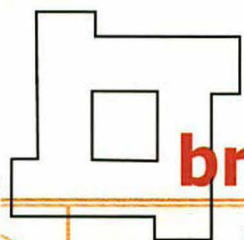


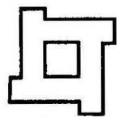
ANNUAL REPORT



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research

2005



BRAC

Research

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May 2006

Publisher:

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Website: www.bracresearch.org

Cover design & layout:

Md. Abdur Razzaque

Photo credits:

BRAC p x, 4, 11, 12, 27, 32, 33

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BRAC/RED publishes research reports, scientific papers, monographs, working papers, research compendium in Bangla (Nirjash), proceedings, manuals, and other publications on subjects relating to poverty, social development, health, nutrition, education, gender, and environment.

Printed by BRAC Printers at Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh

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Director's Note

RED has opened itself up to the world in 2005 through the launching of its website www.bracresearch.org. Now, the world will be able to have access to our research work. We will also be able to engage better with the global development community which will strengthen exchange of ideas and foster stronger knowledge partnerships. This will be enriching and exciting.

BRAC's specialized programme for the poorest, CFPR/TUP which was initiated in 2002 has provided RED researchers with a fascinating platform to engage in a range of research studies on extreme poverty. The severity of deprivation on so many different fronts faced by the poorest along with the possibilities of unknitting these constraints through innovative programme process, design and delivery has been immensely interesting for RED researchers to conceptualize, explore, document, assess and evaluate. In 2005, the main focus for CFPR/TUP research was designing and conducting the repeat survey on the 2002 baseline sample of 5,626 ultra poor households from the first three districts that the programme covered in 2002. The repeat survey will allow panel data analysis to assess programme impact across a rich range of dimensions.

Just like the ultra poor, there are other groups in the population and society on whom the focus of development programmes and knowledge has been relatively limited. The aged and the adolescents are two age groups that exemplify this gap in development policy, thinking and action. The various small ethnic groups in Bangladesh that make up the rich mosaic of diversity that is Bangladesh, is yet another example. RED in 2005 has focussed on research to address some of these knowledge gaps which we hope will help in galvanizing policy and action.

As the concluding event of a 3 year long action research programme called Primary Health Care In Later Life (PHILL) funded by EC, the PHILL group consisting of BRAC-RED, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, University of East Anglia, UK, and Health Strategy and Policy Institute, Vietnam, organized a three day international conference with the objective of mainstreaming ageing in health systems and rural development.

RED in association with Population Council, USA carried out a comprehensive national adolescent survey representative at the divisional level in 2005 covering a wide range of issues facing the adolescents. The findings from this survey will be of immense value to BRAC and other development actors interested in developing programmes and strategies to improve the lives of the adolescents.

In order to create the basis for further research, informed dialogue and programme development for the various small ethnic groups in the country, RED carried out a census of all small ethnic groups in Bangladesh. This database and the maps developed out of it is a national resource that will be of importance and interest to a wide range of development audience and actors.

RED has been active as a member of the Education Watch working group convened by CAMPE since its inception. This involvement continued for the 2005 Education Watch Report which focuses on secondary education. In order to draw attention to the out of school children, RED carried out a commissioned research funded by CAMPE focussing on two vulnerable groups - children of tea garden workers and selected small ethnic

groups. Another important education research by RED in 2005 was an ethnographic study on primary school culture in partnership with Plan Bangladesh and Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Iron deficiency anaemia, especially for under-two children is a big waster of human capacities in Bangladesh. RED in collaboration with Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), University of Toronto, Canada carried out a number of studies in 2005 to test the efficacy, dose effectiveness and develop a social marketing strategy for distribution of 'sprinkles'-a specialized product developed by HSC targeted at the under two children. The results and insights from these studies will be used to develop a programme by BRAC to distribute this product to millions of children to overcome IDA, the silent resource drainer.

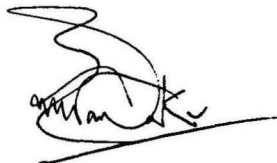
The need for appropriate alternative energy for rural electrification is a crying need of the country, the impacts of which will go a long way. RED and Emergence Energy, Inc, USA partnered up in 2005 to conduct a pilot to test the effectiveness and community acceptability of a specially developed generator by Emergence Energy, Inc, USA which can use a range of fuels to generate electricity in an environmentally sustainable manner. The next step would be to develop a business model through which private entrepreneurs could take this up as an enterprise.

Medical waste if not managed well can be life threatening. Yet, simple measures and basic support from hospital and municipality authorities can ensure good medical waste management. RED in partnership with Institute of Policy Support Unit (IPSU), Ministry of Environment and Forest of the Government of Bangladesh carried out an action research pilot on this issue. We hope to continue in this public-private partnership to scale this up throughout the country.

RED in 2005 has also begun its journey of expanding beyond Bangladesh. BRAC is already active with its development programmes in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka and starting out in Tanzania and Uganda. Evidence and knowledge based programming is the hallmark of BRAC. RED in 2005 began the process of setting up a research and evaluation unit to support BRAC-Afghanistan.

Yet another important journey for RED in recent times has been deeper engagements with BRAC University which has grown in 2005 and will grow further in the future. RED since its inception in 1975 has been working on the interstices between action and reflection within the domain of development practice.

The next leap will be to play our part in interconnecting the spaces of practice and academia. Creating this ever cumulative synergy is a critical need to build the vision, leadership and competencies to tackle the second generation development challenges that Bangladesh faces today.



Imran Matin
Director
Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC

Preface

'BRAC Research 2005' is the nineteenth annual report of the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC. The salient features of BRAC research conducted in 2005 and the major activities of RED are documented in this report. Established in 1975, as an independent multi-disciplinary research and evaluation unit, RED works within the framework of BRAC.

Abstracts of completed studies and published papers are included in this report. A list of more formal internal and external publications is also included. Copies of these reports and publications are available in the Ayesha Abed Library, BRAC University, 65 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka 1212. A list of acronyms and abbreviations used in this report appears at the end of this report. Readers wishing to make any comments on this report or would like to have copies of this report or more information on RED activities may please contact Director Research, BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh (email: research@brac.net). This report is also available on the website of BRAC RED (www.bracresearch.org).

Acknowledgements

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) is supported by BRAC's core funds and funds from donor agencies, organizations and governments worldwide. Current major donors of BRAC and RED include Aga Khan Foundation Canada, AusAID, Campaign for Popular Education, Canadian International Development Agency, Columbia University (USA), Danish International Development Agency, Department for International Development (DFID) of UK, European Union, the Global Fund, Government of Bangladesh, Hospital for Sick Children (Canada), ICDDR,B: Centre for Health and Population Research, NORAD, NOVIB, OXFAM America, Plan International, Rockefeller Foundation, Rotary International, Royal Netherlands Government, Save the Children (USA), SIDA, UNDP, UNICEF, World Fish Centre, and the World Food Programme.

RED received wide support and cooperation from all divisions of BRAC, particularly from the field staff and the people of Bangladesh without whose sincere support and patronage no field research could be conducted smoothly. RED also received useful comments, suggestions, and guidance from researchers, reviewers, and editors from within and outside the country, which helped improve the quality of research and research outputs. RED is indebted to BRAC management for its continued support.



The members of BRAC village organizations (VO) recite 18 promises at the beginning of every VO meeting,

Introducing BRAC

Introducing BRAC

BRAC vision

A just, enlightened, healthy and democratic Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all forms of exploitation based on age, sex, religion, and ethnicity.

BRAC was established just after the liberation of Bangladesh in February 1972 as a relief organization to help rehabilitate the war-affected people of Bangladesh. BRAC works with people whose lives are dominated by extreme poverty, illiteracy, disease, and other handicaps. With multifaceted development interventions, BRAC strives to bring about positive change in the quality of life of the poor people of Bangladesh.

BRAC firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity, and gender equity through poor people's socioeconomic, political and human capacity building. BRAC tries to bring about changes at the national and global level policies on poverty reduction and social progress.

From assisting the war-affected poor people in the quest for reconstruction of Afghanistan BRAC has further expanded its development activities in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and plans to expand in East Africa.

BRAC has evolved as one of the largest private development organizations in the world, virtually self-financed and employing 99,898 people. BRAC has its own innovative approach to development, following no rigid model. Its multifaceted development interventions are extended to 4.96 million households in

over 65,000 out of 86,000 villages and 4,357 urban slums in all the 64 districts of Bangladesh.

BRAC Education Programme (BEP) is specially targeted to children of BRAC members who never went to school or dropped out at some point. With special emphasis on girls, BRAC non-formal primary education (NFPE) is for 8-10 years age group and the BEOC (Basic Education for Older Children) model is for 11-14 years age group. The unique feature of the BRAC model is that one teacher teaches in an one-room school the five-year primary education curriculum in four years by reducing the number of holidays and increasing contact hours. Currently BRAC runs 31,877 non-formal schools with nearly one million students (65% girls) enrolled.

The health, nutrition, and population interventions aim to cater for the health needs of the poor people throughout the country through 48,583 community health volunteers known as *Shasthya shebikas*, 37 static health centres called *Shushasthya* (meaning good health), and 11,988 community nutrition workers. During the current year/or the year 2005 pregnant women received more than 1.6 million antenatal care services, 213,132 patients received treatment from BRAC *Shushasthya*, 72,411 patients got TB treatment, and 1,115 patients received services from the BRAC Brace and Limb Centre. The BRAC Health Programme covers 31 million people of the country through its Essential Health Care, 82 million through TB Control Programme, and 13 million under National Nutrition Programme.

BRAC also runs a number of social development and advocacy projects and provides legal aid education and services for the poor people like human rights and legal education, staging popular theatre, forming *Pally Samaj*, and help file cases against rape, acid throwing, women trafficking, etc.

BRAC has developed a number of programme support enterprises to support its pro-poor development interventions. These enterprises include eight centres of Ayesha Abed Foundation (handicraft training and production centers), eight Aarong shops (marketing outlet for rural artisans), a large modern offset printing press, a cold storage, the second largest liquid milk plant in Bangladesh, 28 chilling plants, six poultry farms and hatcheries, three poultry feed mills, two seed processing plants, a tissue culture laboratory, 17 nurseries, an iodized salt factory, 12 fish and prawn hatcheries, and a bull station for artificial insemination. The other support services include research, training, monitoring and internal audit.

BRAC runs its programmes and activities through 37,080 full-time staff and 63,607 part-time school teachers, spending over Tk. 16,846 million (US\$ 259 million) in 2005.

Staff	37,080
School teachers	63,607
VO members	4.84 million
Loan disbursed to the poor (cumulative)	US\$ 3.09 million (Tk.165,794 m)
VO members' savings (cumulative)	US\$ 141 million (Tk. 9,159 million)
Primary schools	31,877
Pre-primary schools	16,025
Students enrolled in BRAC schools	1.42 million
Community nutrition workers	11,988
BRAC Health Centres (<i>Shushasthya</i>)	37
Training Centres	22
Expenditure in 2005	US\$ 259 million (Tk. 16,846 million)
Donor support	24%

BRAC at a glance as on
31 December 2005

[Source: BRAC at a glance, Dec 2005]



The enumerators of CFPR/TUP 2005 survey are seen in a training session at Rangpur TARC in August 2005.



The ultra poor members of BRAC are inching their way out of extreme poverty by being involved in non-farm activities like, producing baskets and Kula (*Sieve*) using bamboo and cane.

Research and Evaluation Division: An Introduction

Research and Evaluation Division: An Introduction

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) was established in 1975 as an independent unit within the framework of BRAC to provide necessary research support to BRAC programmes.

Programmatic research

RED's primary mandate is to conduct research on BRAC programmes. RED usually undertakes short-term evaluation studies, longitudinal and impact studies, baseline surveys, and action research. The findings of BRAC research help achieve programme objectives through modifying and/or improving the programme strategies and identifying new programmatic issues. Others also find BRAC research useful for policy and academic purposes. Major studies done in 2005 are highlighted in the following chapter (p11).

Collaborative and commissioned research

RED also undertakes research in collaboration with different research institutions/universities around the globe. Most of the collaborative studies are on important development issues with particular focus on developing countries. Some multicountry studies are also underway. In addition, RED also undertakes commissioned research. RED initiated/conducted 11 collaborative and six commissioned researches in 2005. Of these, seven were completed and the rest are ongoing. A list of the collaborative institutions with the respective study/project titles is given below in alphabetical order:

Aga Khan Foundation Canada

BRAC-AKFC learning partnership project

Since CFPR is an innovative programme designed to address multiple constraints that trap the poorest into intergenerational extreme poverty, there is a wide interest in the lessons and models emerging from CFPR. The BRAC-AKFC Learning Partnership Project is intended to support and leverage the learning mechanisms within CFPR by connecting it to an external network of organizations and interventions working in similar fields, and a growing body of knowledge in developing workable models to overcome extreme poverty. The Learning Partnership is funded by CIDA. - Imran Matin

Campaign for Popular Education, Dhaka

It is a commissioned research from CAMPE. The theme of this year's Education Watch is secondary education. The preliminary results show that 71.7% of the

secondary school-aged children were currently enrolled in schools - a third of which were in primary classes. - Samir R Nath, et al.

Research on out of school children

The final report on the study on out of school children in tea gardens and the ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh was released in November 2005.
- Samir R Nath

Columbia University, USA

Targeting low arsenic aquifers for community and private wells in Bangladesh. The project would cover total households of the Araihasar *upazila* with arsenic free safe water. - M Jakariya, et al.

Emergence Energy Inc., USA

Project Emergence

The project is a micro-enterprise effort involving five components and plans to establish mini power plants (MPP) in rural Bangladesh, each of which will be owned and operated by two borrowers in a micro-credit programme.
- Nasima Akter

European Commission

Primary healthcare in later life (PHILL)

Data analysis from the first phase as well as new data collection for secondary analysis would be continued in year 2006. - Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

Hospital for Sick Children, Canada

The development of an effective sprinkles social marketing strategy and effective distribution model for controlling iron deficiency anaemia among infants and young children in Bangladesh.

Sprinkles, containing micro-encapsulated iron and other essential micro-nutrients have been proven to be effective and cheap supplement toward controlling childhood iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in poor countries.
- Fazlul Karim, et al.

Effectiveness of flexible administration of sprinkles in a mixed population of anaemic and non-anaemic infants and young children in rural Bangladesh

In this commissioned research, both daily and flexible administration of 60 Sprinkles prevalence by 51% exceeding the one-third target. - Farhana Haseen, et al.

Efficacy of daily and weekly home fortification of weaning foods with sprinkles among infants and young children in Bangladesh

Results described in this report were obtained from a small, carefully supervised efficacy trial. Testing for the efficacy in a real life setting in the community would be more informative. - Farhana Haseen, et al.

Efficacy of Sprinkles and IFA tablets during pregnancy

Using a community-based cluster Randomized trial design, the study is addressing if micronutrient Sprinkles, at least as efficacious as IFA tablets in controlling anaemia in pregnant women. - Nuzhat Choudhury and MM Rahman

INDEPTH Network

Non-communicable disease surveillance project

The objectives of this multi-country study were to identify and compare the

NCD risk factors across the participating countries and identify appropriate elements of the risk factor module into regular NCD surveillance.

- Abdullahel Hadi

Population Council, USA

Community-based kangaroo mother care to prevent neonatal and infant mortality

The community based kangaroo mother care (CKMC) method was piloted in rural area of Bangladesh in 2002 to see the adaptability. As a follow-up of that pilot, a randomized control trial was initiated in 2004 in Sylhet and Dhaka divisions, where NMK in the past decade was highest. - Nancy Slaon, et al.

Rockefeller Foundation, USA

Bangladesh health equity watch (BHEW)

Secondary analysis of data from the first phase as well as new data collection will continue as an on-going activity of the project in 2006.

- Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

Save the Children (USA)

BRAC initiative to improve neonatal health in Bangladesh

- Abdullahel Hadi

SIDA

Arsenic in tubewell water and health consequences

The project started in 2001 to provide alternative safe water options for the arsenic exposed communities in Matlab *upazila* of Chandpur. The study would be completed by July 2006. - M Jakariya, et al.

UNICEF/PLAN Bangladesh

Early childhood development (ECD)

The study was conducted to compare and contrast the knowledge and practice of adolescents who were involved in the child-to-child component of the ECD programme with those who were not, and compare these two groups with a non-programme area. Thus, child-to-child approach certainly added on to the regular ECD activities by improving the knowledge and care giving quality of the adolescents. - Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

UNICEF, BBS (GoB)

National survey on low-birth weight in Bangladesh

A national low birth weight (LBW) survey was conducted first time in Bangladesh to assess the scale of the problem and provide baseline data for future evaluation. The prevalence of LBW was found to be higher in rural areas than urban areas. - Farhana Haseen, et al.

Research output

Since inception RED has produced 1,013 research reports and papers until 31 December 2005. Copies of these reports are available in bound volumes in the Ayesha Abed Library at BRAC University, 65 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka. In 2005 RED initiated 47 new studies and continued 38 studies carried over from the previous years. Of the total 85 studies conducted in 2005, 39 were completed during the year. The abstracts of the completed studies are available in this report (p45) as well as on the RED website (www.bracre-

8 Deputy Executive Director explores collaborations

search.org). The list of BRAC research reports and papers, some selected publications and this year's annual report are also available in the RED website.

Dr AMR Chowdhury, Deputy Executive Director of BRAC and Dean, BRAC University James P Grant School of Public Health visited USA and Switzerland during 10-21 September 2005. He attended the launch of the Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health at the UNICEF Head Quarter, visited universities, donor institutions, and the World Bank, and met senior officials there. He discussed bilateral matters to explore possible collaboration in BRAC programmes and research, and with the BRAC University School of Public Health.

Director Research assigned enhanced role

Dr Imran Matin, Director, Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC has been appointed as the Head of the Master of Development Studies Programme at BRAC University since 08 September 2005. This position is a complement to his present position.

Dissemination

RED disseminates its research findings among its various stakeholders at different levels. The findings of BRAC research are published in prestigious journals worldwide. Twelve original research papers were published in national and international journals in 2005. Some of the journals that published the findings of BRAC research during the year are (in alphabetical order):

Bangladesh Education Journal
Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Death Studies
Journal of Aging Studies
Journal of Family Violence
Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition
Lancet
Public Health
Public Health Nutrition
Small Enterprise Development

BRAC researchers contributed to three books and seven book chapters during the year. Popular version of some research results were also published in newsletters and newspapers. A list of publications appears on page 41.

Sixteen research papers were presented in various conferences, seminars, and workshops (p39). Summaries of major findings and important activities were also posted on display boards at 19 residential training venues of BRAC all over the country. In 2005, RED arranged 26 in-house seminars to review study proposals and share preliminary findings (p35).

Research compendium

Nirjash - a research compendium in Bangla - is published in lucid language primarily for the field implementers of BRAC programmes at grassroots level. One issue of Nirjash was published in 2005. Nirjash is also distributed to other

NGOs in Bangladesh, concerned government departments, libraries, and media for wider dissemination to share the findings of BRAC research.

Working papers

One working paper on health and health-seeking behaviour of the ultra poor and the other on the status of health equity in Bangladesh were published in 2005 for wider dissemination.

Newsletter

RED publishes a quarterly newsletter - RED Update to keep people updated about its ongoing activities and significant achievements. Four issues were published in 2005. These newsletters are also posted on RED's website.

Billboard

RED maintains billboards at all the residential training venues of BRAC scattered all over the country. The billboards are updated frequently with the recent key research findings, publications, and other activities of RED.

Abstracts accepted for presentation at CAPGAN

Six abstracts on nutrition-related research of RED have been accepted for oral presentation at the '8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition' to be held on 6-8 February 2006 at ICDDR,B, Dhaka. The theme of the congress is 'Combating malnutrition and intestinal diseases in children: are we doing enough?'

Workshop on programmes for the excluded held

A workshop and consultation was held on 'Programmes for the Excluded: Conceptualization and Mapping' on 03 December 2005 in Dhaka. This was part of the joint work done by the Economic Research Group (ERG) and RED. A conceptual paper on the attributes leading to exclusion in different space was presented. A detailed map of NGO activities addressing different forms of exclusion was showcased. This map can be accessed at www.ergonline.org which contains information at *upazila* level. A proposal on comparative study of different approaches was also presented.

Management and finance

The research and dissemination activities at RED are decentralized. Under the overall supervision of the Director discipline-wise research units conduct research under the leadership of Unit Coordinators. Several research units are overseen by the Research Coordinators. Currently there are 10 Research Units at RED, such as extreme poverty, micro-enterprise, social development, health, health and human well-being, gender and reproductive health, nutrition, education, environment, and population and development. As of 31 December 2005, RED has 53 researchers, 30 support staff, and 41 project staff, 47% being female. Besides, 7 researchers were on study and long leave.

In 2005, RED spent US\$ 0.679 million (Tk. 43.391 million), 62% of which came from BRAC's core funds and the remaining raised from external collaborative research, consultancy, and commissioned research projects.

Research Highlights

Poverty Alleviation, Empowerment and Human Well-being

CFPR/TUP repeat survey 2005

RED conducted a baseline survey in 2002 of 5,626 households in the three districts where the CFPR/TUP programme was initiated. This sample included selected ultra poor, non-selected ultra poor and others from the remaining wealth ranks. To evaluate the impact of the programme in these communities, a repeat survey on the same households was conducted in late 2005 and early 2006.

