning organization 1
- Legal education 12
- Literacy 5
- Literature review 42
- Living condition of the rural poor 48
- Loan disbursement at Matlab 49
- Longitudinal study 14
- Low birth weight babies, Consequence of 15

M

- Male method acceptors 15
- Management information system 4
- Mainstreaming of NFPE students 22
- Master's programme 34
- Material well-being 8,11
- Matlab field station 12
- Membership performance 8
- Menstruation 43
- Micro-credit programme 59
- Migration 5, 21
- Monograph 4, 20, 24, 26
- Motor cycles 1
- Mulberry trees 1
- Multi-country research 4, 14
- Muktagacha pilot nutrition initiative 20

N

- National Immunization Days 17, 21, 46, 52
- Neutral caretaker government 4
- NFPE achievement test 42
 - graduates 1, 2, 43, 44, 58, 55
 - notebooks 1
 - schools 1, 12
 - students 1
- NGO MIS Project 21, 22, 37
- Nirjash* 5, 24-26
- Non co-operation movement 4
 - People's comments on 4
- Non-govt. welfare association 16
- Nutrition group 18
- Nutritional impact of the IGVGDP 20

- surveillance project 19
- well-being 20

O

- Offset printing press 2
- Ongoing studies 61
- Operations research 14
- Oral therapy extension project (OTEP) 5, 25
- Oral rehydration therapy 5, 24, 25
- Original scientific papers 39
- Oxbow lakes project, impact assessment of 11

P

- Panel data 8
- Participating households 11
- Participatory rural appraisal 7, 9, 59
- Pathways 13
- Pilot nutrition initiative 49, 54
- Pilot savings project 9
- Pilot study 51
- Post-partum infections 14, 45
 - reproductive behaviour 46
- Poverty alleviation 19
 - correlates 8
 - focused development programme 48
- Preface vii
- Pregnant women 50
- Prime minister 3
- Publishing services 4
- Proceedings 26, 50
- Programme managers 5
 - organizers, competence of 41
 - participants 2, 8
 - interventions 8
- Promotion 34
- Publications 38

Q

- Qualitative data 8, 9, 18
- Quality of care 41
- Quantitative data 8

R

- Rangpur Region Rural Development Programme 5
- RDP Matlab 12
 - social development 11
 - phase IV 4, 8
- Recruitment 33

RED in 1996: highlights 3
RED seminar 66
Reproductive behaviour 46
Reproductive health and disease control 43
Research and dissemination 7
 collaboration 18
 reports 5, 24
Review articles 39
Rural credit 2
Rural Development Programme 2, 7, 25, 27, 57
 development project-9 (RD-9) 31
 employment 5
 study series iv

S

Safe motherhood 14
Sanitary latrine use 47
Sasakawa international training centre 27
Seasonal fluctuations 8
 survey 20, 54
Seminars 8, 50, 66
Sericulture programme 1, 8
Service delivery 2
Silk 1
Silver jubilee occasion 1
Social awareness 2
 science and immunization 4, 14, 16, 51
Socioeconomic impact 8
 well-being 47
Special studies 3, 4
State responsibilities 16
Strategy 1
Strengthening of research at BRAC 37
Student volunteer 5
Students 1
Sulla vi
Supplementary food 54
Sustainability 4, 7, 9
Sustainable workplan 4, 10

T

TBA literature review 15
 programmes 15
 services 15
Technical assistance 4
Textbooks 1
 Reusing of 45
Textile mill 2

Thursday tea seminar 30
Timeline of RED vi
Training 34
 courses 7
 In-country 35
 manual 4
 programme, Impact assessment of 11
 support to other institutions 32
 support to other programmes 36
 overseas 34
 of field investigators 36
Translation 4, 24
Transnational study 4
Tuberculosis 14
 Relapse of 50
 treatment, Discontinuation of 56
 Community-based control programme 14

U

Umea University, Sweden 4,18
UN report 16
UNICEF 4
Universal primary education, conference on 4

V

Village organizations 1, 10, 14, 53, 56
Villagers perception 10
VO dissolution 11
VO members 6, 10, 12, 14, 42
 Credit support to 42
 loan 1
 perception 10
 savings 1
 training 12

W

WATCH project 21
 reports 21, 24, 25, 38
Wealth ranking 9
Well-being of rural poor 13, 47, 55
Women's autonomy 21, 47
 bargaining power 8
 control over assets 8
 empowerment 21
 ownership 8
Working papers 5, 13, 25, 38
Workshop proceedings 38
Worlds AIDS Day 13

Working Papers of the BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab

- 1 The impact of social and economic development programme on health and well-being: a BRAC-ICDDR,B collaborative project in Matlab - *Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury, 1995*
- 2 Assessing change in women's lives: a conceptual framework - *Marty Chen and Simeen Mahmud, 1995*
- 3 Unpacking the black box: studying the relationship between socioeconomic development and health - *Ian Scott, Tim Evans and Richard Cash, 1995*
- 4 Formation of village organizations: the first three months - *Manzurul Mannan, Mushtaque Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya and Masud Rana, 1995*
- 5 Participatory methods to assess change in health and women's lives: an exploratory study - *Alayne Adams, Rita Das Roy and Amina Mahbub, 1995*
- 6 Effects of socioeconomic development on health status and human well-being: determining impact and exploring pathways of change: proposals for phase II of the BRAC-ICDDR,B Matlab joint project 1996-2000 AD - *Mushtaque Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya, Patrick Vaughan, Alayne Adams and Simeen Mahmud, 1995*
- 7 Profitability of BRAC-financed projects: a study of seven microenterprises in Matlab - *Hassan Zaman, Saima Rahman, Shahed Hussain and Masud Rana, 1995*
- 8 An inside look at two BRAC schools in Matlab - *Sabina Rashid, Mushtaque Chowdhury and Abbas Bhuiya, 1995*
- 9 Problems of women-headed households - *Naomi Hossain and Samiha Huda, 1995*
- 10 A qualitative exploration of some socioeconomic issues in south Uddomdi, Matlab - *Amina Mahbub, Maliha Mayeed and Rita Das Roy, 1995*
- 11 Vulnerable of the vulnerables: the situation of divorced, abandoned and widowed women in a rural area of Bangladesh - *Mehnaaz Momen, Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury, 1995*
- 12 Microcredit programmes: who participates and to what extent? - *Hassan Zaman, 1996*
- 13 An assessment of client's knowledge of family planning in Matlab - *Hashima-E-Nasreen, Mushtaque Chowdhury, Abbas Bhuiya, AKM Masud Rana and Indrani Pieris-caldwell, 1996*
- 14 Cultural construction of health and the institutional measures of change in rural Bangladesh: the cases of the BRAC village organization and the ICDDR,B MCH-FP programmes in the selected villages of Matlab - *Monirul Islam Khan, Abbas Bhuiya and Mushtaque Chowdhury, 1996*
- 15 Studies on the inputs of BRAC in Matlab: sanitary latrines, training, monthly meetings, legal awareness and credit - *Sadhana Biswas, Syed Masud Ahmed, Sharmin Mahbub, Manzurul Mannan, Shahriar R Khan, Mahmuda Rahman Khan, Masud Rana, Samiha Huda, Shahed Hussain and Karen Moore, 1996*

75 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka 1212