Is targeting effectiveness in CFPR/TUP scalable?

The CFPR/TUP programme is rapidly scaling up, with the number of targeted ultra poor in a year increasing from 5,000 in 2002 to 25,000 in 2005. To ensure sustainability of the programme and planning future scale up, it is important to examine if the targeting process is replicable for the programme as it grows. Earlier studies show that the targeting of CFPR/TUP participants had been effective at the beginning of the programme in 2002. This study, based on a 2005 survey, investigates whether the effectiveness of targeting in the scaled up setting of the programme has been sustained.



Cow rearing is one of the successful income earning activities in the CFPR-TUP programme.

The study used relative poverty scores to find that about three-quarters of the SUP households belonged to the bottom 25% group in terms of poverty scores. This suggests that the programme has been extremely successful in targeting the poorest. A comparison of basic profiles of the ultra poor selected in 2002 and 2005 confirm this finding. Despite scaling-up, the programme has been able to maintain its focus on targeting the poorest. The study also

explores the issue of poverty dynamics by asking whether chronic or transient poverty play a role in the selection process, and finds that poverty dynamics do not influence selection.

Study on comparative analysis of approaches

A study has been initiated to analyze the approaches and process of different programmes for the hardcore poor. This study would consider the programmes targeting hardcore poor at two *upazilas* in Bangladesh. This study is being conducted in partnership with Economics Research Group.

| Health and Nutrition

Research on BRAC's new MNCH (Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health) programme launched

Despite remarkable improvements in maternal mortality in Bangladesh over time (from 30 per 1000 live births in 1972-73 to around 3 per 1000 live births in 2004-05), it continues to be unacceptably high compared to many other low-income countries, with persisting socioeconomic differentials. In the backdrop of achieving MDGs in maternal and child health, the issue of safe motherhood has gained increasing importance in Bangladesh. In this context, BRAC has launched a new 10 year programme (in July 2005) on MNCH based on action learning approach to develop a sustainable model that works. The programme is now in its inception phase and RED is being involved to provide research support. Besides teambuilding, the initial research activities consist of a process documentation of the initial programme activities, a comprehensive baseline survey in the programme area (Nilphamari district), and some small-scale studies. As a prelude to this, a baseline survey is underway in Narsingdi district where BRAC will be implementing similar MNCH programme in collaboration with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh this year. Knowledge and experiences gained from this will be used in the Nilphamari baseline survey.

PHILL project ends with hosting of an international conference on ageing

BRAC (Bangladesh), University of East Anglia (UK), Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI) (Vietnam), and Karolinska Institute (Sweden) have recently completed a European Commission-funded project called PHILL (Primary Healthcare In Later Life: Improving Services in Bangladesh and Vietnam). The study aimed to test the effectiveness of low-cost, preventive and health promotion interventions to improve primary healthcare (PHC) for older persons in rural communities. Active participation of family and the community and using existing PHC facilities are two main features of this operation research implemented during October 2002 to September 2005 by BRAC/RED



Mr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, GoB addressed the conference as chief guest.

in Bangladesh and by HSPI of Vietnam. Findings from the PHILL research show that elderly health issues can be addressed through existing PHC infrastructure, by appropriately sensitizing the family and the community, and giving training to healthcare providers and the caregivers on common elderly health, nutritional and emotional problems. The self-help groups of the elderly show another innovative approach to organize the elderly in taking care of themselves and their peers, besides providing a forum for recreation and leisure time. This and other issues related to ageing in low-income countries were discussed in an 'International Conference on Mainstreaming Ageing in Health Systems and Rural Development' held on 28-30 November in Dhaka. The conference deliberated on how the elderly issues can be integrated in the mainstream health and development agenda and came up with guidelines and policy recommendations.

The effect of an inclusive development intervention on the self-reported health status of ultra poor women in a rural area of Bangladesh

The CFPR/TUP programme is an integrated development intervention of BRAC that comprises of health and social components along with economic support. This study looked at the impact of health component of the programme by analyzing the changes in self-perceptions of health of women, using the TUP baseline survey 2002 and a follow-up survey of 2004. The study shows that the TUP programme strongly increases the probability of a better health outcome for the participants. Those in poor health in 2002 showed almost double those gains, with TUP membership increasing the probability of a good health score in 2004 by nearly 16%. These results hold consistently, controlling for marital status, literacy, age, previous health, disability, occupation, sanitary practices, knowledge of sanitation, whether the household had loans and location. The CFPR/TUP programme has a significant effect on women's self-perception of health, highlighting the importance of targeted development programmes with a holistic focus.

Food supplementation process of BRAC NNP

RED initiated a new research project entitled 'Exploration of food supplementation process in BRAC NNP' in October 2005. This study aims to explore the process of management of food supplementation procedure of NNP in BRAC-operated *upazilas*. It will assess the selection procedure, quality and quantity of food packets, preparation and storage procedure, distribution system and evaluate the acceptability of supplementation to target group. Data collection is going on in 20 Community Nutrition Centres of Monohordi and Laxmipur *sadar upazilas*. The study is expected to be completed in April 2006.

Study on micronutrient Sprinkles among pregnant women initiated

RED, in collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Canada, initiated a study to see if the micronutrient Sprinkles are at least as efficacious as the iron folic acid (IFA) tablets in maintaining haemoglobin concentrations among pregnant women. The study is being conducted at 42 community-based Antenatal Care Centers in Gazipur district. Nearly 500 pregnant women are given either Sprinkles or IFA tablets. The study is in progress.

Studies on micronutrient Sprinkles completed

Two studies on micronutrient Sprinkles were completed in 2005. One looked at its effectiveness on children and the other attempted to explore the social

marketing strategies. Sprinkles are a complementary food supplement (CFS) containing micro-nutrients (iron, zinc, vitamins A, C, and folic acid) in powder form which are easily sprinkled onto any semi-solid food prepared in the household at any mealtime during the day. It was designed to improve adherence, acceptability and ease of use over conventional iron supplements such as iron drops and syrup. In the study on children, Sprinkles were found to be highly acceptable, anaemia prevalence reduced from 77% to 38% with mean compliance to the intervention over 88%. Currently, another study on Sprinkles is looking at its effectiveness on pregnant mothers. This is expected to be completed by 2006.



Taslima, a pregnant woman in Kaliganj study area, is seen mixing Sprinkles onto her food.

The social marketing study found acceptance of sprinkles high among the mothers as well as children. Most of the mothers preferred to buy Sprinkles from retail outlets including drug stores. The study also dealt with issues related to pricing, manufacturing and distribution, brand name, logo, etc. Finally, the whole purpose of distributing Sprinkles in Bangladesh is to be guided by social commitment towards poor children.

| Education

BRAC school students sat in competency test

Randomly chosen 6,000 students completing full course of primary education from 300 BRAC non-formal schools sat in a competency test in December 2005. The test was administered by RED as part of continuous assessment of the achievement of competencies by the BRAC school graduates. Special emphasis of this year's study is to explore the factors affecting school-to-school variation in learning achievement. More data for this study will be collected in January 2006 and the draft report is expected in mid-2006.

Education Watch

The preliminary findings of *Education Watch* 2005, a commissioned research from CAMPE, were presented in a seminar in mid December 2005. The theme of this year's *Education Watch* is secondary education. The preliminary results show that 71.7% of the secondary school-aged children (11-15 years) were currently enrolled in schools - a third of which were in primary classes. The net and gross enrolment ratios were 64.5% and 45.1% respectively. The girls were ahead of boys in school enrolment. The gross enrolment ratio was highest in the municipal areas and lowest in rural Sylhet division. At the aggregate level, three quarters of the secondary school students enrolled in non-government schools, 14.2% in madrasas, 6% in government schools, and others in various types of other schools. Of the students enrolled in class VI, only a fifth could pass the school final examinations (26.4% boys and 15.5% girls). Participation in secondary education increased over time. The government schools were more efficient than other types of schools. The report is in progress.

Study on out of school children: final report released

The final report on the study on out of school children in tea gardens and the ethnic minority communities in Bangladesh was released in November 2005. This study covered 6,006 households from 136 village/para/tea gardens. The study was commissioned by CAMPE. The findings show that 20.2% of the ethnic minority and 40% of the tea garden children aged 6-15 years were out of school. Gender difference existed among the secondary school-aged children. Strong relationship between school enrolment and socioeconomic status was observed. The non-formal and Christian missionary schools played a significant role in enhancing the school enrolment in the study communities. Children's participation in work (home and outside) was very common. Overall literacy rate of the study population was little lower than the national average, however the females of the study households had much lower literacy rate than their male counterparts. Only 19% of the adult females in the tea gardens were literate. The report is being formally published.

Study on supplementary private tutoring initiated

A study exploring the prevalence, spread, and consequences of supplementary private tutoring among the school children in four villages in Khansama and Fulbari has been initiated recently. This study would help understand the situation of supplementary tutoring in the context of quality of education for all. Over 900 students of primary and secondary schools were brought under the study. The field work was done in December 2005. The report is expected in April 2006.

Ethnographic study on primary school culture initiated

School culture is a strong determinant of quality of education. Plan Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and BRAC/RED jointly initiated an ethnographic study on primary school culture in Bangladesh. This study would explore the changes taking place in the government primary schools due to intervention of the above NGOs. Six field researchers have already been stationed in six study schools located in three areas viz., Khanshama in Dinajpur, Keshabpur in Jessore, and Fulbari in Kurigram. The researchers will stay there for eight months. It would take about a year to complete the study.

| Environmental Studies

Pilot research on rural electrification through alternative energy initiated

BRAC and Emergence Energy, Inc. of the USA recently signed an agreement to conduct a pilot research on energy and environment called 'Project Emergence.' This project is a micro-enterprise effort involving five components: a) local production of environmentally sound energy; b) local consumption of electricity and other energy production by-products; c) empowerment of the poor, particularly women; d) creation of sustainable jobs; and e) community development. The project plans to establish mini power plants (MPP) in rural Bangladesh, each of which will be owned and operated by two borrowers in a micro-credit programme. Using cow dung and Stirling engine the MPP will produce electricity, fertilizer, and heat for drying. In addition to using biogas, the Stirling engine may also use alternative fuels even kerosene.

BRAC environmental research enters the climate change arena

RED and KATALYST - Bangladesh (on behalf of Swisscontact) agreed to conduct a study on 'Global climate change and its impacts on business sector in Bangladesh.' The study aims to: analyze Bangladesh policy and direction in relation to climate change and the global context; estimate the contribution of selected business sectors on climate change; and assess impact of global climate change on selected business sector. The first of a kind of study to examine the interrelation of climate change and the business sectors, the study primarily focused on the small and medium enterprises (SME) in Bangladesh. The transport and agriculture sectors were chosen as specific foci, to enable a way forward on further studies in this area of focus.

Medical waste management as public-private partnership

'Partnership and cooperation agreement' has been signed between BRAC RED and Institute of Policy Support Unit (IPSU), Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh on 20 June 2005. This agreement was signed to pilot an action research on 'Medical waste management at Rajshahi City Corporation: GO-NGO/public-private partnership development - a collaborative effort on medical waste management in Bangladesh.' The main focus of this pilot is to conduct feasibility study during 2005 to establish the viability of medical waste management rules implementation. This pilot research aims to: introduce an appropriate waste management system in hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers at Rajshahi City Corporation using a standard manual; to identify the appropriate technology and management model for the above purpose; and develop a core trainer group at BRAC along with other partners on medical waste management.

Environment guideline for BRAC programmes

RED has initiated a study on 'Environmental assessment of BRAC development programme' to develop environmental guideline for BRAC programmes. The study is conducting programme revisit to assess how environmental component is incorporated and implemented to ensure environmental sustainability of BRAC programmes. At the end of this study an environmental audit mechanism/tool and checklist for BRAC will be developed. This will be incorporated in programme specific training manual. Researchers of environmental evaluation as well as audit and monitoring department will use this guideline.

Role of local elites in providing village level sanitation

RED has been conducting a study on local elite's involvement in providing public health provision like water and sanitation. The study also aims to explore the underlying causes behind the support in providing water and sanitation facility to the villagers specially the poor people of the community. To look at those issues, elite perception of disease and disease transmission, their understanding about the relationship between health and poverty and what they thought about the role of local institutions will also be covered.

Environmental assessment of BRAC Bank SMEs for environment-friendly enterprise development

Environmental research unit is undertaking an environmental assessment of BRAC Bank SMEs with a view to know the status of environmental concerns of some specific small and medium enterprises of BRAC Bank. Several methods,

such as observation, interview, and group discussion will be followed for data collection. Based on the findings, a set of guidelines will be prepared for BRAC Bank to develop environment- friendly small and medium enterprises. This guideline will be utilized for future loan disbursement to any SMEs at BRAC Bank.

Other Studies

Bangladesh adolescents survey 2005

BRAC Research and Evaluation Division, in association with Population Council of USA, has launched a nationally representative survey on adolescents aged 10-24 years in six administrative divisions of Bangladesh. The survey aims to collect information on school attendance and dropout, entry into work, time use, marriage, dowry, reproductive health, adolescents' social life and risk behaviour, etc. The survey is expected to suggest the strategies for better targeted programmes for adolescents operated by BEP. Data were collected during April-August 2005. A total of 14,942 adolescents and young people in 21,656 sample households were interviewed and the response rate was 97.2%. The data are being analyzed focusing on gender contrasts, regional variations, and poverty level of the households.

Research activities for BRAC Afghanistan

A Research Unit has been formed at BRAC Afghanistan in October 2005 to carry out several tasks such as conducting research and evaluation, designing new programmes for BRAC and capacity development in research in Afghanistan. The unit has already completed two studies - a) investment opportunities in Samangan province: a feasibility study, and b) assessing teachers training programme of SAB in Afghanistan. Two studies are currently underway - assessment of the basic package of health services in Badghis province, and evaluation of health programme of REACH in Paghman district.



Portrait of an elderly lady in rural Bangladesh. RED has recently completed the Bangladesh part of a multi-country study to test the effectiveness of low-cost, preventive and health promotion interventions to improve primary healthcare for older persons in rural communities (p12).

Ongoing Studies

| Education Studies

Factors affecting inter school variation in pupils' competency achievement: a study on BRAC primary schools

Samir R Nath, Goutam Roy and Anwar Hossain

This study aims to explore the school, programme and household level factors regarding inter school variation in competency achievement of the pupils of BRAC primary schools. A total of 300 schools covering all the regions were brought under study. Competency test of the pupils has been completed. More information will be collected soon.

An ethnographic study on primary school culture in Bangladesh

Samir R Nath and Amina Mahbub

This study aims to conduct a eight-month long ethnographic investigation of four government primary schools to explore their culture. It also aims to see the effect of NGO intervention in these schools. Schools are located in two rural areas. The fieldwork is in progress.

Out of school education of the students

Samir R Nath and Anwar Hossain

This study aims to explore how much time the students of primary and secondary schools spent for education after their school hour, who helps them with their studies and how much they have to pay for such extra tutoring. Fieldwork has been completed.

Education Watch 2005: state of secondary education in Bangladesh

Manzoor Ahmed and Samir R Nath

This is a nationally representative study under the Education Watch to explore the state of secondary education in the country. A total of 24,000 households and 600 secondary level educational institutions were surveyed under this study. First draft of the report is under review.

| Environmental Studies

Medical waste management at Rajshahi City Corporation: a collaborative effort on medical waste management in Bangladesh: GO-NGO/public-private partnership development

Nasima Akter, et al.

A feasibility study was done to see the viability of implementation of medical waste management (MWM) rules, identify appropriate technology and management model, and to establish a coordination and partnership model in MWM in Bangladesh. The study was designed to introduce an appropriate waste management system in hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers within Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area.

Rural electricity generation from renewable sources: feasibility study

Nasima Akter, et al.

This project involved five components: i) local production of environmentally sound energy; ii) local consumption of electricity and other energy production by-products; iii) empowerment of the poor, particularly women; iv) creation of sustainable jobs; and v) community development. The project plans to establish mini power plants (MPP) in rural Bangladesh, each of which will be owned and operated by two borrowers in a microcredit programme. Using cow dung and Stirling engine the MPP will produce electricity, fertilizer, and heat for drying. First phase of the pilot was to test the technical feasibility of different components of the project. A draft report is being prepared.

Rural electricity generation from renewable sources: second phase

Nasima Akter, et al.

After completion of the feasibility study of technical phase of the pilot project mentioned above, business model and entrepreneurship development phase are going on. In this phase local entrepreneurs will be identified and selected for generator operation, biogas plant construction, gas supply, cow dung collection and electricity distribution. This phase will also evaluate the economic viability and community acceptance of electricity generation through alternative energy sources.

Revisit BRAC's programme and environmental assessment to develop an environment guidelines

Nasima Akter and MM Rahman

This study aimed to develop environmental guidelines for BRAC development programmes to minimize the negative environmental impacts and ensure environmental sustainability. The study will select few monitoring criteria for environmental auditing and monitoring of those programmes. Field visit and data collection have been completed and the report is being finalized.

Management of small and medium enterprise of BRAC Bank towards environment friendly enterprise development in Bangladesh

Md. Quaiyum Sarker and N Akter

This study is designed to assess the environmental compliances of small and medium enterprises (SME) who got loans from BRAC Bank. It is also expected to help formulate specific environmental guidelines for BRAC Bank to deal

with their SMEs. Data collection and field observation have been completed. Data analysis and report writing are under way.

Arsenic mitigation: an epidemiological study at Matlab

Md Jakariya, et al.

This action research project started in 2001 with the aim of providing alternative safe water options for the arsenic exposed communities in Matlab upazila of Chandpur district. The study is funded by the SIDA and is jointly implemented with ICDDR,B. The study is expected to be completed by July 2006.

The causes and consequences of indoor air pollution: an experimental investigation in Bangladesh

Nasima Akter, et al.

A series of randomized interventions will be carried out in rural Bangladesh to understand a) the constraints that force rural households to rely on potentially harmful solid fuels for cooking, and b) the health and socioeconomic consequences of those decisions.

| Health, Population and Nutrition Studies

Analysis of mid-term survey 2004 health data on chronic morbidity

Syed Masud Ahmed and AKMM Rana

This report analyses data from the follow-up survey of the CFPR/TUP programme in 2005 on management of chronic illness (requiring hospitalization) by the TUP households, following the end of the first cycle of intervention (Jul 2002-Dec 2003). The report is being written and will come out as a working paper.

The baseline survey on maternal, neonatal and child health project in Nilphamari district

Hashima-E-Nasreen, SM Ahmed and F Haseen

A baseline survey is proposed to record benchmark information on different aspects of safe motherhood, neonatal and child health situation in MNCH area. These will help programme develop informed intervention components, approaches and strategies for maternal, neonatal and child health initiatives, and provide necessary data for future evaluation of the project. The primary target population includes 2050 pregnant women and mothers of under-5 children from both intervention (Nilphamari district) and control area (Dinajpur district). The secondary target population comprises health providers in connection with local level management. Qualitative information is being collected and the quantitative part will start in April 2006.

The baseline survey for the safe motherhood promotion in Narsingdi district

Hashima-E-Nasreen, SM Ahmed, N Imam, M Akter and R Akter

A baseline survey, in collaboration with JICA will be done to record benchmark information on different aspects of safe motherhood situation before initiating a 4-year safe motherhood promotion project from June 2006 in Narsingdi dis-

strict. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods will be used. The primary target population includes 1,440 pregnant women and mothers of under-1 children from both intervention and control areas. The secondary target population includes MCH health providers from the government and private sectors. This will help programme planners develop informed intervention components, approach and strategies for safe motherhood initiatives and provide necessary data for future evaluation of the project.

BHEW 2nd phase

Syed Masud Ahmed and AKMM Rana

Secondary analysis of data from the first phase as well as new data collection will continue as an on-going activity of the project in 2006.

Capacity development of unqualified/semi-qualified healthcare providers in CFPR/TUP areas

Syed Masud Ahmed, A Hossain and AKMM Rana

This pilot operation research project is designed to improve the quality of care provided to the ultra poor people by the health-care providers. A baseline survey in two phases was done during June-December 2005 to record benchmark information on KAP of these providers and need assessment for capacity development training. Modules on health education based on need assessment are being developed. The intervention is expected to start in June 2006.

Community-based kangaroo mother care

Nancy Slaon, AMR Chowdhury and N Choudhury

The community-based kangaroo mother care (CKMC) method, whereby *hospitalborn stabilized* low birth weight newborns are placed upright in constant skin-to-skin contact on the mother's breast has been shown to significantly reduce the incidence of life threatening morbidity. CKMC method was piloted in a rural area of Bangladesh in 2002 to see the adaptability. As a follow-up of that pilot, a randomized control trial was initiated in 2004 in Sylhet and Dhaka divisions, where NMR in the past decade was highest, to see whether CKMC method reduces neonatal mortality and morbidity. This project will test the impact of CKMC on neonatal and infant survival. BRAC trainers trained community-based workers to instruct rural mothers about CKMC method. Around 26,000 households are being surveyed to identify 4,000 deliveries.

Developing methodology to conduct research on emergency contraception in Bangladesh

Hashima-E-Nasreen

Secondary analysis of data from literature review continues as part of a 5-year SRH project aimed to find out issues on and develop methodology to conduct research on emergency contraception in Bangladesh

A study on the impact of 100% sanitation programme in Shibpur upazila

Awlad Hossain, N Choudhury and SM Ahmed

This study aims to understand the knowledge and practice on sanitation, application of latrine rules, means of getting sanitary latrine, preventing and contributing factors of sanitation, and potentials of the 100% sanitation programme. Data were collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data are being analyzed. The draft report is expected in June 2006.

Food supplementation process of NNP in BRAC areas

Marufa Aziz Khan and QS Islam

The study aims to explore the food supplementation process in BRAC administered upazilas. Selection process, status of preparation and storage of supplementation, quality and quantity of the food packets and distribution system were mainly assessed. Monohordi and Laxmipur sadar *upazilas* were selected randomly from 53 BRAC *upazilas*. Ten CNCs were selected from each upazila. The draft report is being prepared.

Morbidity and poverty analysis: measuring economic burden of severe illness

Mahjabeen Rahman and SM Ahmed

This study intends to explore methodology for finding economic costs (or economic burden) associated with severe illness among TUP and non-TUP households in the old CFPR/TUP areas. It considers the economic costs of severe illness incurred during the hospitalization and afterwards. Besides, this study will look at whether the health expenditures undertaken by the ultra poor are catastrophic. The data is currently being analyzed.

Panel doctors of the CFPR/TUP programme: current situation and future direction

Syed Masud Ahmed, M Awlad Hossain

To facilitate the access of the ultra poor households to qualified allopathic care, especially for moderate/severe and chronic morbidities, the CFPR/TUP programme appointed a panel of doctors from among the available MBBS doctors in the areas, one for each area office. The mid-term review in March 2005 concluded that BRAC panel doctor scheme appeared to be falling short of the quality of care and efficiency of service delivery achievable at BRAC *Shushasthyas*. With this background, a comprehensive study is proposed to gain an in-depth understanding of the current status of the panel doctor scheme under CFPR/TUP programme and its problems and prospects. Data collection is expected to begin in May 2006.

Repeat survey on nutritional assessment in CFPR/TUP phase II districts

Farhana Haseen

The study aims to assess the impact of CFPR/TUP programme intervention in improving nutritional status of the ultra poor of four districts in the second phase (Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Madaripur, Gopalganj) at the end of the first cycle of intervention. A total of 978 from four districts were visited in 2003, same households will be visited during this survey. Preparatory works have been started; data collection will start from June 2006.

Reproductive health issues among adolescent and youths in Bangladesh

M Showkat Gani and SM Ahmed

This study aims to provide a national estimate of reproductive health knowledge, awareness and its practice among the adolescents and youths and also examines the variations of some of these estimates considering the socioeconomic and regional factors from actual data from a nationally representative

sample of the 2005 Adolescents Survey in Bangladesh.

Seasonal variation in the occurrence of deaths in rural Bangladeshi people: 1996-2005

M Showkat Gani and AMR Chowdhury

This paper attempts to show the seasonal variation in the occurrence of deaths among men and women in rural areas of Bangladesh during 1996-2005. This study will also examine whether the occurrence of deaths is following any seasonal pattern. Moving average method and vector analysis were mainly applied to measure the pick-tendency of seasonal deaths. Secondary data will be considered for this study.

Sex workers and condom-use - the political economy of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh

Raihana Karim, N Selim and SF Rashid

This study aims to understand condom-use within the social context of sex workers' lives, and evaluate BRAC programme in meeting the women's needs. Data are being collected applying qualitative methods.

Study on micronutrient Sprinkles among pregnant women

Nuzhat Choudhury

This study aims to see if the micronutrient Sprinkles are at least as efficacious as the iron folic acid (IFA) tablets in maintaining haemoglobin concentrations among pregnant women. The study is being conducted at 42 community-based Antenatal Care Centers in Gazipur district. Nearly 500 pregnant women are given either Sprinkles or IFA tablets. The study is in progress.

| Socioeconomic Studies

Alternative approaches for addressing hardcore poverty

Mehnaz Rabbani, BA Mallik and I Huq

Designing programmes for those who are excluded from the microfinance sector in Bangladesh is a new trend in Bangladesh. This study categorizes the different approaches used to address hardcore poverty (namely, asset transfer, credit in kind and cash and employment creation) and compares them qualitatively in terms of targets, delivery and impacts. The field work has been completed.

A baseline survey of road safety awareness programme

Md. Abdul Alim and AT Rashid

This study aims to assess preintervention knowledge and practice of the inhabitants who live on both side of the road from Syedpur crossing to Enayetganj and the drivers who use the road frequently. Data analysis is almost done and the report will be available in May 2006.

BRAC's Legal Aid Programme and the search for justice in rural Bangladesh

Tariq Omar Ali and MA Alim

How does BRAC figure into justice-seeking strategies adopted by rural

Bangladesh and with this understanding in mind, how can we improve our programme in ensuring that poor Bangladeshis, especially women, receive justice are the objectives of this study. The final report is in progress.

Communication process of the message of popular theater of BRAC and concientization of the community

Mohammad Rafi, H Rahman and BA Siddiqi

This study aims to observe the communication processes of the messages received from two popular theaters performed in two villages in Nilphamari and Kishoreganj districts. The study also intends to examine the changes in the level of concientization among the audiences in terms of their socio-economic positions in the society.

Community-based change ranking: how do the TUP households fare?

Munshi Sulaiman, TO Ali and H Rahman

This study intends to explore poverty dynamics through participatory process. The basic two questions addressed are a) how does the community perceive change in household status, and b) what are the drivers of these changes? Data for this study has already been collected.

Effectiveness of community-based targeting to reach the transient poor

Munshi Sulaiman

Using the data collected for evaluating targeting outcome of CFPR/TUP in 2005, this study explores the effectiveness of participatory wealth ranking to reach the transient ultra poor. The report is in the process of completion.

Evaluating the relative poverty status of the BDP ultra poor

Proloy Barua

The objective of this study is to assess the relative poverty status of the BDP ultra poor households. The study is in the planning stage.

Expectations and actions of the *gram daridro bimochon* committee

Nasheeba Selim and M Rabbani

This qualitative study synthesizes all the work done on the Gram *Daridro Bimochon* Committee (GDBC) and the CFPR/TUP data sets to understand the true role of the GDBC in the lives of the ultra poor and for the program. The report is in the initial stages of writing.

Exploring the relationship between social capital and expenditure

Munshi Sulaiman and TO Ali

Using the 2004 Social Capital baseline data, this study investigates the causal relationship between social capital and household expenditure. To better understand the relationship, it also tries to identify the determinants of social capital. The initial data analysis has been completed for this study.

Handouts and disincentives to work: a social experiment

Munshi Sulaiman and M Rashid

This small-scale social experiment investigates whether direct cash transfers have any effect on the work hours of the poor. This project is in the designing stage.

Meso level changes affecting lives of the ultra poor

Munshi Sulaiman and AM Shihab

The objective of this study is to explore the extent and nature of ultra poor households and participation in activities promoted by large-scale investments in the sub districts. Two specific investments - cold storage and chilling plants have been identified. Data collection for this study has been initiated.

Small ethnic groups of Bangladesh: a mapping exercise

Mohammad Rafi

The study aims to: a) find out exact number of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh; b) estimate their size and identify their locations; and c) gather selected information on demo-graphic, educational, and socioeconomic status of these groups. To the best of our knowledge this is the first comprehensive account of small ethnic groups in the region.

A study on job satisfaction and retention of BRAC University faculty members

Ahmed Tareq Rashid and F Jahan

On a request from BRAC University (BU), RED has taken up this study to find out what attracts faculties to join BU, analyze issues related to job satisfaction and reasons why faculties leave BU. Survey and in-depth interviews were conducted on both the current and dropout faculties of the university.

TUP panel data analysis

David Lawson, M Rabbani, M Sulaiman and V Prakash

Panel analysis using the TUP 2002 baseline survey and 2005 Repeat Survey are used to get a complete picture of programme impact. Data entry has just been completed.

Underlying exclusion conditions: what excludes the ultra poor from CFPR/TUP

Vivek Prakash and M Rabbani

The 2002 TUP baseline data is used in this study to identify the underlying features that exclude households from selection into the program. Data analysis has been completed, and the report writing has been initiated.

Understanding exclusion - an analytical framework

Biva Arani Mallik, I Huq, M Salahuddin, SH Siddiqui and M Rabbani

The objective of this study was to develop an analytical framework for understanding exclusion in Bangladesh. The report is completed and is in the process of editing.

| Other Studies

Adolescents survey in Bangladesh 2005

Imran Matin, S Amin, SM Ahmed, SR Nath, A Hadi and MS Gani

This study aims to generate the divisional estimates of adolescents' school attendance and dropout, workload, daily time use, marriage, dowry, reproductive and sexual health, health-seeking behaviour, social life and risk behaviours, etc. Data are being analyzed. A series of papers are expected to be prepared out of this study.

Authorship conflict in selected research institutions in Bangladesh: an exploratory study

Hasan Shareef Ahmed, A Hadi and N Choudhury

This study aimed to explore the causes, types, and consequences of authorship conflicts among the researchers of selected research institutions in Dhaka, Bangladesh; and suggest ways to reduce conflicts. Data are being analyzed. The final report is expected in mid-2006.

Women workers busy in block printing of a Panjabi at a production centre of Ayesha Abed Foundation in the outskirts of Dhaka city.



Capacity Development

| Overseas training

PhD conferred

Syed Masud Ahmed, Research Coordinator obtained PhD in Public Health from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. The title of his thesis is 'Exploring health-seeking behaviour of disadvantaged populations in rural Bangladesh.'

Ahmed Ali, Research Fellow (transferred to BRAC Health Programme) obtained PhD from the Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

Sabina F Rashid, Senior Research Associate (transferred to BRAC University) obtained PhD from the Australian National University, Australia.

Doctoral programme

Md. Jakariya, Senior Research Associate is pursuing doctoral programme at the Royal Technical Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

Chowdhury SB Jalal, Research Associate is pursuing doctoral programme in nutrition at the Cornell University, USA.

Debdulal Mallick, Research Associate is pursuing doctoral programme in economics at the Emory University, USA.

AKM Masud Rana, Staff Researcher is pursuing doctoral programme in geriatric epidemiology, at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Masters programme

Farhana Haseen, Research Associate got Masters of Medical Science in International Health from International Maternal and Child Health, Department of women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, Sweden in 2005. The title of her thesis is 'Malnutrition among Bangladeshi women in ultra poor households: prevalence and determinants.'

Short training

Nasima Akter, Research Fellow attended the 'Asian Region Workshop on Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism' organized by

Asian Institute of Technology on 19-21 October 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Md. Abdul Alim, Staff Researcher attended an 'Alumni Refresher Course' organized by the Netherlands Alumni Association of Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal during 24 September to 07 October 2005.

Md Showkat Gani, Research Associate, participated in a training course on 'Epidemiology and field research methods' organized by Umeå International School of Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden during 8-18 June 2005.

Md. Mizanur Rahman, Field Supervisor got FNP Fellowship and attended the 18th short course on 'Food and nutrition programme planning and management' at the University of Philippines Los Baños, Los Baños, The Philippines from 14 May to 11 August 2005.

AKM Masud Rana and Munshi Sulaiman, Research Associates attended a training course on 'Impact evaluation of development programmes' organized by Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) and led by Poverty Action Lab of MIT and Harvard held in Chennai from 8-12 August 2005.

| In-country training

Raihana Karim, Research Associate, attended a training workshop on 'Migration, globalization, security and development' organized by the South Asia Migration Resource Network held in Rajendrapur, Gazipur during 19-28 November 2005.

Support Extended to Others

Hasan Shareef Ahmed, Chief of Editing and Publication, presented a guest lecture on 'Ethics of publication' at a workshop on medical writing organized by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council in Dhaka on 06 September 2005.

Safeena Alarakhia, an intern at RED, took classes of the MBA programme at the BRAC University.

Farhana Haseen, Research Associate contributed as a teaching assistant in the JPG School of Public Health at the BRAC University.

Mehnaz Rabbani, Senior Research Associate took classes on quantitative methods in the Master of Development Studies course at the BRAC University.

Interns at RED

Fifteen interns, 13 of them from abroad, were placed at RED for internship during 2005. They were attached to different research projects and have gained extensive field level experience. Particulars of the interns are given below:

Name	Institution
Natasha Appenhel	Michigan State University, USA
Alia Chisty	Stony Brook School of Medicine, Health Sciences Center, NY, USA
Fardeen A Chowdhury	Clark University, USA
Nadia Ghani	University of Toronto, Canada
Katie Gordon	On individual capacity
Yasmeen Hossain	On individual capacity
Sarah Huq	North South University, Bangladesh
Yacine El Jamali	Sciences-Po Paris School, France
Wasef Jamil	University of Guelph, Canada
Zain Karim	Washington State University, USA
Peter Kusek	Princeton University, USA
Matheiu Lemaire	University of Toronto, Canada
Eric Lundborg	Kansas State University, USA
Rayana Rahman	Independent University Bangladesh
Sharon Tsui	Yale University, USA



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The Web Card of the BRAC research website.

Dissemination of Research

BRAC Research Launches Its Website

www.bracresearch.org

BRAC research website launched

The website of the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC (www.bracresearch.org) was launched by Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of BRAC on 24 April 2005. It will not only be a wealth of information on BRAC research, but will also act as a user-friendly, rich and diverse resource base for students, academics, development practitioners and anyone looking for practicebased development research resources. It will not only be a source of BRAC-specific information, it will also offer useful links to other development resources and updates in the development world. These global linkages will enrich BRAC's learning process; the process through which we critically reflect on experiences and continually strive to improve and expand them. These linkages will also benefit RED and RED researchers. In his speech Mr. Abed spoke of the vast potential of the ICT (Information communication technology) industry in Bangladesh, particularly in poverty alleviation, emphasizing the need for planning and innovative thinking on ways to empower the poor to make use of ICT to improve their lives.

Dr. Imran Matin, Director of RED presented an overview of RED activities and the highlights of the newly launched RED website.

The website is expected to be a first stop when looking for development information in Bangladesh. It will make it easier and cheaper for the world to learn from our successes and challenges.



Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of BRAC delivered the keynote speech on the launching ceremony.

RED Seminars in 2005

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 30	Crime and poverty: thefts in Domar, Nilphamari	Tariq Omar Ali
Mar 03	BRAC's programme revisit to develop environment guideline (proposal presentation)	Mizanur Rahman Nasima Akter
10	Formative evaluation of the MPH programme of the Grant School of Public Health (proposal presentation)	Peter Cronin College of Education Columbia University
24	An investigation into the pattern of class routine in rural secondary schools	Mariam Begum Associate Professor, IER Dhaka University
30	Exploring vulnerable children's social experiences in urban Bangladesh	Karen Moore Doctoral student IDPM, University of Manchester, UK
Apr 04	Assessing the needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvement in secondary schools	M Mahbubul Kabir Samir R Nath
17	Teaching English as a language to the ethnic children: potential strategy and methods (proposal presentation)	M Fazlur Rahman Associate Professor IER, Dhaka University
20	A comparative study of three health micro insurance schemes in Bangladesh	Nabil Ahmed
Jun 23	Census of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh	Mohammad Rafi

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jun 28	Air pollution	Mohammad Alauddin Fulbright Scholar Department of Chemistry Wagner College & City University of New York, USA
29	Environmental assessment of small and medium enterprises (SME) of BRAC Bank towards environment-friendly enterprise development (proposal presentation)	Md Quaiyum Sarkar Nasima Akter
Jul 14	Sex workers and condom use - the political economy of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh (proposal presentation)	Sabina F Rashid Raihana Karim Nasheeba Selim
19	BRAC's legal aid programme and the search for justice in rural Bangladesh	Tariq Omar Ali Md. Abdul Alim
28	Assessment of the rural piped water system in arsenic-affected rural Bangladesh	Md. Quaiyum Sarkar Md. Jakariya Mizanur Rahman
Aug 01	Needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvement in secondary schools	Md. Mahbubul Kabir Samir R Nath
08	Census of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh	Mohammad Rafi
	The effect of reproductive health education on knowledge and attitudes among unmarried adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh (proposal presentation)	Noriko Yoshimura
09	Integration of 'Sprinkles' nutritional supplements to the programme - Targeting the ultra poor - Significant issues to clarify prior to instituting population-wide coverage (proposal presentation)	Mathieu Lamaire Intern
	Micro health insurance programme of BRAC: how well does it fare?	Imran Matin Nuzhat Imam Syed Masud Ahmed
14	Intra-household resource allocation and bargaining power of women using micro-credit in Bangladesh (proposal presentation)	Shahnaz Tarannum Abdullah

Date	Topic	Speaker
17	An exploratory study concerning the physical and reproductive health of female garments workers in the context of their lives	Alia Chisty Mahmuda Akter
	Barriers to women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh (proposal presentation)	Sumaiya Sajjad, University of Toronto Canada
		Peter Kusek, Princeton University, USA
22	Community-based HIV/AIDS education programme	Hashima-E-Nasreen Farya Karim
Oct 12	Exploration of food supplementation process in BRAC NNP (proposal presentation)	Marufa Aziz Khan
Nov 28	A baseline survey on GQAL programme	Md. Abdul Alim Ahmed Tareq Rashid
	Towards a sustainable artificial insemination programme: exploring farmers' satisfaction (proposal presentation)	Proloy Barua

Presentations in Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

Nasima Akter, Research Fellow presented a paper titled 'Hospital waste management in developed cities and our present situation' in a seminar on hospital waste management in the observance of World Environment Day 2005 (5-7 June 2005) in Dhaka on 06 June 2005.

Syed Masud Ahmed, Research Coordinator presented a paper titled 'Healthcare for the ultra-poor: the case of BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme at a meeting entitled 'Meeting the health-related needs of the extreme poor' in London, UK on 14-15 February 2005.

He also presented a paper titled 'How do you measure the concept of poverty? BRAC experiences' in a workshop on 'TB and poverty: are we doing enough?' held in Bellagio, Italy on 6-8 December 2005.

Nuzhat Choudhury, Research Associate presented a paper titled 'Trials for Improved Practices, A behavior change research methodology' at the Workshop on Sprinkles Formative Research in Dhaka on 02 February 2005.

She also presented the ongoing activities of a BRAC-Population Council (USA) joint study on 'Community-based kangaroo mother care to prevent neonatal and infant mortality' at a seminar on 'Maternal and Newborn Health' held in Dhaka on 23 August 2005 on the occasion of World Health Day 2005. She also presented the same paper at the NNP head office in Dhaka on 18 July 2005.

M Showkat Gani presented a paper titled 'Tuberculosis death and gender in Butajira, Ethiopia' at a Summer Course in Umeå International School of Public Health, Umeå University, Sweden on 11 June 2005.

Ziauddin Hyder presented a paper titled 'Delivery of microencapsulated iron sprinkles in rural poor through female health workers: lesson learned at BRAC in Bangladesh' at the Canadian International Health Conference, Ottawa, Canada, during 24-27 October 2004. (not listed in 2004 annual report)

Hedy Ip, an intern at RED, presented a paper titled 'Trial effectiveness of daily and flexible administration of micronutrient Sprinkles among young children in rural Bangladesh' at the Second North Lights Summer Conference, Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, 48th Annual meeting, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada during 21-24 June 2005.

M Jakariya, Senior Research Associate gave a presentation on 'Implementing safe water options in Bangladesh' at a seminar on 'Arsenic in ground water: health, remedial actions and development aid' at the Department of Earth Science, Uppsala University, Sweden on 19 December 2005.

M Mahbubul Kabir, Staff Researcher presented a paper on the 'Needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvement in secondary schools' in the UNESCO BAFED Education Researchers Forum held in Dhaka on 19 November 2005.

Imran Matin, Director Research presented a paper titled 'Creating a leader for the poorest: the BRAC experiences' in a conference on 'Microfinance in South Asia: Today and Tomorrow' held in New Delhi, India on 5-7 December 2005.

Samir R Nath, Senior Research Fellow presented a paper titled 'Reaching primary education at the doorstep of the poor: the BRAC experience' in the Fourth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and Citynet Congress 2005 held on 11-14 October 2005 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

He also participated in a regional workshop on 'Mother tongue/bilingual literacy programmes for ethnic minorities' held on 6-10 December 2005 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Mr. Nath was a co-presenter of a country paper on a bilingual education programme in Bangladesh.

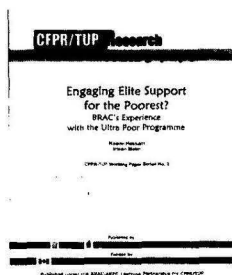
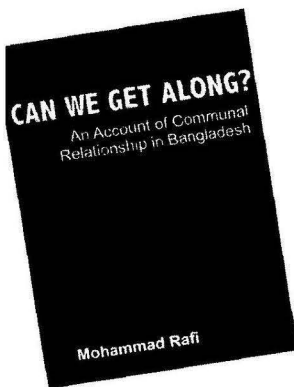
He also attended a workshop on Developing Learning Materials on Successful School Management held in Colombo during 23-26 August 2005. It is a follow up activity of a multi-country research on successful school management under the Asian Net-work of Training and Research Institutions in Educational Planning (ANTRIEP).

Vivek Prakash, Visiting Researcher presented a paper titled 'The impact of the CFPR/TUP on women's self-reported health status: evidence from a longitudinal survey' at the BRAC Donor Consortium Meeting held in Dhaka on 24 October 2005.

Lammia Sharmin, Staff Researcher presented a paper titled 'Role of local elites and village level sanitation' in a seminar at PLAN Bangladesh on 03 October 2005 in Dhaka.

Munshi Sulaiman, Staff Researcher presented a paper on the targeting effectiveness of TUP at the BRAC Donor Consortium Meeting held in Dhaka on 24 October 2005.

Publications in 2005



Socioeconomic Impact of BRAC's
Non-formal Primary Schools

Ahmed Hossain
Saima P. Elahi
AMR Chowdhury

Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC

BRAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh
www.brac.org.bd

A. INTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Annual report

BRAC Research 2004. May 2005. vi, 66p.

Research compendium

Nirjash, issue 15, Sep 2005. 140p. [In Bangla]

Working papers

Huda K, Rahman S, Guirguis C. Building social capital for the ultra poor: challenges and achievements. Dhaka and Ottawa: BRAC and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2005. vi, 22p. (CFPR/TUP working paper series no. 6)

Ahmed SM and Rana AKMM. Customized development interventions for the ultra poor: preliminary change assessments of health and health-seeking behaviour (CFPR/TUP 2002 to 2004). Dhaka and Ottawa: BRAC and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2005. vi, 21p. (CFPR/TUP working paper series no. 7)

Research monograph series

Kabir N and Matin I. The wider social impacts of BRAC's group-based lending in rural Bangladesh: group dynamics and participation in public life. Dhaka: BRAC, 2005. vi, 39p. (Research monograph series no. 25)

Hossain A, Nath SR, Chowdhury AMR. Socioeconomic impact of BRAC's non-formal primary schools. Dhaka: BRAC, 2005. vi, 66p. (Research monograph series no. 26)

B. EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Original scientific papers

(including short communications)

Ahmed M and Nath SR. Quality with equity: primary agenda - summary of main report of *Education Watch* 2003 and 2004 (In Bangla). *Bangladesh Shiksha Samoiki* 2005 Jun;2(1): 23-42.

Ahmed SM. Intimate partner violence against women: experiences from a woman-focused development programme in Matlab, Bangladesh. *J Health Popul Nutr* 2005; 23(1): 95-101.

Ahmed SM, Tomson G, Petzold M, Kabir ZN. Socioeconomic status overrides age and gender in determining health-seeking behaviour in rural Bangladesh. *Bull WHO* 2005;83:109-17.

Begum HA, Yasmin RN, Shahjamal MM. An assessment of BRAC pre-primary graduates in formal primary schools. *Bangladesh Edu J* 2004 Dec;3(2):9-18.

Begum HA, Yasmin RN, Shahjamal MM. Assessment of BRAC pre-primary graduates in formal primary schools (In Bangla). *Bangladesh Shiksha Samoiki* 2005 Jun;2(1):13-22.

Freedman LP, Waldman RJ, de Pinho H, Wirth ME, Chowdhury AMR, Rosenfield A. Transforming health systems to improve the lives of women and children. *Lancet* 2005; 365:997-1000.

Hadi A. Risk factors of violent death in rural Bangladesh, 1990-1999. *Death Stud* 2005; 29(6):559-72.

Hadi A. Women's productive role and marital violence in Bangladesh. *J Family Violence* 2005;20(3):181-9.

Hyder SMZ, Persson LA, Chowdhury M, Lönnnerdal B and Ekström EC. Anaemia and iron deficiency during pregnancy in rural Bangladesh. *Public Health Nutr* 2004; 7(8): 1065-70.*

Karim F, Rafi M, Begum SA. Inequitable access to immunization and vitamin A capsule services: a case of ethnic minorities in three hill districts of Bangladesh. *Public Health* 2005;119:743-6.

Matin I. The very poor who participate in micro-finance institutions and those who never have. *Small Enterprise Dev* 2005 Sep;16(3):51-7.

Nilsson J, Graftstrom M, Shahaduzzaman, Kabir ZN. Role and function-aspects of quality of life of older people in rural Bangladesh. *J Aging Stud* 2005;19(3):3363-74.

Books, manuals and summaries

Acharya A, et al. Impact of tobacco-related illnesses in Bangladesh. Dhaka: World Health Organization, 2005. x, 76p.

Ahmed M, et al. Quality with equity: the primary education agenda. Dhaka: Campaign for Popular Educa-

tion, 2005. XLI, 203p. (Education Watch 2003/4)

Akter N and Ali MR. Manual on medical waste management (In Bangla). Dhaka: Institution and Policy Support Unit, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh, 2005. 45p.

Freedman LP, Waldman RJ, de Pinho H, Wirth ME, Chowdhury AMR, Rosenfield A. Who's got the power? Transforming health systems for women and children. Summary version of the report of the Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health. New York: UNDP, 2005. 24p.

Nath SR. *Bangladeshe samata saha mansammata prathamik shiksha* (In Bangla). Dhaka: Campaign for Popular Education. 2005, 26p.

Rafi M. Can we get along? An account of communal relationship in Bangladesh. Dhaka: Panjeree Publications Ltd., 2005, xx, 276p.

Rohde JE (Editor). Learning to reach health for all: thirty years of instructive experience at BRAC. Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2005. xx, 220p.

Book chapters

Akter N, Hussain Z, Tränkler J, Parkpain P. Hospital waste management and its probable health effect: a lesson learned from Bangladesh. In: Amin SMN and Baqee A (Editors). Waste management studies in Bangladesh. Dhaka: University of Development Alternative, 2005: 108-22.

Akter N and Tränkler J. An analysis of possible scenarios of medical waste management in Bangladesh. In: Amin SMN and Baqee A (Editors). Waste management studies in Bangladesh. Dhaka: University of Development Alternative, 2005:98-107.

Hadi A and Ahmed SM. Research to improve health programmes. *In: Rohde JE (Editor). Learning to reach health for all: thirty years of instructive experience at BRAC.* Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2005:171-84.

Hadi A and Gani MS. (2005). Socio-economic and regional disparity in the utilization of reproductive health services in Bangladesh. *In: INDEPTH Network. Measuring health equity in small areas. Findings from the demographic surveillance systems.* INDEPTH monograph. London: Ashgate Publishers. 2005:177-90.

Matin I. Delivering inclusive microfinance with a poverty focus: the experiences of BRAC. *In: Brody A, Greeley M, Wright-Revollo K (Editors). Money with a mission. Vol. 2.* London: ITDG Publishing, 2005:15-25.

Rohde JE. How and what BRAC learns in health: an overview. *In: Rohde JE (Editor). Learning to reach health for all: thirty years of instructive experience at BRAC.* Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2005:1-32.

Zaman S and Karim R. History of BRAC health interventions: experiences and learning. *In: Rohde JE (Editor). Learning to reach health for all: thirty years of instructive experience at BRAC.* Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2005:33-169.

Theses and dissertations

Ahmed SM. Exploring health-seeking behaviour of disadvantaged populations in rural Bangladesh. Stockholm: Karolinska Institutet, 2005. xiii, 315p. (PhD thesis)

Haseen F. Malnutrition among Bangladeshi women in ultra poor households: prevalence and determinants. Uppsala: Uppsala University, 2005. 39p. (Degree Project Report Series, 2005:4) (Masters thesis)

Newsletter and newspaper articles

Abed FH. ICT is extensively used in all BRAC operations: BRAC launches RED website. *News Today* 19 May 2005.

Abed FH. The promise must be kept. *The Daily Star* 14 March 2005.

Ahmed M. Quality with equity: seven action priorities. *The Daily Star* 14 Mar 2005.

Ahmed SM. Mainstreaming ageing in health systems. *The Daily Star* 27 Nov 2005.

Gani MS and Karim F. Rickets: an emerging public health problem. *The Daily Star* 20 Nov 2005.

Jakariya M. Arsenic in drinking water of Bangladesh and mitigation challenges: experience of BRAC. *Financial Express* 19 Jun 2005.

Kabir MM and Ahmed N. Schoole sharirik shasti bandha houq (in Bangla). *Shaksharata Bulletin* October 2005;140:23-4.

Nasreen HE. A response to HIV/AIDS. *The Daily Star* 02 Oct 2005.

Nath SR, *et al.* Provisions and quality: key findings. *The Daily Star* 14 Mar 2005.

Nath SR. Nature of deprivation: key findings. *The Daily Star* 14 Mar 2005.

Pasha A. Website of the Research and Evaluation Division launched (In Bangla). *Shetu* 2005 Apr-May;21 (1):1-4.

Roy G and Mallik JI. Prathamik shiksha o sushiksha andolone (in Bangla). *Jugantar* 14 Sep 2005.

**Not included in the 2004 annual report*

Abstracts of Reports and Papers Completed in 2005*

A. STUDIES ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION, EMPOWERMENT AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

01

Sector scan of TUP enterprises: identifying determinants of sustainability

Safeena Alarakhia and P Barua

Based on 36 focus group discussions with 2002-03 TUP members in seven districts, we analyzed and compared of the experience of TUP women in various enterprises, selected for transfer to TUP as part of the Special Investment Programme (SIP) of the TUP programme. The key criteria of comparison were profitability, risk, pattern of income, investment needs, level of technical difficulty, time and labour intensity, and social problems faced. Combining these criteria enterprises were ranked on sustainability - the likelihood of TUP continuing the enterprises after withdrawal of BRAC's support. Cow rearing was found to be the most sustainable enterprise followed by non-farm, horticulture, goat, vegetables and poultry. However livelihood of the TUP members was sustainable irrespective enterprise due to diversified income portfolios of the households.

02

Women's bargaining power and extreme poverty- an exploratory study of gendered relations of women in the targeting the ultra poor (TUP) programme

Sohela Nazneen and Nasheeba Selim

This paper explores whether poor women's (who are part of the CFPR/TUP programme) agency within the household structure changes with the change in their economic positioning in the household. It examines possible links between asset gained through the programme and how women's economic power shifts in the household, which may in turn increase their bargaining power in the household. Analysis of the findings in this exploratory study show that female household heads (both de jure and de facto) did not differ significantly in terms of expressing agency in terms of management and control over TUP assets compared to married TUP women who were primary and joint

**Listed according to the surname of the first author under thematic group*

decision makers. However, it is interesting to note that these women interpreted the perception of empowerment and being able to exercise control and actively participating in the management of TUP assets differently. Most of the female heads and joint decision makers in male headed households positively evaluated the change resulting from being part of the TUP programme. On the other hand, most of the primary decision makers expressed reluctant agency in terms of management of the asset and being responsible for both major and minor household decisions. The joint decision makers felt more empowered because access to the TUP asset had shifted their economic position and positively influenced their bargaining power in the household decision-making structure and they were satisfied with sharing the responsibility of the household with their male counterparts.

03

Microfinance engagement of the 'graduated' TUP members

Munshi Sulaiman, I Matin, MSH Siddiquee, P Barua, S Alarakhia and V Iyer

Despite the slogan of 'credit for the poorest of the poor', the poorest have not fully benefited from the microfinance revolution of late 90s in Bangladesh. To bring these 'left out' group into the mainstream micro-finance, BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme assists them to build-up an asset base (physical, human and social) so that they can have meaningful participation in micro-finance activities. After the 'grant' phase of the programme which lasts for 18 months, as the first step towards the 'graduation process', the ultra poor women form their own groups and are offered small amounts of credit. This study takes a look at the beneficiaries who were selected at the first round in 2002 to explain various dimensions of their engagement with microfinance. With a lower borrower-member ratio and relatively smaller sized credit, micro-finance for the poorest may take longer to achieve sustainability. Even within the ultra poor household group, the better-off ones are more likely to engage themselves with microfinance. Their engagement in semi-formal microfinance does not reduce involvement in informal financial market. Accumulating savings is of utmost importance for the ultra poor households and their informal savings have increased. Given that almost a quarter of the TUP members may not be credit takers, the importance of appropriate savings products cannot be overemphasized. More innovations in this regard are thus critical.

04

Targeting effectiveness of CFPR/TUP in scale-up environment

Munshi Sulaiman and I Matin

Effective targeting is a hallmark of the BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme. Like many other targeted programmes, CFPR/TUP combines a number of targeting methods. Launching in 2002, this programme has scaled up in 2005. Despite this scaling up, success in targeting has been maintained. Using poverty assessment tool, developed by CGAP, it was observed that about three quarters of the beneficiaries of this programme belonged to the poorest quartile. This is a commendable achievement when compared to other targeted programmes. The success was achieved not only by adopting appropriate tools of targeting but also by implementing them rigorously. Communitybased wealth ranking was found to be crucial in achieving high level of aggregate accuracy.

05**Impact of tobacco-related illnesses in Bangladesh***Acharya A, et al.*

Data from developing countries regarding the impact of tobacco usage on the countries' economy are insufficient. This study examines the costs of tobacco usage in Bangladesh by determining: i) prevalence of tobacco-related diseases; ii) disabilities and deaths that are attributable to tobacco; and iii) direct (out-of-pocket and health system) and indirect (premature deaths and disabilities) costs, for a cost-benefit analysis. The results show that prevalence of tobacco usage (smoking or non-smoking) is 55% in the population and 57% among hospital out-patients aged 30 years and above. Prevalence among men was higher, but surprisingly unlike other developing countries, prevalence among women was very high, 42% at the population level. Population data show that 9% of people aged ≥ 30 years have suffered from tobacco-related diseases (Ischemic heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, oral cancer, cancer larynx, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary tuberculosis, and Buerger's disease), and 41% of them are attributable to tobacco. Hospital data indicate that 29% of the in-patients aged ≥ 30 years had eight tobacco-related diseases. It is also estimated that these diseases are responsible for 16% of all deaths and 9% of all deaths are attributable to tobacco.

06**Child-to-child approach under ECD Programme of BRAC: any change in knowledge and practice? Follow-up survey 2005***Syed Masud Ahmed, AKMM Rana and AE Khan*

The child-to-child component of the ECD (Early Childhood Development) programme began in Sherpur *upazila*, Bogra in January 2003 and was completed in December 2004. For the follow-up survey in 2005, the three groups of baseline households were revisited and data were collected from the same adolescents (unmarried, 12-19 years of age, and who have had an under-five child in the household at baseline), if present at the time of survey. The groups were: a) treatment area I with regular ECD activities plus 'child-to-child' activities, b) treatment area II with regular ECD activities and c) treatment area III without any ECD activities. The quantitative survey was supplemented by three focus group discussions with adolescents from the Community Learning Centres (CLC) and Union Libraries (UL). In general, knowledge and practice related to ECD issues in the treatment areas I and II were better than in the control area, when compared with baseline values. The difference between treatment area I and II was marginal in case of most of the variables studied, except in a few instances. Significant increase in knowledge related to feeding practices of the infant, importance of attending ANC by pregnant mothers, practices for preventing injuries and drowning, and practice of singing songs and reciting rhymes was observed among adolescents from treatment area I compared to treatment area II. These findings were also corroborated by the findings from group discussion with adolescents of treatment area I. Thus, child-to-child approach certainly added on to the regular ECD activities by improving the knowledge base and caregiving quality of the adolescents.

07

Impact of low-cost and health promotion intervention on health and health related quality of life of older persons in rural Bangladesh: post-intervention survey report 2005*Syed Masud Ahmed and AKMM Rana*

This study aims to examine the impact of a primary healthcare (PHC)-based, low-cost and health promotion intervention on health and health-related quality of life (QoL) of older persons in rural Bangladesh. Data for this study originated from the Primary Health Care in Later Life: Improving Services in Bangladesh and Vietnam (PHILL) project implemented by RED at two sub-districts of Chandpur during 2003-05. The 15-month intervention was followed by an interval of three months before post-intervention data collection was done. At post-intervention, significant improvement was observed in different outcome variables related to health and health-related QoL. Self-rated health status of older persons improved at post-intervention period, especially in the intervention area. Prevalence of acute illnesses reduced significantly in the intervention area compared to the control area. Expenditure on treatment of acute illnesses, arthritic-related illnesses and chronic illnesses was significantly reduced in the study area. Of those older persons who followed instructions for doing moderate exercises and dietary instructions reported significantly lower prevalence of symptoms (such as joint pain, swelling, biting sensation, backache etc.) related to arthritic illnesses. The health-related QoL data show that overall mean QoL scores increased significantly among older persons in the intervention area compared to the control area. Furthermore, QoL scores of older persons in the intervention area were significantly higher in social and environmental dimensions compared to baseline while deterioration was observed in other dimensions during the study period.

08

Saving newborn lives in rural communities: learning from the BRAC experience*Abdullahel Hadi and M Ahmed*

The study compiles the learning of the Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) project of BRAC that was implemented to improve the health of the newborn in two sub-districts in Bangladesh. Data were collected from women during pregnancy, within 48 hours after delivery and four weeks after giving birth. The fieldwork continued from March 2004 to March 2005. The study generated a body of information regarding the process and problems of introducing neonatal health programme in communities. The project has been able to raise awareness and change the behavior of mothers about newborn care. The study suggests incorporating preventive measures to reduce stillbirth and perinatal deaths during pregnancy. The duration of the project to achieve targets must be realistic. The quality of training should be ensured and staff deployment plan should be more carefully planned. The study also shows that the blanket approach to reach all households is unlikely to succeed. Impact sustainability requires longer presence of programme efforts than usually considered. The SNL project shows that safe delivery and improved newborn care services can be introduced and delivered by the indigenous community health workers at the grassroots.

Impact on food and nutrient consumption: experience of CFPR/TUP programme in ultra poor households

Farhana Haseen

This study aimed to investigate the impact of CFPR/TUP intervention on food and nutrient consumption in programme households. Validation of the method used for food consumption, namely 24-hour recall, was also considered. When food and energy intake data of 2002 and 2004 were compared a significant improvement in consumption was found in terms of both quality and quantity in SUP households over time. The intake of energy increased from 1750 ± 650 to 2138 ± 704 and the percentages of energy from cereals decreased from 85% to 78% in SUP households ($P < 0.001$). Particularly, the level of fish consumption doubled in SUP households (14 g to 27 g). The improvements were more pronounced in female-headed than male-headed households. The consumption of rice, pulse, vegetables, fish, fruit, milk, and egg was much higher in 2004 among the SUP households. There was no difference in the amount of foods consumed by the under-5 children in SUP and NSUP households. The 24-hour recall was also found to be a valid method for estimating average intake of food, energy and other nutrients compared to weighing.

10

National low birth weight survey of Bangladesh, 2003-2004

Farhana Haseen, I Quasem, HKM Yusuf and SMZ Hyder

A national low birth weight (LBW) survey was conducted for the first time in Bangladesh to assess the scale of the problem and provide baseline data for future evaluation. Adolescent girls and women who had missed at least two menstrual periods in 107 randomly selected rural and urban clusters were enrolled in the survey and followed-up to delivery. Of the total 4,414 pregnancies identified, 3,843 had live births. A total of 3,085 birth weights (1,548 boys and 1,537 girls) were taken within 72 hours of the delivery by locally recruited women using Seca Baby scales. The mean birth weight of infants in Bangladesh was 2,632 g and the mean birth length was 48.5 cm. LBW ($< 2,500$ g) affected 36% of infants in Bangladesh, more than twice than the 15% threshold for a public health problem. Less than 1% of infants were born with very low birth weight ($< 1,500$ g). The prevalence of LBW was higher among girls (38%) than boys (33%), as observed elsewhere. At least 77% of LBW infants were growth retarded, confirming that intrauterine growth retardation is the major cause of LBW in Bangladesh. The prevalence of LBW was found to be higher in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (29%). Other risk factors for LBW include low socioeconomic status, low level of parental education, maternal age, primigravidity, multigravidity, short stature, lack of antenatal check-ups and iron supplementation during pregnancy, pre-term delivery, and lack of adequate rest during pregnancy.

11

Efficacy of daily and weekly home fortification of weaning foods with Sprinkles on anaemia and iron status among young children in Bangladesh

Farhana Haseen, SMZ Hyder, M Rahman and S Zlotkin

Iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) is a major public health problem worldwide among infants, young children, and pregnant women especially in developing

countries. Although programmes delivering iron supplements have been instituted for pregnant women in many countries, a feasible and effective strategy addressing IDA in infants and young children is still lacking. Sprinkles are a complementary food supplement containing micronutrients (iron, zinc, vitamins A, C, and folic acid) in powder form which are easily sprinkled onto any semi-solid foods prepared in the household, at any mealtime during the day. The study was carried out in 13 villages of Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur district, about 40 km north of Dhaka city. The villages were randomly assigned to either daily or weekly intervention group. A total of 152 mild to moderate anaemic children (haemoglobin between 70 and 110 g/L) were recruited, 79 children from 7 villages in the daily group and 73 children from 6 villages in the weekly group. Each child in the daily group received 7 Sprinkles sachets for one week, each containing 12.5 mg elemental iron to be fed once daily. The weekly group was given one sachet of Sprinkles containing 30 mg elemental iron and 6 placebo sachets (containing Sprinkles-like powder, but no micronutrients), total 7 sachet per week. Intervention was continued for 8 weeks between September and December 2003. In the study, Sprinkles were found to be highly acceptable and anaemia prevalence reduced from 77% to 38% with mean compliance to the intervention over 88%.

12

Trial effectiveness of daily and flexible administration of micronutrient Sprinkles to control anaemia in young children in rural Bangladesh

Farhana Haseen, H Ip, SMZ Hyder, M Rahman and S Zlotkin

This study examined the flexible administration of Sprinkles to see whether this would increase programme effectiveness by improving compliance. It was carried out in 16 villages of Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur district, about 40 km north of Dhaka city. A total of 362 children aged 6-24 months (haemoglobin concentration ≥ 70 g/L) were selected for the study. Children were randomized by village to receive 60 sachets of Sprinkles (containing 12.5 mg elemental iron) in two months (one sachet per day), or flexibly over three or four months. Under flexible administration, caregivers were able to decide how frequently to give Sprinkles, but were instructed not to give more than one sachet per day. Haemoglobin was measured at baseline, end of each intervention period, and six-month post-intervention from capillary blood via a finger prick. Only the children successfully treated for anaemia were followed-up for six months post-intervention. Based on the results, it can be concluded that flexible administration of Sprinkles over three and four months yielded better outcomes compared to daily administration with respect to haematological status, adherence and acceptability. It may be recommended that the flexible administration of 60 Sprinkles sachets over a four-month period may be more effective to control childhood anaemia at the population level because of increased compliance.

13

Primary healthcare in later life: improving services in Bangladesh and Vietnam (PHILL): post-intervention report on qualitative data

Kristina Heikkilä, A Hossain, DH Luong, S Zaman and TTM Oanh

This study aimed to describe perceptive and cognitive aspects related to health of old people in Bangladesh and Vietnam, following PHILL interventions. In both countries the qualitative study was conducted both pre- and post-intervention by focus group and individual interviews with older people (≥ 60

years) themselves, main family caregivers and healthcare providers. The participants were purposefully selected. After the interventions, the quality of the encounters with the healthcare providers became one of the most important aspects influencing the choice of healthcare provider in Bangladesh. However, the older people were dissatisfied with the availability and quality of the healthcare services provided. In Vietnam the interventions increased the older people's knowledge on the needs of healthcare for the older people and the need of self-care in order to have good health in old age. More clearly in Vietnam than in Bangladesh, the intervention helped the older people to realize and provide social activities, which also increased their satisfaction with their life situation. After the interventions, in Bangladesh, exercise was mentioned as a common home remedy. In both countries, the family caregivers increased their understanding of older people's health, and more actively promoted their health. In Vietnam, the interventions also empowered the older people to provide contributions in social mobilization in the whole community. The self-help groups showed to have an important place in the older people's life as a social meeting place and thus, increased their quality of life. These self-help groups should be naturalized to the preventive healthcare system.

14

Non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors in Asia: a collaborative study among INDEPTH network sites

INDEPTH Asia Oceania NCD Study Group

The objectives of this multi-country study were to identify and compare the NCD risk factors across the participating countries and identify appropriate elements of the risk factor module into regular NCD surveillance. The step-wise approach of the WHO was adopted to collect data including health behaviours of tobacco use, alcohol consumption, diet and physical inactivity, body mass index, and blood pressure. Findings show that the prevalence of smoking was very high among men in most participating countries except India. Alcohol consumption varied widely in the participating countries. Fruit consumption was higher in Vietnam and Thailand but inadequate in Indonesia, India and Bangladesh. Obesity is within the normal ($<25 \text{ kg/m}^2$) range in most population except older women in Thailand. Prevalence of hypertension was quite high in Thailand and Indonesia compared to other participating countries. Variation of cardio-vascular diseases was quite high in Thailand and Indonesia and to a large extent in Vietnam than others. The reported cases of stroke were also on the rise (0.5% to 2.6%). The problem of diabetes was still low but probably is likely to increase fast among the older population in Bangladesh and Thailand. Reported prevalence of cancer was much higher among female than male population. The problem of lung diseases was much higher than expected in most countries. The prevalence of arthritis was also higher among women than men particularly among the elderly. The most efficient strategy to reduce NCD burdens is the change of individual behaviour. This study argues that the prevention is possible when appropriate and sustained interventions are implemented both at individual and community levels along with broader social, economic and cultural context.

15

Inequitable access to immunization and vitamin A capsule services: a case of ethnic minorities in three hill districts in Bangladesh*Fazlul Karim, M Rafi and SA Begum*

This study examined the equity in immunization and vitamin A capsule (VAC) coverage among different indigenous ethnic groups in three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. Five major groups of population such as Chakma, Marma, Mro, Tripura and Bangali were included in the study. One hundred fifty villages (30 for each group) were randomly selected followed by 17 households from each village. The mothers of the children 0-23 and 6-71 months old were interviewed for data collection during May 22 to July 20, 1998. Equity was gauged from different dimensions such as ethnicity, socioeconomic condition, proximity of health centres, etc. The overall results indicate that the higher proportion of Bangali children (12-23 months) was fully immunized (54%) followed by Marma (35%), Tripura (20%), Chakma (17%) and Mro (11%). Likewise, the Bangali children (6-71 months) had a significantly higher coverage of VAC (86%) over Marma (84%), Chakma (56%), Tripura (51%) and Mro (24%). Besides, proximity of health facilities revealed a relationship with service utilization, the closer the health centres located the higher was the use of services. Effective need-based health education is essentially needed to reduce inequity in immunization and VAC coverage among the study groups. Besides, further in-depth study may be useful to explain the major causal-factors of inequity in health service utilization by different indigenous ethnic groups in the hilly region of Bangladesh.

16

Poverty status and health equity: evidence from rural Bangladesh*Fazlul Karim, A Tripura, MS Gani and AMR Chowdhury*

This paper, using an equity terms, examined the use of health services in two rural areas of Bangladesh. Using multi-stage sampling method a total of 80 villages were selected from the Bogra and Dinajpur sadar *upazilas* (sub-districts) for the study. A total of 4,003 households in those villages were visited for collecting data on mortality and fertility while health service use related data was collected from a sub-sample of 1,032 households. A poverty index constructed using three variables (*viz.*, household landholding, education of household head, and self-rated annual food security status of household) categorized the households into three groups - extreme poor, moderate poor and non-poor. Overall, the data revealed considerable inequities in many study indicators between the poor and the non-poor. However, inequities of varying degrees were also found between the extreme poor and the moderate poor. We also found lower levels of inequities between the poor and the non-poor in the use of health services, which were easily accessible and free of cost (immunization, vitamin A capsule, etc.). On the whole, the extreme poor had relatively a lower use of different health services than the moderate poor and the non-poor, suggesting the need for a special programme with more appropriate approaches to addressing their pressing needs of health.

Social marketing strategies for "Sprinkles" to control iron deficiency anaemia among infants and young children in Bangladesh

Fazlul Karim, N Choudhury, A Pasha, K Hasan, SMZ Hyder and SH Zlotkin

Sprinkles, a newly innovated technology for reducing childhood iron deficiency anaemia has been proven to be effective, safe and acceptable to mothers. But strategic challenge for distribution and communication of Sprinkles by overcoming socioeconomic, political and cultural barriers remained to resolve in Bangladesh. Social marketing approach is believed to be an effective strategic option. Using multi-methods such as survey, observations, in-depth interview and behaviour change communication interventions; data were collected from multi-level sources, representing various geographical conditions including urban, rural plain and hard-to-reach areas. The main sources of data included: mothers/caregivers, opinion leaders, health providers, retail shopkeepers, etc. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS software and qualitative data manually. Most study mothers knew that a child should be given weaning food at the age of 6 months for proper growth, but the knowledge and practice were disproportional. Poverty was one of the main reasons for what especially the poor mothers could not feed according to their desire. No weaning food was prepared separately for children; rather it was extracted from usual family dish. Mothers/caregivers, and health providers had a low awareness on anemia, and sometimes they misapprehended some other diseases, e.g., jaundice, leucorrhoea, as anemia. Nutrition education along with Sprinkles sachets was given to the mothers/caregivers to improve their knowledge and practice. This helped improve nutritional and child feeding practices, and the compliance of Sprinkles was about 81%. Mothers were eager to pay a nominal fee for Sprinkles, and preferred to receive it through grocery shops, BRAC *Shasthya shebikas*, etc. The study findings helped develop social marketing strategies for distribution and communication of Sprinkles in Bangladesh encompassing different elements of social marketing approaches such as, identification of target groups, market segmentation, processes for Sprinkles adoption, distribution and communication.

18

Effect of anthelmintic treatment on helminth infection, haemoglobin concentration and anaemia among the female workers of the Ayesha Abed Foundation in Bangladesh

Marufa Aziz Khan, QS Islam, I Quasem and CSB Jalal

The study aimed to test the impact of anthelmintic treatment among female workers of Ayesha Abed Foundation. In a single blind placebo control trial, Albendazol 400 mg was given to 620 female workers randomly allocated into 5 groups: Group 1 (n=127) had single dose at baseline, 12 weeks, and 24 weeks; Group 2 (n=121) had double dose at baseline, 12 weeks, and 24 weeks; Group 3 (n=124) had single dose at baseline, and 24 weeks; Group 4 (n=125) had double dose at baseline, 24 weeks; Group 5 (n=123) had placebo at baseline, and 24 weeks. At baseline, about one-fourth of all workers had parasitic infestation. Mean haemoglobin (Hb) concentration of the workers was 125 g/L at baseline, with no group difference. After 12 weeks treatment, Hb concentration increased significantly ($p=0.000$) to 134 g/L in groups 1 and 2, but after 12 weeks, decreased to 121 g/L, significantly lower than even the baseline level. The same phenomenon was observed in groups 3 and 4 as well. In the placebo group also, Hb concentration decreased from 126 g/L at base-

line to 122 g/L at 24 weeks ($p=0.002$), indicating progressive depletion of Hb among the women. As a result of these changes in Hb concentration, anaemia pre-valence (Hb >120 g/L) decreased from 29% at baseline to 9% after 3 months in groups 1 and 2 but increased to 43% after 6 months, although worm infestation, became almost nil in these groups. Dietary supplementation is possibly needed to sustain the effect of deworming on anaemia.

19

Micro health insurance programme of BRAC: how well does it fare?

Imran Matin, N Imam and SM Ahmed

The Micro Health Insurance (MHI) project was launched in November 2001 as a pilot project in Madhabdi and Fulbari *upazilas*. The primary beneficiaries of this programme were poor rural women who did not have access to quality healthcare due to financial and cultural constraints. Previous studies on MHI in BRAC revealed that even though new enrolment reached target goals, renewal rate is very low and the ultra poor people did not subscribe much or renew often. These findings motivated our study, which sought to investigate the underlying factors responsible for enrolment and renewal decisions. The study intended to construct a socio-demographic profile of the MHI clients in the study area and to see what motivate the clients in deciding on MHI. It also intended to study the marketing techniques used by the programme and the perspective of health service providers on MHI. Two villages from the Madhabdi area office were selected as study sites on the basis of geographical distance. Both quantitative (household survey) and qualitative methods (informal group discussion, in-depth interview) were used for data collection. The key findings included that relatively poorer households, especially if they did not have NGO membership, had a significantly lower probability of knowing about the MHI offer. But there existed a significant latent demand for the MHI offer among these households who were moderately poor and who had 'other NGO' membership and 'no NGO' membership. The most important variable influencing the decision to renew appears to be the perceived quality of services that the subscriber received from BHC (BRAC Health Center). Family composition also matters in both enrolment and renewal decisions. It was also found that people were more willing to pay when any concrete need arises (like pregnancy). People had complaints against the 'referral system'. But a positive thing is that the ultra poor clients were found to be quite satisfied. The study suggests that the communication platform needs to be expanded and a broader community-based communication strategy needs to be developed. A shift in programmatic focus away from the 'surplus' and relatively better-off households to moderate poor households is also recommended. Increased fee for the non-poor, better infrastructure, more incentives for '*Shasthya she-bikas*', system of paying premiums in instalments and most importantly better BHC services are strongly recommended. Suggestions for a better communication are also included in the study.

20

BRAC HIV/AIDS programme: the mid-term evaluation

Hashima-E-Nasreen

BRAC has initiated a four-year HIV prevention programme in 2002 in four districts addressing the high-risk, bridging and general population to respond to the whole cycle of HIV prevention. In mid-2005, a mid-term evaluation was through revisiting the design and delivery of the intervention. A cross-sec-

tional evaluation was done on 1,560 community adults, 1,360 adolescents, 580 bus-truck driver/helpers, 430 brothel-based sex workers, and 160 health providers from Faridpur and Khulna districts. Bivariate analysis was done to see the population-wise variances with regard to the expected outcome of the programme and a comparison was made with the baseline data to see the effect of the programme. A significant difference of AIDS-aware population was observed between baseline and mid-term evaluation. The programme had achieved success to some extents in the behavioural aspects of high-risk population. Condom compliance is increased only among the brothel-based sex workers. Treatmentseeking behaviour of STI patients was modified from keeping it in silence to seeking treatment from elsewhere. The programme participant-sex workers currently preferred to seek treatment from medical doctors. The correct and complete knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STI among both target population and health providers was still at lower level than the expected level. Considering differences at all levels of life stages of different target populations, different intervention strategies need to be introduced with or without little variances in programme activities.

C. STUDIES ON EDUCATION

21

Assessing the teacher training programme of SAB in Afghanistan

Abdullahel Hadi and M Majumdar

Solidarité Afghanistan Belgium (SAB) has been providing both in-service and pre-service training to Afghan teachers to improve the standard of basic education of Afghan children. The objective of the study was to assess the teacher training programme of SAB in Afghanistan and provide suggestions for improvement, if needed. A combination of approaches (such as workshop with SAB trainers, classroom observation and interviews with the participants) was used to gather information for this assessment. SAB has played an important role in providing training to primary school teachers in Afghanistan. The performance of the trainers was satisfactory although the quality could be improved further. SAB trainers have identified their own limitations, expressed their needs and expectations, and have provided a set of suggestions for further improvement of their performance. The study suggests that SAB should take appropriate measures to enhance the quality of training and satisfy the growing demand of Afghan teachers to better perform in their schools.

22

Needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvements in secondary schools

Md Mahbubul Kabir and SN Nath

This study aimed to investigate the needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvement in secondary schools through an in-depth understanding of the factors affecting their poor performance. Findings reconfirmed the poor performance of ethnic minority students. An analysis of influential factors within and outside the school indicate that a weak foundation in Bangla language along with continuous economic crises, teachers' inefficient teaching methods and irregular attendance, parental disinterest, other responsibilities outside school, weak educational foundation in primary school stimulat-

ed and perpetuated a sub-standard performance in general. Support systems in place seemed to upgrade a few good performers at the same time neglecting the vast majority of pupils. This study revealed prime needs of ethnic minority students for learning improvement to be: developing a good foundation in Bangla as a second language; to raising the quality of classroom teaching and need-based curriculum reinforcement for slow learners; sensitizing teachers to issues specific to ethnic pupils, eradicating irregularities in the testing system, creating a space to facilitate increased interaction between ethnic and Bangali pupils; and developing a comprehensive support system for general and slow learners among the ethnic student population.

23

Self-report and test discrepancy: evidence from national literacy survey in Bangladesh

Samir R Nath

This paper aims to explore the discrepancy between self-reported and test-based literacy estimates. The *Education Watch* national literacy survey data of 2002 were used to do so, where literacy status of a nationally representative sample of 13,145 persons was collected through the above two different methods. The findings revealed that the literacy rate generated through a literacy test was significantly lower than that found through self-report method. At the national level the amount of discrepancy was 9.5 percentage points. The level of discrepancy varied from one group of population to another. Discrepancy was more likely among the primary school educated rural females of age 15-24 years and less likely to never schooled and college educated urban males of age 25 years and above. This shows that literacy assessment through self-report method cannot be equally appropriate for all population. More risk especially due to over reporting occurred among those having some years of schooling. A question of quality of primary education also raised here. Considering the low quality of school education and increased enrolment in Bangladesh this paper suggests for a paper-pencil based literacy assessment rather than oral reporting.

24

Achievement of competencies of the BRAC school students

Samir R Nath, MM Shahjamal, RN Yasmin, T Zafar and MM Kabir

Using the test instrument developed for the *Education Watch* this study aimed to do a comparative analysis of the learning achievement of three different types of BRAC primary education initiatives viz., non-formal primary education, community school and formal school. A total of 1,594 students completing the full course of primary education in December 2004 from 100 schools were sampled for this assessment. Although the situation of the schools and learning environment were different by type, but they all ran with the similar aims of primary education of the country - this made the basis for comparison. The analysis revealed that in general the performances of the formal school students were better than those of other two groups, followed by community school and non-formal school. Performance of the non-formal schools reduced slightly than the previous year. The disabled students were less likely to do well like as their classmates. Finally, some weak areas were identified which needs effort for improvement.

25

Out of school children in tea gardens and ethnic minority areas: a preliminary report*Samir R Nath, RN Yasmin and MM Shahjamal*

This preliminary report provides basic information of the out of school children in the tea gardens and the ethnic minority areas. It showed 40% of the children of age 6-15 years in the tea gardens and 20% of those in the ethnic minorities were out of schooling. Socioeconomic differential of out of schooling and reasons behind non-enrolment of children in school were also explored. As it is based on preliminary analysis, no conclusion or recommendation was made.

26

Out of school children in the tea gardens and ethnic minority communities*Samir R Nath, RN Yasmin and MM Shahjamal*

This survey based research aims to explore the amount of out of school children in two marginal communities in Bangladesh, their socioeconomic differentials, involvement in work, reasons behind non-enrolment and how they can be brought in the schools. Two independent but representative samples were drawn for household survey in the areas. It covered 6006 households from 136 tea gardens/paras/villages. Besides, 77 people were consulted through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The major findings include: There was not much variation between the Bangalis and the ethnic minorities in the tea gardens, however, whose livelihood mainly depends on tea gardens were more deprived than who had alternative income choices. The ethnic minorities in the CHT were ahead of their fellows living in the plain land. Again Chakmas in the CHT were advanced than all other groups. Male domination and a large gender gap were common across the population. A number of policy recommendations were made at the end.

27

Reaching primary education at the doorstep of the poor: the BRAC experience*Samir R Nath*

It is a review paper on BRAC education programme. Starting with a description of the country context of the initial days of the programme it describes how the programme was developed and implemented, and expanded throughout the country using the gathered experiences. Impact of the programme, challenges faced and lesson learned were discussed afterwards.

28

Need assessment of a short course on educational evaluation and assessment*Goutam Roy and Samir R Nath*

This study aims to explore the feasibility of a new course on educational evaluation and assessment. In-depth interviews were carried out with a checklist prepared through field trials. Number of respondents was 19, 16 from the

non-government organizations and three from the government education department. Junior, mid and senior levels officials were in the sample. The findings revealed that there is a need of a short certificate course on this. Both the government and non-government education officials were interested in it. Duration of the course was suggested to be of four weeks. Involvement of ministry level high officials and the NGO leaders in the course advisory board should be considered seriously.

D. STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

29

Climate change and its effects on selected business sectors of Bangladesh

Nasima Akter, TM Kama and AO Vidal

This study aimed to assess the contribution of selected business sectors in Bangladesh on climate change, and to assess the effects of climate change on them. The study specifically focused on climate change variables and environmental variables related to selected business sectors and come up with two specific concept notes on eco-friendly and profitable interventions. The study mainly concentrated on transport business institutions in Dhaka city and selected sites in Khulna, Shirajganj and Chapai Nawabganj for agricultural sector. Data were collected during June to October 2005 through interviews, observations, questionnaires and checklists, and focus group discussions with all levels of stakeholders. Besides, two stakeholder meetings were organized. The findings show that it was quite difficult to relate the problems encountered by these business sectors and problems they pose to the environment and the climate change. The findings also reveal that the contribution of transport sector is more related to air pollution which affects employees' health and environment as well as reducing the production and profitability. Micro-climatic data analysis also shows that climate change is happening which is changing the seasonal pattern, rainfall intensity, distribution, flood, draught, and other environmental parameters. Those changes affect the agricultural practice of the country and ultimately create impact on the agriculture-related business sectors. Although Bangladesh does not have specific regulations or policies designed to mitigate the causes of climate change, there are a number of legislations and policies aimed to reduce environmental problems. Nevertheless, climate change issues are now coming up recently in several national activities. Effective implementation of recommendations would help improve the overall environment of Bangladesh and those will turn into economic benefit of the business sectors. Two specific concept notes on intervention have been appended along with this report.

30

Medical waste management at Rajshahi City Corporation: public-private partnership model development: a collaborative effort on medical waste management in Bangladesh (baseline report)

Nasima Akter, M Rahman, L Sharmin and IPSU-MoEF team

The objectives of this collaborative effort were to: i) conduct a feasibility study to establish the viability of implementation of medical waste management (MWM) rules, ii) identify the appropriate technology and management model,

iii) establish viable final disposal technological options in which the both parties and other actors can participate as partner, and iv) establish a coordination and partnership model in MWM in Bangladesh. The specific objectives of BRAC in this pilot were to a) introduce an appropriate waste management system in hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers within the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area using a standard manual and training module, and b) develop a core trainer group on MWM at BRAC and other relevant organizations. The methods of action were: i) baseline survey to ascertain the training need, ii) sensitization/awareness, iii) training on in-house management, iv) implementation of in-house management, and v) evaluation. The pilot period was from June 2005 to January 2006. A baseline survey was done to assess the existing hospital waste management practices in RCC area, as well as to ascertain the training needs for relevant institutes and/or establishment. The findings show that the lack of awareness, training and management planning is the basic constraints of hospital waste management at RCC area. Based on training need assessment BRAC prepared a training of trainer (ToT) module and provided ToT for a 15-member core trainer group. BRAC also provided training for healthcare worker e.g. doctors, nurses, cleaners, technicians, administration officers, City Corporation's staff. A total of 485 healthcare workers were provided with in-house MWM training covering almost all hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers in Rajshahi city and 257 healthcare workers at Joypurhat hospital. Several orientation seminars and workshops were also organized for RCC officials, clinic owners, and hospital management personnel. The implementation phase is going on at RCC. After implementation, an evaluation will be done to assess the impact of training and management practices. However, the outcome of this pilot are: a) Medical waste management manual (published by IPSU-MoEF and BRAC); b) Core trainer group; c) ToT and training module; d) A model of working partnership; e) Pilot implementation of medical waste management practices at RCC area, and f) Initiation of mainstreaming of this pilot model. Based on this pilot the drafted MWM rules have been finalized by the MoEF and MoHFW that is now under the process of approval by the government.

31

Medical waste management training module (In Bangla)

Mizanur Rahman, RI Khan and N Akter

The objective of this Bangla training module on medical waste management (MWM) is to provide training for the healthcare service providers i.e. doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, waste handlers, cleaners, city corporation's staff related to medical waste collection and disposal, healthcare personnel, officials and professionals of government and non-government organizations who are providing services in the health sector. The module was prepared and finalized based on MWM manual, focus group discussions, workshop and training conducted at Rajshahi City Corporation area. This module was prepared during July to October 2005. Duration of this training course is one working day. However, considering the different level of participants the course duration could be extended for more than two or three days. The main topics covered in the module are a) Concept of medical waste/hospital waste, b) Classification, c) Risk related with medical waste, d) Existing situation of medical waste management in Bangladesh, and e) Appropriate medical waste management. This module was used during ToT to develop a 15-member core trainer group on MWM. It will be accompanied with the MWM manual for further training.

32

Assessment of the rural piped water system in arsenic affected rural Bangladesh*Md. Quaiyum Sarkar, Md. Jakariya and M Rahman*

This study examines the users' satisfaction with piped water system for arsenic-free safe water and also examines the management mechanism of rural piped water systems. Data were collected in October 2004 using structured questionnaire from 106 households in Sonargaon, 140 households in Barura, 98 households in Daudkandi, and 100 households in Godagari upazila. All the households who were using piped water during the survey were included in the study. The findings show that almost all the users were satisfied with the piped water system. About 86% of the users were paying monthly water bills on regular basis while more than 50% of the users had good economic status. Majority of those who were irregular in paying their bills claimed to be of poor economic status. The findings are expected to help design the programme of BRAC rural piped water supply system in Bangladesh.

33

Role of local elites and village level sanitation*Lammia Sharmin*

This study aimed to explore the role of local elites and associated factors that prevent or promote sanitation facilities to the poor. The study was conducted in five communities of five villages in Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts. The three communities - Hazipara, Korollabechatari and Moulvipara of Jaldhaka/Nilphamari were selected for the role (active, non-active and newly formed) of Gram Daridro Bimochon Committee (GDBC - a committee formed by the CFPR-TUP pro-gramme comprised of a group of local elites to facilitate the ultra poor). The other two communities selected were Babupara from Hatibandha and Balatari from Aditmari of Lalmonirhat district. Babupara was selected as 100% sanitation community and Balatari as control community. The data were collected through qualitative approaches during February to April 2005. The findings show that all the five communities received local elite's support to some extent. The local elite's support was highest in communities with 100% sanitation and the active GSC. In different communities the factors were different which prevent the adoption of total sanitation. The preventing factors were lack of awareness, lack of land, sanitation as less prioritized issue, and poverty. In these five communities the factors associated with promoting sanitation are elite perception of disease and disease transmission, concept of ideal village with proper sanitation, notion of shame, *parda* or just '*soaber kaj*'. In most cases the elites were providing help for sanitation through different local institutions. But in most of the villages the local institutions were not being able to provide sanitation facilities to poor people effectively.

E. STUDIES ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

34

Building positive attitudes towards gender equality: a baseline survey of GQAL programme*Md. Abdul Alim and AT Rashid*

The study aimed to find out the preintervention status of villagers on existing

gender perception and attitude towards gender relations. A survey was conducted in eight *upazilas* of Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts based on 803 respondents. The study dealt with different themes of general perception, discrimination, empowerment, violence against women and marriage. The findings indicate that the knowledge of the respondents about nutrition, education, age of voting and marriage, are satisfactory. The gender perception of both male and female are influenced by patriarchal norms prevalent in rural areas. Although the respondents show more favourable attitude towards gender discrimination and marriage related issues, the attitude towards gender roles in society is comparatively less positive. The study further shows that the level of education, and to a lesser extent, economic background are the primary determinants in shaping gender attitude and perception, while age and NGO membership does not appear to have much impact on views of gender equality.

35

A study on BRAC's Palli Shamaj

Ahmed Tareq Rashid and MA Alim

Palli Shamaj is a ward-level social organization made up of representatives from several village organizations (VO) of BRAC and outside poor members. The study aims to depict a regional density mapping of geographical distribution of *Palli Shamaj* and their profile of activities and the number of elected *Palli Shamaj* members in *Union Parishad* election. Data were collected from 9,440 *Palli Shamaj* from 55 regions of BRAC. The density mapping, measured at different administrative levels, shows that Rajshahi division not only has the highest number of *Palli Shamaj* but also the highest density in proportion to the number of wards. No significant regional variation is observed with regard *Palli Shamaj* activities in acquiring different types of government distributed services (VGF, VGD cards, old-age and widow allowance) as well as participation in social activities such as participation in *shalish*, conflict resolution, preventing polygamy, early marriage. It was found that *Palli Shamaj* members have won 13% and 1.6% of the total reserved and general seats respectively. The findings indicate that there is a link between the activities of *Palli Shamaj* and the participation of its members in local government elections.

36

Can we get along? An account of communal relationship in Bangladesh

Mohammad Rafi

In the case of countries with multiple religious communities like Bangladesh, an obvious question is likely to arise - how is the relationship among the communities? The book starts with the investigation of the changing relationship among the communities therein from the past until the incidence of violence in the post-parliamentary election held in 2001. The violence in fact is a form of relationship. The violence was observed throughout the country for six months since election under four broad heads - action and property related violence, psychological abuse, and physical assaults including rape and murder. The major part of the study was directed towards the cause of violence and it was sought in a multidisciplinary explanation. As the violence against minorities turned into an invariable event after every election in the recent past, it was believed that violence against them was likely to recur again.

Thus, the study gave considerable thought on how Bangladesh might come out of the violence against the minorities. Although the study was contextual to Bangladesh, the learning from here can also be relevant for countries with similar communal problems. This excellent qualitative and quantitative research combining both field observation and conceptual explorations should attract a wide range of readers particularly those dealing with social problems and will come to regard this book a bold and pioneering work on the issue in Bangladesh.

37

Slum eviction and experiences of the slum dwellers: a close observation

Mamun-Ur-Rashid

This study aimed to explore the social and economic dynamics that led to and followed the eviction of *Kalyanpur basti*, home of some 1,675 families, demolished in December 2003. Information was collected through participant observation, stakeholder perceptions and group discussions. The process of eviction, actual demolition, reactions to the eviction, and eventual settling down of the dwellers are narrated. The initiators of the eviction were the local commissioner and the House Building Research Institute of the government. The demolition was successful in the face of collective protest of the slum dwellers due to the commissioner's collaboration with the leader of the slum dwellers. The dwellers found that there was none to support them in the actual protest. Although they had expected the NGO activists, their local leaders and media to help them out, all of them betrayed. After eviction, some of the dwellers left while others tried to stay. The living conditions were adverse. Cold winter nights without proper housing and sanitation, police raids and internal outbursts of violence led to severe suffering, including death of some children. The *Basti* still exists. The ones who held on to their land through all the troubles have rebuilt their houses. However, the commissioner has retained a large portion of the land. The paper emphasizes the need for collective will and planning on the part of all stakeholders to make sure that future evictions are conducted more effectively, making sure that the sufferings of the dwellers are minimized and they are properly rehabilitated.

F. OTHER STUDIES

38

Investment opportunities in Samangan province: a feasibility study

Abdullahel Hadi

This study explores the viable investment opportunities in the province of Samangan in the North-central region of Afghanistan. Several promising sectors for income generation such as weaving (rag and carpet making, etc.), farming (nursery, agriculture, livestock raising and vegetable cultivation), small trading (tailoring, bakery, restaurant, vendors, etc.) and transportation (auto-rickshaw, donkey and horse driven carts) are identified. The investment opportunities are presented in three broad categories such as microfinance programme, small enterprise programme and large financial investment programme based on the size of the capital and the management of the project. Several risk factors are also identified for investment such as inadequate sup-

ply of inputs, poor capacity in processing and marketing, absence of commercial transaction (such as banking), limited institutional support from the government and poor transportation system. The study suggests that the Afghan government and the provincial authority should take several measures to attract investors in Samangan. These are establishment of secured institution for smooth and prompt transfer of money, development of skilled manpower and the promotion of backward and forward linkages to ensure the routine supply of inputs and marketing the products in Samangan and beyond.

39

Assessment of BRAC Local Representatives' workshop and activities

Lammia Sharmin, MM Kabir, RN Yasmin, N Imam and A Khan

The study aimed at evaluating the BRAC Local Representative (BLR) workshops and the assessment of BLRs' activities. The assessment included inter-programme coordination meetings and government coordination meetings. The study assessed 12 workshops attended by 441 BLRs. Although the workshops were facilitated by BRAC TARC in-charges suffered from time constraints. In many cases the BLRs' activity schedules could not be maintained for many reasons like work overload of the staff. In most cases the local government authorities were positive about the performance of BLRs. The study recognized the importance of BLRs but proposed for a changed format for them.

Glossary

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante-natal Care
ANTRIEP	Asian Network of Training and Research Institutions in Education Planning
AO	Area Office
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCDM	BRAC Centre for Development Management
BDP	BRAC Development Programme
BEOC	Basic Education for Older Children
BEP	BRAC Education Programme
BHC	BRAC Health Centre (<i>Shushasthya</i>)
BHEW	Bangladesh Health Equity Watch
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BLR	BRAC Local Representative
BU	BRAC University
CAMPE	Campaign for Popular Education
CAPGAN	Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
CFPR/TUP	Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction - Targeting the Ultra Poor
CFS	Complementary Food Supplement
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CKMC	Community-based Kangaroo Mother Care
CLC	Community Learning Centres
CNC	Community Nutrition Centres
CNP	Community Nutrition Promoters
CSW	Commercial Sex Workers
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHC	Essential Healthcare
ERG	Economic Research Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GO	Government
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GQAL	Gender Quality Action Learning
GSC	<i>Gram Shahayak</i> Committee

HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HNPP	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme
HSPI	Health Strategy and Policy Institute, Vietnam
IAS	Impact Assessment Study
ICDDR,B	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
IDA	Iron Deficiency Anaemia
IDRC	International Development Research Centre, Canada
IFA	Iron Folic Acid
IGVGD	Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development
INDEPTH	International Network of field sites for continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health in developing countries
IPSU	Institute of Policy Support Unit
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAP	Knowledge, attitude and practice
LBW	Low Birth Weight
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
MHI	Micro Health Insurance
MMP	Mini Power Plant
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest, GoB
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoB
MWM	Medical Waste Management
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NFPE	Non-formal Primary Education
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NNP	National Nutrition Programme
NORAD	The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NOVIB	The Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation
PHC	Primary Healthcare
PHILL	Primary Healthcare in Later Life
PO	Programme Organizer
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
QoL	Quality of Care
RCC	Rajshahi City Corporation
RED	Research and Evaluation Division
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SAB	Solidarité Afghanistan Belgium
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SS	<i>Shasthya Shebika</i> (Female Village Health Volunteer)
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TARC	Training and Resource Centre (BRAC)
TB	Tuberculosis
ToT	Training of Trainers
TUP	Targeting the Ultra Poor
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UP	Union Parishad
<i>Upazila</i>	Sub-district - an unit of the GoB administration
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Vitamin A Capsule
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VO	Village Organization
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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BRAC ANNUAL REPORT 2006 RESEARCH

BRAC ANNUAL
REPORT 2006

RESEARCH

Editor:

Hasan Shareef Ahmed

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May 2007

Publisher:

BRAC

BRAC Centre

75 Mohakhali

Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

E-mail: research@brac.net

Fax: 880-2-8823542, 8823614

Telephones: 9881265, 8824051, 8824180-87

Website: www.bracresearch.org

Printing and publication:

Altamas Pasha

Cover design and layout:

Md. Abdur Razzaque

Photo credits:

Nasima Akter p14, 21, 22

Hasan Shareef Ahmed p 6, 7, 8

BRAC p 9, 11, 13

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BRAC/RED publishes research reports, scientific papers, monographs, working papers, research compendium in Bangla (Nirjash), proceedings, manuals, and other publications on subjects relating to poverty, social development, health, nutrition, education, gender, and environment.

Printed by BRAC Printers at Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division (RED) is a prime example of the importance BRAC accords to evidence based learning. Indeed the central principle of BRAC as a 'learning organization' is that it learns as it goes- through interactions with its programme participants, and from continuous monitoring, research and evaluation. Learning and innovation, I like to think, are part of BRAC's organizational culture.

RED was set up as an independent entity within the framework of BRAC in 1975 to provide analytical support to BRAC's programmes. Over the last 30 years, RED has evolved from a small unit to a full fledged division with over 50 researchers drawn from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. RED has mirrored the growth in the diversity of BRAC's programmes. It has also done more. It has also highlighted new needs and provided the analytical basis for new approaches. BRAC's special programme for the ultra poor that we started since 2002 is a good example of such a contribution. RED has formed knowledge partnerships to provide the basis for evidence based dialogue on a number of key national development issues in education, health and recently governance.

The year 2006 has been a landmark year for BRAC. By expanding our work to alleviate poverty and empower the poor in several countries in Africa, in addition to Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, we have firmly established our commitment to being an international development NGO. RED will have to find ways to serve the needs of this expanded and enriched milieu of BRAC. This will present exciting opportunities and new challenges. I am confident that RED will be able to use its experiences, capacities and commitment to deliver on this new agenda.

I congratulate all RED members for their hard work and commitment in playing its role in ensuring that BRAC's development work remains effective and relevant in improving the lives of the poor. I look forward to RED taking on new challenges with renewed enthusiasm in the coming years.

With warm regards,

F H Abed
Founder and Chairperson
BRAC



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

We ended 2006 with two exciting events. The first was an international conference that brought together over 200 researchers, practitioners and policy actors from over 20 countries to share ideas and experiences of different approaches to tackle extreme poverty. The conference titled 'What Works for the Poorest? Knowledge, Policies and Practices' was jointly convened by BRAC, Chronic Poverty Research Centre Partnership and Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester sponsored by the Aga Khan Foundation, Canada, CIDA and DFID. This conference was of particular importance and relevance for BRAC, given that 2006 marked the first five years of its innovative programme for the ultra poor. It provided BRAC with renewed inspirations to deepen its work against extreme poverty. The conference has reenergized BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division to engage with knowledge generation on extreme poverty and approaches to tackle it in ways that will speak to a global audience.

This important event was followed by another, the launching of the first State of Governance in Bangladesh Report titled, 'State of Governance in Bangladesh: Knowledge, Perceptions, Reality', a partnership project between BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division and the Centre for Governance Studies of BRAC University. This report provided a comprehensive account of the governance question in the context of Bangladesh, exposing in detail the systemic weaknesses underlying widespread governance failures. This, we hope will be a good beginning for building a comprehensive set of diagnostic assessments and monitorable indicators of governance in Bangladesh, a problem that is widely believed to be holding back Bangladesh in many different fronts. Research into the theme of governance, in particular on the ways in which it affects the poor and poverty, will be an important theme of RED's work in the future.

BRAC started two major new programmes in 2006 in which RED will be involved in providing the research and evaluation support. The first is a programme on maternal, neonatal and child health targeted at the urban poor named MANOSHI and the second is a programme to significantly improve water, sanitation and hygiene status in Bangladesh. Both these programmes are closely linked to several MDG targets in the areas of maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, water and sanitation.

Another important event for RED in 2006 was jointly organizing with the World Bank Bangladesh, a national and two sub-national level dissemination workshops on the 2007 World Development Report titled, 'Development and the Next Generation'. RED also brought out its own research monograph on this issue that drew on a number of its studies on the youth and the adolescents.

RED continued its partnership with several of its long standing partners, such as CAMPE in the annual Education Watch initiative. In 2006, we began the field work for the next Education Watch, the seventh in the series, which will assess curriculum, and learning achievement in secondary education. It will also examine employment opportunities of secondary school graduates. A comparison across different streams of education in these aspects will be a key feature of the report. Research partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children continued in 2006 and several studies in the area of iron deficiency anaemia were carried out. New research partnerships in 2006 have been made with several institutions, which includes, London School of Economics, Institute of Development Studies, ICDDR,B, Columbia University, to name a few.

RED completed a major national level mapping exercise of various small ethnic groups of Bangladesh in 2006 which provides a spatial picture of locations, composition and some selected socio-demographic information on all the small ethnic groups of the country. A physical map and a book from this exercise have been published along with a navigatable CD. This would be an immense resource for the development audience at large, including BRAC which believes in inclusive development.

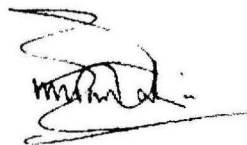
RED needs to speak to a varied audience with its analytical work. It does so through a range of ways, from in-house presentations, to convening and presenting at workshops and conferences, to organizing joint learning workshops at sub-national level for BRAC field staff, to publishing in books, journals, and newspapers extensively. In 2006 alone, RED published 14 research papers in over 10 established peer-reviewed journals and itself brought out eight working papers and five research monographs.

Communicating research is itself a challenge, and for RED there is the more critical challenge of getting research to provide concrete support to practice and influencing thinking for fresh approaches to fighting poverty. In the final analysis, our achievements rest on the extent to which we achieve this objective. To remain relevant and effective, RED will always have to keep its core focus on getting its research to work for improving the practice of doing development. RED will have to find smarter ways of doing research that contributes to all the stages of BRAC's 'feed back loop' in order to sustain the key principles of BRAC as a learning organization.

The biggest and the most exciting challenge that RED faces in the coming years is to be able to keep pace and evolve with the growth in scale and scope of BRAC, whose operations now span across different institutions and countries. The landscape and canvas of RED's operating environment is rapidly changing and transforming to which it needs to be responsive towards. It needs to find new models of engagement, strengthening capacity, leveraging and influencing to move to new heights of its over 30 years' of success in generating knowledge and evidence to improve practice.

I am confident that RED will rise to this brave new challenge.

With warm regards,



Imran Matin
Director

PREFACE

'BRAC Research 2006' is the twentieth annual report of the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC. The salient features of BRAC research conducted in 2006 and the major activities of RED are documented in this report. Established in 1975, as an independent multi-disciplinary research and evaluation unit, RED works within the framework of BRAC.

Abstracts of completed studies and published papers are included in this report. A list of more formal internal and external publications is also included. Copies of these reports and publications are available in the Ayesha Abed Library, BRAC University, 65 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka 1212. A list of acronyms and abbreviations used in this report appears at the end of this report. Readers wishing to make any comments on this report or would like to have copies of this report or more information on RED activities may please contact Director, Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh (e-mail: research@brac.net). This report is also available on the website of BRAC RED (www.bracresearch.org).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) is supported by BRAC's core funds and funds from donor agencies, organizations and governments worldwide. Current major donors of BRAC and RED include Aga Khan Foundation Canada, AusAID, BRAC University, CAF-America, Campaign for Popular Education, Canadian International Development Agency, Columbia University (USA), Danish International Development Agency, DEKA Emergence Energy (USA), Department for International Development (DFID) of UK, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Japan, European Commission, Fidelis France, The Global Fund, Government of Bangladesh, Institute of Development Studies (Sussex, UK), Inter-cooperation Bangladesh, Japan International Cooperation Agency, KATALYST Bangladesh, Land O Lakes (USA), Scojo Foundation Incorporation, NORAD, NOVIB, OXFAM America, Oxford Policy Management Limited, Plan International Bangladesh, The Population Council (USA), Rockefeller Foundation, Rotary International, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Save the Children (UK), Save the Children (USA), SIDA, Stanford Medical, Swiss Development Cooperation, ULG Northumbria (UK), UNDP, UNICEF, University of Manchester (UK), World Bank, World Fish Centre, and the World Food Programme.

RED received wide support and cooperation from all divisions of BRAC, particularly from the field staff and the people of Bangladesh without whose sincere support and patronage no field research could be conducted smoothly. RED also received useful comments, suggestions, and guidance from researchers, reviewers, and editors from within and outside the country, which helped improve the quality of research and research outputs. RED is indebted to BRAC management for its continued support.

INTRODUCING BRAC

“A just, enlightened, healthy and democratic Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all forms of exploitation based on age, sex, religion, and ethnicity.”

BRAC was established just after the liberation of Bangladesh in February 1972 as a relief organization to help rehabilitate the war-affected people of Bangladesh. BRAC works with people whose lives are dominated by extreme poverty, illiteracy, disease, and other handicaps. With multifaceted development interventions, BRAC strives to bring about positive change in the quality of life of the poor people of Bangladesh.

BRAC firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity, and gender equity through poor people's socioeconomic, political and human capacity building. BRAC tries to bring about changes at the national and global level policies on poverty reduction and social progress.

From assisting the war-affected poor people in the quest for reconstruction of Afghanistan BRAC has further expanded its development activities in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, the UK, and the USA.

BRAC has evolved as one of the leading development organizations in the world virtually self-financed employing 95,898 people. Its multifaceted development interventions are extended to 5.31

million households in over 65,000 out of 86,000 villages and 1,716 urban slums in all the 64 districts of Bangladesh.

BRAC Education Programme (BEP) is specially targeted to children of BRAC members who never went to school or dropped out at some point. With special emphasis on girls, BRAC non-formal primary education (NFPE) is for 8-10 years age group and the BEOC (Basic Education for Older Children) model is for 11-14 years age group. The unique feature of BRAC model is that one teacher teaches in one-room school the five-year primary education curriculum in four years by reducing the number of holidays and increasing contact hours. Currently BRAC runs 32,000 non-formal schools with nearly one million students (65% girls) enrolled.

The health, nutrition, and population interventions aim to cater for the health needs of the poor people throughout the country through 68,045 health volunteers known as *Shasthya shebikas*, 37 static health centres called *Shushasthya* (meaning good health) or BRAC Health Centre, and 11,988 community nutrition workers. BRAC works in partnership with the Bangladesh government to implement community-based tuberculosis (TB) control pro-

gramme, malaria control programme, and to develop sustainable programme for promoting safe water, sanitation, and hygienic behaviour.

BRAC also runs a number of social development and advocacy projects and provides legal aid education and services for the poor people like human rights and legal education, staging popular theatre, forming *Pally Samaj* (Rural Society), and help file cases against rape, acid throwing, women trafficking, etc.

BRAC has developed a number of programme support enterprises to support its pro-poor development interventions. These enterprises include eight centres of Ayesha Abed Foundation (handicraft training and production centers), eight Aarong

shops (marketing outlet for rural artisans), an offset printing press, the second largest liquid milk plant in Bangladesh, 57 chilling plants, six poultry farms and hatcheries, three poultry feed mills, 23 seed production centres and two processing plants, a tissue culture laboratory, 15 nurseries, two iodized salt factories, 13 fish and prawn hatcheries, and a bull station for artificial insemination. The other support services include research, training, monitoring and internal audit.

BRAC runs its programmes and activities through 42,693 full-time staff and 53,205 part-time school teachers, spending over Tk. 22.65 billion (US\$ 330 million) in 2006 of which 30% received from various donor agencies and countries.

BRAC at a glance as on 31 December 2006

Staff	42,693
School teachers	53,205
VO members	5.31 million
Loan disbursed to the poor (cumulative)	US\$ 3.72 billion (Tk. 208.4 billion)
VO members' savings (cumulative)	US\$ 155.81 million (Tk. 10.59 billion)
Primary schools	32,000
Pre-primary schools	20,168
Students enrolled in BRAC schools	Nearly 1 million
Community nutrition workers	11,988
BRAC Health Centres (<i>Shushasthya</i>)	37
Training Centres	22
Expenditure in 2006	US\$ 330 million (Tk. 22.65 billion)
Donor support	30%

[Source: BRAC at a glance, Dec 2006]

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION: AN INTRODUCTION

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) was established in 1975 as an independent unit within the framework of BRAC to provide necessary research support to BRAC programmes. Although RED concentrates its activities on BRAC programmes, it also undertakes multi-disciplinary studies on various development issues and subjects of national and global importance. These include poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, agriculture, nutrition, health, population, education, environment, gender, and related fields. It also maintains strong linkages with government organizations, UN bodies, and a number of academic and research institutions at home and abroad.

PROGRAMMATIC RESEARCH

RED's primary mandate is to conduct research on BRAC programmes. RED usually undertakes short-term evaluation studies, longitudinal and impact studies, baseline surveys, and action research. The findings of BRAC research help achieve programme objectives through modifying and/or improving the programme strategies and identifying new programmatic issues. Others also find BRAC research useful for policy and academic purposes. Major studies done in 2006 are highlighted in the following chapter (p9).

COLLABORATIVE AND COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

RED also undertakes research in collaboration with different research institutions/universities around the globe. Most of the collaborative studies are on important development issues with particular focus on developing countries. Some multi-country studies are also underway. In addition, RED also undertakes commissioned research. RED initiated/conducted 18 collaborative and four commissioned researches in 2006. Of these, eight were completed and the rest are ongoing. A list of the collaborative institutions with the respective study/project titles is given below in alphabetical order:

Aga Khan Foundation Canada

BRAC-AKFC learning partnership programme
Imran Matin

Campaign for Popular Education, Dhaka

Secondary education under general and madrasa streams: curriculum, learning achievement and employment opportunities (Education Watch 2007)

AMR Chowdhury, et al.

(Commissioned research)

Centre for Governance Studies, BRAC University

*State of governance in Bangladesh

Naomi Hossain, et al.

Columbia University, USA

- *Targeting low arsenic aquifers for community and private wells in Bangladesh
M Jakariya, et al.

Economic Research Group, Bangladesh

- Alternative approaches to hardcore poverty
Economic Research Unit of RED and Economic Research Group

Emergence Energy Inc., USA

- *Project Emergence
Nasima Akter

Government of Bangladesh, Institution of Policy Support Unit (IPSU) under the Ministry of Environment and Forest

- Public-private partnership model development in medical waste management in Bangladesh

The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada

- Efficacy of Sprinkles and IFA tablets during pregnancy
Nuzhat Choudhury and MM Rahman
(Commissioned research)

- Investigating factors associated with anaemia in infants at 6 months of age in a developing country
Nuzhat Choudhury and Y Shakur

ICDDR,B

- Formative, baseline and operation research on MANOSHI programme of BRAC
Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

- Malaria prevalence survey
Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

INDEPTH Network

- *Non-communicable disease surveillance project
Abdullahel Hadi

London School of Economics, UK

- Improving institutions for pro-poor growth
RED CFPR Research Group

Plan Bangladesh

- Ethnographic study on primary school culture in Bangladesh
Amina Mahbub and SR Nath

Population Council, USA

- *Community-based kangaroo mother care to prevent neonatal and infant mortality
Nancy Sloan, et al.

Programme for Research on Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh, BIDS

- *Popular expectations of government: findings from three areas in Bangladesh
Tariq Ali and N Hossain
(Commissioned research)

Rockefeller Foundation, USA

- Bangladesh health equity watch (jointly with ICDDR,B)
Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

SIDA

- *Arsenic in tubewell water and health consequences
M Jakariya, et al.
(Commissioned research)

UNICEF/PLAN Bangladesh

- *Early childhood development
Syed Masud Ahmed, et al.

University of Calgary, Canada

- Understanding the food provisioning experience of food insecure Bangladeshi women heads of household
L McIntyre, et al.

University of Colorado at Boulder, Brown University and Stanford Medical School of the USA

- Causes and consequences of indoor air pollution: an experimental investigation in Bangladesh
Nasima Akter and MAQ Sarker

University of Manchester, UK

- Chronic and extreme poverty in Bangladesh
Naomi Hossain and Imran Matin

* Already completed

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Since inception RED has produced 1,067 research reports and papers until 31 December 2006. Copies of these reports are available in bound vol-

umes in the Ayesha Abed Library at BRAC University, 65 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka. In 2006 RED initiated 63 new studies and continued 38 studies carried over from the previous years. Of the total 101 studies conducted in 2006, 54 were completed during the year. The abstracts of the completed studies are available in this report (p38) as well as in the RED website. The list of BRAC research reports and papers, some selected publications and this year's annual report are available in the RED website (www.bracresearch.org).

DISSEMINATION

RED disseminates its research findings among its various stakeholders at different levels. The findings of BRAC research are published in prestigious journals worldwide. Sixteen original research papers were published in national and international journals in 2006. Some of the journals that published the findings of BRAC research during the year are (in alphabetical order):

Bangladesh Education Journal
Bulletin of the World Health Organization
Canadian Journal of Development Studies
Development in Practice
International Journal of Ageing in Later Life
Journal of Ageing and Health
Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health
Journal of Neonatology
Participatory Learning and Action
Public Health
Social Science and Medicine

BRAC researchers contributed four books and 10 book chapters during the year. Popular version of some research results were also published in newsletters and newspapers. A list of publications appears on page.

Twenty-eight research papers were presented in various conferences, seminars, and workshops (p31). Summaries of major findings and important activities were also posted on display boards at 19 residential training venues of BRAC all over the country. In 2006, RED arranged 18 in-house seminars to review study proposals and share preliminary findings (p29).

Research compendium

Nirjash - a research compendium in Bangla - is published in lucid language primarily for the field implementers of BRAC programmes at grassroots level. One issue of *Nirjash* was published in 2006. *Nirjash* is also distributed to other NGOs in Bangladesh, concerned government departments, libraries, and media for wider dissemination to share the findings of BRAC research.

Working papers

Eight working papers on CFPR programme were published in 2006 for wider dissemination. Besides, all the previous issues were reprinted for further dissemination.

Newsletter

RED publishes a quarterly newsletter - *RED Update* to keep people updated, both within and outside BRAC, about its ongoing activities and significant achievements. Four issues were published in 2006.

Billboard

RED maintains billboards at all the residential training venues of BRAC scattered all over the country. The billboards are updated frequently with the recent key research findings, publications, and other activities of RED.

Management and finance

The research and dissemination activities at RED are decentralized. Under the overall supervision of the Director discipline-wise research units conduct research under the leadership of Unit Coordinators and Research Coordinators. As of 31 December 2006, RED has 53 researchers, 29 support staff, and 23 project staff, 51% being female. Besides, seven researchers were on study and long leave.

In 2006, RED spent US\$ 447,342 (Tk. 30.71 million), 52% of which came from BRAC's core funds and the remaining raised from external collaborative research, consultancy, and commissioned research projects.

PEOPLE AT RED

RED is composed of different research groups. The number of groups evolve with emerging needs of BRAC and RED. Currently, RED has six research groups.

Economics Research Group

The Economics Research Group composed mainly of economists, does economic analysis of development issues such as poverty, economic empowerment of women, child labour, microfinance and small enterprise development. In the last few years, the group has focused on research on approaches to combat extreme poverty and evaluation of BRAC's programme for the ultra poor.

Current members of the Group include, Mehnaz Rabbani, Mahjabeen Rahman, Munshi Sulaiman (Coordinator), Narayan

Chandra Das, Debdulal Mallick (on study leave), Proloy Barua, Sakiba Tasneem, and Nahleen Zahra.



Education Research Group

During the recent past this Group focused on literacy status, quality of primary and secondary education, and primary school culture in Bangladesh in addition to conducting research on BRAC Education Programme. Current focus is on curriculum of secondary education, Adolescent Development Programme of BRAC, and assessment of BRAC school curriculum. Current group members are Samir Ranjan Nath (Coordinator), Mirja M

Shahjamal (on study leave), M Mahbulul Kabir, Rifat Afroze, Goutam Roy, Sharmina Bashir, Noton Chandra Dutta, Md. Anwar Hossain, and Jui Judith Gomes.



Environment Research Group

The major focus of this Group during the last few years was to conduct environmental evaluation of BRAC's development programmes, operation research on arsenic mitigation and alternative sources of safe drinking water, sanitation, medical waste management, alternative energy for rural people, climate change, and develop environmental awareness of BRAC staff and the community at large through training. Current major focus is on providing research support to BRAC's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programme, and conducting research on indoor air pollution. Current members are Nasima Akter (Coordinator), Mizanur Rahman, Md. Abdul Quaiyum Sarkar, Tanveer M Kamal, Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, Shamim Ahmed, and Md. Mizanur Rahman.



Governance Research Group

Given the emerging recognition of poor governance as a major constraint in the pace of development of Bangladesh, in 2006, RED has set up this Group to conduct research on this issue, with a special focus on governance and poverty. The first project of this Group was to produce the first governance report of Bangladesh titled, 'State of



governance in Bangladesh: knowledge, perceptions and reality', in partnership with BRAC University's Centre for Governance Studies. The Group is currently doing studies on governance of social protection programmes, and crime and insecurity. Current members of the Group include Naomi Hossain (Coordinator), Ferdous Jahan, Niki Banks, Nasheeba Selim, Sheikh Tariquzzaman, Elma Kaiser, Ashrafuzzaman Khan, and Mamun-ur-Rashid. Md. Bayazid Hasan, Mrinmoy Samaddar, Omar Faruq Siddiqi, Md. Moshir Rahman, Halima Akhter Shirin are working in this group as Research Assistants.

Health and Nutrition Research Group

This is a multi-disciplinary group composed of medical doctors, anthropologist, nutritionist, and biostatistician. The main thrust of the group is contributing to the attainment of health and nutrition related MDGs by BRAC programme. Current focus is on maternal, neonatal, and child health, malaria, tuberculosis, health of the poorest, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Current members

are Syed Masud Ahmed (Coordinator), Fazlul Karim, SM Ziauddin Hyder (on leave), Hashima-e-Nasreen, AKM Masud Rana, CSB Jalal (on study leave), Farhana Haseen, Md. Showkat Gani (on study leave), Marufa Aziz Khan, Nuzhat Choudhury, Qazi Shafayetul Islam, Morsheda

Banu, Sarawat Rashid, Mohammad Awlad Hossain, and Mahmuda Akter Sarkar.



Social Development Research Group

The Social Development Research Group is mainly composed of sociologists and anthropologists. Over the years, it has conducted research on a variety of social issues like power structure, stratification system, social problems, social changes, training impact, GO-NGO relationship, group dynamics, etc. The researchers in this group currently include Mohammad Rafi (Coordinator), Md. Hasanur Rahman, Raihana Karim, Md. Abdul Alim, Nuzhat Imam, Md. Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi (on study leave), and NM Rabiul Awal Chowdhury.



In order to provide different types of support to the activities of the various research groups, RED has two teams.

Dissemination Team

The Dissemination Team provides editorial support to RED researchers; produces annual reports, research compendium, news-letters; publishes research reports, monographs, working papers, and proceedings; prepares research reports for dissemination through website; and disseminate RED publications.

Major focus of the recent past was on scanning, proofing, designing and posting of most of the old monographs and working papers in the newly developed RED website (www.bracresearch.org).

Current team members include Hasan Shareef Ahmed (Chief Editor), Altamas Pasha, Md. Abdur Razzaque, and M Akram Hossain.



Field and Data Management Team

This Team is responsible for managing and monitoring field survey, and all aspects of data management. They provide valuable support to researchers in efficiently and timely conducting large-scale data collection. The team members are Syed Suaib Ahmed (Coordinator), Farid Ahmed, Nazimuddin, Aroj Ali Joarder, Swapan Deb Roy,

Md. Shahidul Islam, Masud Ahmed, Nargish Akter, Nurtaj Begum, Sukamal Chakma, Jasimul Islam, Moshiul Azam Minto, Md. Arafat Uddin Shahin, and Lutfun Nahar Shamima.

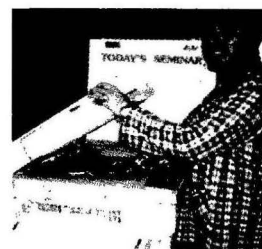


Abdul Mannan Miah is RED's administrative officer providing all sorts of logistics support to RED staff



and management, maintaining office record and files, handling internal and overseas travel, ensuring uninterrupted flow of supplies, and maintaining liaison with other departments of BRAC.

RED's Office Assistant, Md. Firoz Khan, who does all the photocopying, making preparations for our endless cups of tea and coffee, giving us that welcome break during seminars and meetings with tea and singaras, and most of the running around to keep us going.



And then on a lighter note, RED has its Director, Imran Matin, and no one is quite sure what exactly he does, but he seems to be quite busy.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIOECONOMIC RESEARCH

State of governance in Bangladesh 2006

The State of Governance in Bangladesh project, a joint research collaboration between BRAC RED and BRAC University's Centre for Governance Studies, has launched its first report titled 'The state of governance in Bangladesh 2006: knowledge, perceptions, reality' on 14 December 2006. The project aims to enter in the debate on governance in Bangladesh by examining the evidence and analysis of the governance issues. In particular, it intends to assess changes in governance over time. This report is the first of an annual series designed to monitor the governance situation in Bangladesh. It reviews extensive literature

and evidence on governance and presents findings of targeted primary research to provide a foundation for further empirical governance research and analysis.

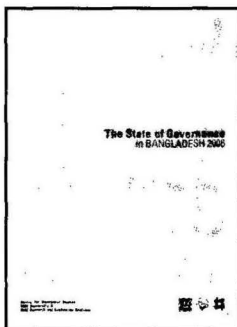
Health and education facility performance: a qualitative study

A qualitative study of health and education facility performance (with Oxford Policy Management),

contributing to the DFID-funded public expenditure tracking surveys, was done. This included in-depth studies of governance, management and service delivery in 27 schools and health facilities, as well as relevant officials up to district level.

Research on livelihoods of the extreme poor

RED conducted series of studies around the concept and BRAC's approaches of dealing with extreme poverty. Several studies were completed to assess the impact of BRAC's CFPR/ TUP programme from different dimensions. The study based on the 2002-2005 panel data demonstrated the improvement made by the programme in the livelihoods of the specially targeted ultra poor (STUP). Self-perceived changes and community-based assessment also confirmed the livelihood improvements. A separate study looked at the pattern and

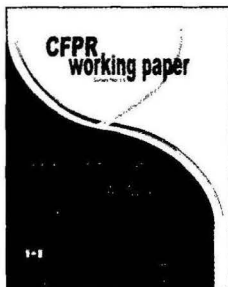


A member of the CFPR/TUP programme engaged in trading of rice

quality of microfinance engagement of the 'graduated' ultra poor households.

Study on relative poverty of BDP ultra poor

The BDP ultra poor, a specially targeted group of BRAC's programme for the ultra poor (CFPR), are relatively poorer than BRAC's village organization (VO) members and non-VO members, with 46% of them in the poorest quartile compared to 26% of other VO members. This study also identified that the BDP ultra poor can be further differentiated on the basis of previous microfinance participation - the poorest of them never participated while those currently participating are much better-off. This raises the question of differentiating the current standard BDP ultra poor package.



Social capital and economic well-being

The fundamental importance of social capital in economic development is repeatedly being underscored. A study looked at the influence of social capital on economic well-being. Though social capital proved to have significant impact on economic life, it was observed that it takes relatively longer time to build social capital for the ultra poor.

Baseline survey of GQAL programme

This study aims to find out the pre-GQAL (Gender Quality Action Learning) gender perception and attitude towards gender relations of villagers. A survey was conducted in eight *upazilas* of Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts on a sample of 803 respondents. The study covered different themes of general perception, discrimination, empowerment, violence against women and marriage. The findings indicate that the knowledge of the respondents about nutrition, education, age of voting and marriage, are satisfactory. The gender perception of both male and female are influenced by patriarchal norms prevalent in rural areas. Although the respondents show more favourable attitude

towards gender discrimination and marriage related issues, the attitude towards gender roles in society is comparatively less positive. The study further illustrates that the level of education, and to a lesser extent, economic background are the primary determinants in shaping gender attitude and perception, while age and NGO membership do not appear to have much impact on views of gender equality.

BRAC's Livelihood Support Programme in Sri Lanka evaluated

BRAC Sri Lanka started rehabilitation and livelihood support programme in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka after the devastating Tsunami of December 2004. The evaluation intended to see whether programme participation has any influence on the income and assets of the beneficiaries. Using length of participation as a proxy for programme impact, we found strong influence of the programme on income and asset of the beneficiaries who have received grant. However, the impact of loan is not as pronounced as grants. It is probably too early to see the impact of microfinance, which started at the end of 2005.

Small ethnic groups of Bangladesh: a mapping exercise

How many small ethnic groups reside in Bangladesh was not known until a census of small ethnic groups of Bangladesh was done recently by BRAC RED. But unconventionally it is of the households rather than of the individuals as done in the case of census. The study found exact number of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh, estimated their size and identified their locations, and gathered selected information on demographic, educational, and socioeconomic status of these groups. The data set and associated maps are available in a compact disc.



The motivations behind practice of dowry

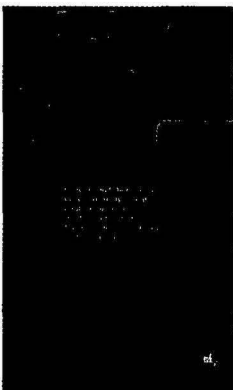
This study aimed to know more about why people continue the practice of dowry - a social problem in

Bangladesh. It gives an overview of the transactions connected to wedding and divorce before it explores the motivations people have for giving and taking dowry. It is discussed how this rationality meets the rationality of the government and NGOs in the local interpretation and use of legislation and in the use of microcredit. Security was found to be the main motivation for giving dowry. A paid dowry gives a hope that the daughter will be treated well in her in-law's house. Because dowry is connected to mohr, it also gives a security in case of divorce. However, a paid dowry does not give women entitlements towards her in-laws, only a hope that they will treat her well. Also, women's entitlement to mohr depends on payment of dowry as well as her performance as a wife. Men, on the other hand, are perceived as having unquestioned entitlement to dowry. This imbalance is seen as being connected to a perception of women as being vulnerable to physical and social risk as well as representing a threat to their family and community. Instead of targeting dowry directly, advocacy efforts would gain from targeting the causes behind the motivations for practicing dowry. Reducing the risk factors that make married status and dowry crucial for women is a way to combat the practice. One way to do this is by implementing livelihood programmes for adolescent girls. The prevailing gender ideology has to be challenged systematically among both girls and boys from early age.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Study on tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is globally labeled as a disease of the poor. In fact, not only the poor are more vulnerable to the disease because of their living conditions, they are also plunged deeper into poverty as a consequence of TB. A person with TB loses, on average, 20-30% of annual household income due to illness. Women's condition with TB is even worse. But standard screening norms may cause more women than men with



TB to be missed. Women appeared to be less likely than men to present with symptoms of TB or positive sputum test and treatment initiation. But the factors responsible for socioeconomic and gender differences in TB and its treatment using DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) are not systematically researched in Bangladesh. Thus, this study explored the extent of socioeconomic and gender variations in the prevalence of smear-positive pulmonary TB, help-seeking behaviour, and accessing the DOTS services in rural Bangladesh.



Health awareness of community people is being developed by BRAC Health Programme through regular courtyard meeting with the VO members called Health Education Forum

Formative research on MANOSHI programme

BRAC's MANOSHI programme was launched in November 2006 to reduce death and illness among mothers, newborns, and children in urban slums in Bangladesh through the development and delivery of an integrated community-based package of essential health services. MANOSHI is the Bangla abbreviation of mother, newborn and child. The research support to the programme will be provided jointly by BRAC RED and ICDDR,B. As a preliminary activity, formative research on certain priority issues such as current pregnancy and newborn practices and felt need for services, mapping of services available, exploration of the newly started "birthing hut", characteristics of the slum community, etc. have been started. Besides, detailed research agenda have been finalized incorporating impact surveys, operations research, cost analysis, and process documentation.

The intervention phase of the pilot project on 'Capacity development of the unqualified/semi-qualified allopathic healthcare providers

A recent study conducted in the CFPR/TUP areas of the first phase has shown that the sales people at drug retail outlets and the village doctors (*Palli chik-itsak*) are one of the major sources of allopathic healthcare for the poor and the disadvantaged people in Bangladesh, besides community health workers/volunteers (CHW/CHV) (Ahmed 2006). As a follow-up of this finding, a pilot research project was undertaken to improve the quality of care provided by the above-mentioned categories of providers. The participatory training intervention began in September 2006 in Domar *upazila* of Nilphamari district. Pre-training activities included an inventory of the informal providers, a survey on their current knowledge and practices, and need assessment workshops. A comprehensive training package was developed. The six modules of the training package are: i) Fever and rational use of drugs (reducing misuse/overuse of drugs), adverse drug reaction and pharmaceutical care; ii) Diarrhoea, dysentery and digestive problems; iii) Pain and body aches (rheumatism); iv) Pneumonia/ARI in children; v) Reproductive health, RTI/STI/ and HIV/AIDS; and vi) Food, nutrition, and healthy life style. The sessions were fully participatory. The training manual of the respective topic was distributed among the participants after completing the sessions. Some other IEC materials such as leaflet, poster, etc. were also given

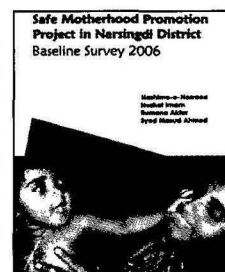


Village doctors are transcribing their practices on managing common illnesses into a sheet during a participatory training under the pilot project 'Capacity development of unqualified and semi-qualified healthcare providers in CFPR/TUP areas' implementing in Domar *upazila* of Nilphamari district

as reference material. Modest monetary incentives including actual travel cost and daily allowance were provided to the trainees. It is also expected that the participants who would successfully complete all the sessions would be awarded certificates. The first phase (fever; rationale use of drugs and medicine dispensing) and the second phase (diarrhoea, dysentery and gastric ulcer) of the training were completed in December 2006.

Safe Motherhood Promotion Project in Narsingdi district: baseline survey 2006

Keeping pace with the national strategies for improving maternal, neonatal and child health, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) initiated a 4-year Safe Motherhood Promotion Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) in Narsingdi district in July 2006. Before starting the intervention programme, a baseline survey was done to record benchmark information on different aspects of safe motherhood situation in the area. This population-based descriptive study collected data from three randomly selected *upazilas* of Narsingdi district using both quantitative and qualitative methods. A total of 1,049 respondents, comprising currently pregnant women and mothers of under-one children were sampled from 7,000 households.



The study reveals that there is little difference in staffing, equipment and services among government health facilities at different level. None, even the district hospital, is able to provide emergency obstetric care. In general, the quality of maternal and child health services in government hospital is poor. The major problems encountered at the service delivery points include vacant posts; staff absenteeism; shortage of competent staff trained to manage obstetric complication, lack of furniture, equipment and supplies; lack of good record-keeping system; lack of commitment of health providers; and absence of systematic referral system. The other barriers identified in using government health facilities are health brokers and very high out-of-pocket expenditure.

Follow-up of pregnant women: a prospective longitudinal study

A prospective longitudinal study has been initiated with 32 pregnant women in Domar *upazila* of Nilphamari district under BRAC MNCH (Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health) interventions since December 2006. The pregnant women will be followed-up for 42 days after delivery to examine their practices regarding nutrition, resting, immunization, ante-natal care, delivery care, post-natal care, neonatal care, and care-seeking behaviour if any complication arises. A detailed anthropological analysis will be made in daily lifestyle of pregnant and lactating mothers, ante-natal, post-natal and neonatal care, process of safe delivery, and referral. The study will also help analyze the roles and competencies of *Shasthya shebikas*, *Shasthya karmis*, programme organizers, and traditional birth attendants in providing MNCH services for safe motherhood promotion in rural Bangladesh. To see the geographical variation, the study will be extended in Jaldhaka *upazila* of Nilphamari district in February 2007.

Study on food supplementation

A study was done to explore the management process of food supplementation procedure of the National Nutrition Project (NNP) in BRAC-operated *upazilas*. Enrolled and non-enrolled mothers and children, and the community nutrition promoters of 20 community nutrition centres from Narsingdi and Laxmipur sadar *upazilas* were included. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. The findings show that there were discrepancies in the selection process of the food supplementation programme in BRAC NNP, which is related with weight and height records as well as BMI calculation. Foods were not prepared in hygienic condition. Some errors were also found in weight and quality of the ingredients of the food supplementation packets.

EDUCATION

Education Watch 2007

The 7th *Education Watch* aims to assess curriculum, learning achievement and employment opportuni-

ties in secondary education with special focus on comparison between general and madrasa streams. A pilot study is underway. The national survey held in August included achievement test of 3,000 pupils of class X and tracing 3,000 secondary graduates of 1996 from government schools, non-government schools, combined school and colleges, and *Dakhil* and *Alim* madrasas. The study is in progress.



Inside a BRAC non-formal primary school

Competencies achievement of BRAC primary school students

Under a broader aim of exploring the quality of BRAC Education Programme (BEP), this study examined the level of competency achievement of the BRAC primary school students graduated in 2005. Randomly selected 5,946 students (65% girls) from 298 schools under 150 BEP programme areas were sampled for the test. In addition, background information of the students, schools, teachers, programme organizers, and area managers were collected. In general, the students did very well in the test with an average achievement of 22.7 competencies, and 10% of the students achieved all the 27 competencies of the test. Proportion of contents in the textbooks taught in the classes, duration of attachment of programme organizers with the schools, experience of area managers, and religion of the students came out as significant predictors of performance of the schools.

Study on the training of English language teachers

The PACE programme of BRAC offers training course for the English language teachers of rural

non-governmental high schools to enhance their capacity in implementing the newly revised curriculum. RED has conducted a study to see the effectiveness of this training and how the teachers apply their newly acquired knowledge in teaching English language in their schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

WASH research

'BRAC Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Programme: Attaining the MDG 2015 Target on Water and Sanitation in Bangladesh' aims to facilitate, in partnership with the government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders, the attainment of the relevant MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) especially for underprivileged people in rural Bangladesh and thereby improve their health situation and enhance equitable development. The programme will ensure that 17.6 million people of over 150 *upazilas* have access to sanitation services that are effectively used, including consistent hygiene practices. In addition to this, more than 8.5 million people will be provided with safe water supply services. RED has developed a multi-disciplinary research team for WASH. The responsibility of the WASH research team is to provide research support to improve the programme and maintain its relevance in addressing challenges of 100% WASH practices in the community. It also aims to deliver on the broader intellectual challenge of developing a better understanding of hygiene behaviour and safe water and sanitation practices in Bangladesh.



Low-cost water-sealed sanitary latrine, made of rings and slab, are being provided in the rural areas of 150 *upazilas* under the WASH programme of BRAC

Experimental investigation of indoor air pollution related to cooking fuel and cook stove in rural Bangladesh

Environmental research unit is conducting a study on the causes and consequences of indoor air pollution in Bangladesh in collaboration with University of Colorado at Boulder, Brown University and Stanford Medical School of the USA. The study aims to address the deficiencies in existing knowledge and to provide relevant information to policy-makers. We proposed to carry out a series of random-



A village woman is seen cooking with improved cook stove in Faucal village of Gazipur district

ized interventions in rural Bangladesh to understand a) the constraints that force rural households to rely on potentially harmful solid fuels for cooking, and b) the health and socioeconomic consequences of those decisions. The specific aim of this project is to build new policy relevant scientific evidence on three research questions: i) What is the causal impact of biomass combustion on respiratory health? ii) What are the socioeconomic consequences of biomass combustion? and iii) Why do households use biomass combustion as their primary energy source?

Public-private partnership model development in medical waste management in Bangladesh

BRAC in collaboration with Institution of Policy Support Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (IPSU-MoEF), government of Bangladesh has developed a model of public-private partnership for medical waste management (MWM) in Bangladesh.

The pilot model was implemented in Rajshahi City Corporation area to build a coordination and partnership with all relevant stakeholders since 2005. This was done to assist the government to formulate and implement environmental guidelines for healthcare facilities. It was expected that after successful completion of this project this model would be replicated all over the country by the government and BRAC or other development partners. A baseline study, the pilot implementation of MWM system, and the mid-term evaluation were done. Final evaluation will be done after discussion with all the stakeholders and policy-makers.

DISSEMINATION

International conference on extreme poverty

An international conference on extreme poverty titled 'What works for the poorest: knowledge, policies and practices' was held at BRAC Centre, Dhaka during 2-5 December 2006. The conference was jointly convened by BRAC, Chronic Poverty Research Centre, and the Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester, UK. The aim of the conference was to enable greater global understanding of various dimensions and dynamics of extreme poverty, and share the experiences of different policies and practices that have the promise of defeating extreme poverty. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder and chairperson of BRAC, while Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, the then Finance and Planning Advisor of the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh attended as chief guest. A total of 265 researchers, academics, and practitioners working on poverty from 13 countries participated in the conference. The conference was funded by CIDA as a part of the BRAC-AKFC Learning Partnership Project for CFPR/ TUP and DFID.

Workshop on assessing primary competencies

RED organized a workshop on assessing primary competencies of the students during 23-26 November 2006. Competencies related to Bangla and English languages and mathematics were the main focus of the workshop. Four experts on various fields of education Prof. Nazmul Haq, Prof.

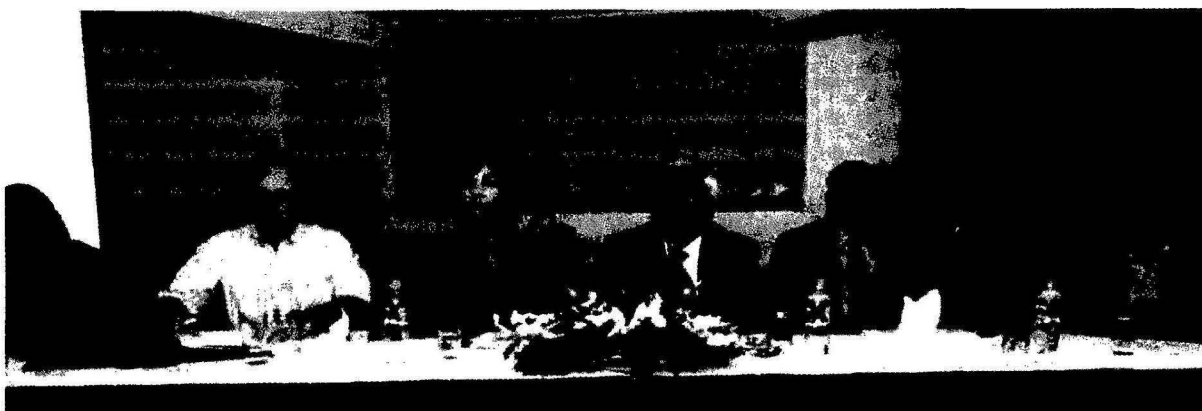
Shamsul Haque, Ms. Shamoly Akbar, and Mr. Ruhul Amin facilitated the workshop. Eighteen participants from BRAC attended the workshop. Following the workshop, RED researchers have initiated some in-depth work on competencies assessment at primary level.

Dissemination of World Development Report 2007

The World Bank and BRAC jointly convened a seminar to disseminate the World Development Report 2007 titled 'Development and the next generation'. This report focuses on youth – the crucial capabilities and transitions in a young person's life: learning for life and work, staying healthy, working, forming families, and exercising citizenship. In this seminar RED also disseminated one of its latest research monograph titled 'Adolescents and youths in Bangladesh: some selected issues'. This monograph brings together a number of primary research findings of BRAC focusing on some selected issues that will help understand the aid policies and practices to improve the lives and livelihoods of the adolescents and youths of Bangladesh.

RED joint learning workshops at field level

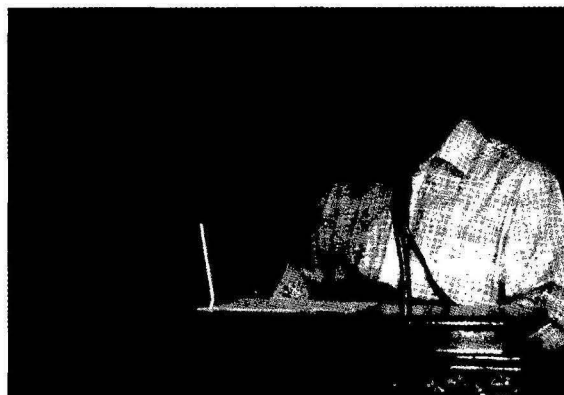
RED organized three day-long Joint Learning Workshops at BRAC TARC at Faridpur, Jessore and Barisal on 16, 17 and 19 January 2006 respectively to share/disseminate the findings of some of the recent research conducted at RED. Different levels of field staff of BRAC core programmes participated in these workshops. The findings were presented in the first half of the workshop followed by discussion. The second half of the workshop concentrated on open discussion on an acute local problem of national importance that might have adverse effect on BRAC development interventions. The subject matter of open discussion was selected by the audience unanimously through discussion. This helps understand the local problems from the perspective of BRAC field staff and explore new areas of research that need immediate attention in the interest of BRAC programmes. The outcome of these workshops was disseminated both within and outside BRAC through *Nirjash*, the research compendium of BRAC in Bangla.



Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC (3rd from right) chaired the inaugural session of the international conference on extreme poverty entitled 'What works for the poorest? Knowledge, policies and practices' held in Dhaka during 2-5 December 2006. Other dignitaries sitting on the podium are (L-R) Dr. Imran Matin, Director, Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC, Professor David Hulme of Chronic Poverty Research Centre, UK, Ms. Barbara Richardson, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, former Advisor of the then Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, and Professor Ravi Kanbur of Cornell University, USA



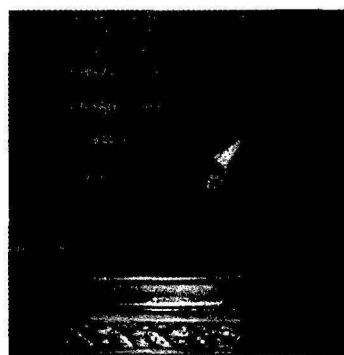
Poster session and display of publications and other communication materials during the conference



Professor Ravi Kanbur of Cornell University, USA presents the keynote speech at the conference



Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC delivering his inaugural speech at the opening session of the conference



Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, former Advisor of the then Caretaker Government of Bangladesh delivers speech as the chief guest

Presentation at CAPGAN

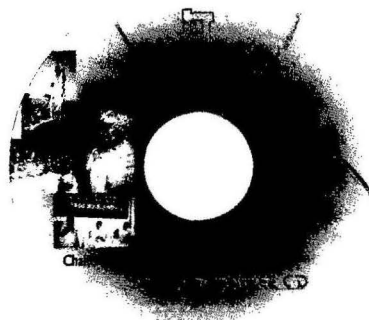
Six papers on nutrition-related research of RED were presented at the '8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition' held on 6-8 February 2006 at ICDDR,B, Dhaka. The theme of the congress was 'Combating malnutrition and intestinal diseases in children: are we doing enough?' The congress was organized by ICDDR,B: Centre for Health and Population Research.

Environment Day Fair

RED participated in the World Environment Day Fair 2006 in Dhaka on 5-7 June 2006. The World Environment Day theme for 2006 was *Deserts and Desertification* and the slogan was *Don't Desert Drylands!* The slogan emphasizes the importance of protecting drylands, which cover more than 40% of the planet's surface. This ecosystem is home to one-third of the world's people who are more vulnerable members of society. BRAC exhibited its environment-related activities and publications on environmental education and research.

Resource CD on CFPR/TUP programme

RED has developed a resource CD that includes the half yearly progress reports, research outputs and a video on CFPR/TUP programme. The design of the CD allows updating which RED will be doing in the subsequent versions of the CD. The CDs were distributed during the BRAC-DFID organized workshop on 'Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh' attended by over 80 participants.



ONGOING STUDIES

ECONOMIC STUDIES

Alternative approaches to hardcore poverty *Economic Research Unit of RED and Economic Research Group*

Analysis in collaboration with the Economic Research Group on 'Comparing Alternative Approaches to Address Hardcore Poverty' is progressing. In the series of this collaborative work, a detailed mapping of NGO activities addressing different aspects of vulnerability was done.

Chronic and extreme poverty in Bangladesh *Naomi Hossain and I Matin*

A collaborative research project on chronic and extreme poverty in Bangladesh is going on with the Institute of Development Policy and Management of the University of Manchester, UK. The types of studies that are going to be carried out are governance of social protection and safety net programmes in Bangladesh, exploratory study on various dimensions and dynamics of urban poverty, and building up web resource on chronic and extreme poverty.

CFPR/TUP impact: do different estimation techniques tell different stories? *Munshi Sulaiman*

There is a general understanding on the level of impact of the CFPR/TUP programme on the livelihood of the beneficiaries. However, the impact

assessments done so far rely solely on 'Difference in difference' method. Based on the 2002-2005 panel data collected for impact evaluation, this study will use different estimation techniques (viz. propensity score matching, instrumental variable, fixed effect analysis, heckit model) to calculate programme impact on beneficiaries' income.

CFPR/TUP programme and the child labour scenario *Sakiba Tasneem*

A large portion of ultra poverty is intergenerational in nature. Inability to invest in education and reliance on child labour for livelihood are common concerns. Reliance on child labour is one of the selection criteria of the CFPR/TUP programme. This study will give a baseline scenario on child labour and a follow-up study is intended to see the dynamics.

Estimation of supply side costs for the 'MANOSHI' project *Mahjabeen Rahman, E Oliveras, J Ahmed and Z Islam*

This intends to estimate the supply side costs faced by BRAC for delivering healthcare services and other services (i.e. community mobilization, health education, any innovative intervention, etc) under the 'MANOSHI' project to the urban poor living in slums. It also intends to figure out the per-head (or per-patient) expenditure for BRAC and investigate factors that affect the cost of service delivery.

Health and labour market participation: how does it matter for adolescents in Bangladesh

Mahjabeen Rahman

This paper attempts to identify inequality among the health status of adolescents in Bangladesh and determinants of health, considering various environmental, behavioural and economic factors. It also presents an overview of the different types of occupations/professions that employ adolescents in Bangladesh and the health inequality by occupation, along with demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of adolescents and their households.

An impact assessment of the BDP ultra poor programme

Proloy Barua and M Sulaiman

The study is intended to reflect on the impact of the BDP ultra poor programme. The key dimensions that this study is looking at are the quality of microfinance participation of the beneficiaries, influence of this participation on the likelihood of availing the other services that BRAC provides and the usefulness of the enterprise development training.

Improving institutions for pro-poor growth

London School of Economics and RED/TUP Research Team

A collaborative research on extreme poor is initiated with London School of Economics. A randomized evaluation of the STUP programme will be conducted. The five-year long collaboration will also relate the impact of STUP programme with the national storyline of poverty.

Incentive mechanism of *Shasthya shebikas* in Nilphamari: an economic perspective

Mahjabeen Rahman, S Tasneem and SM Ahmed

Though voluntary work is the main slogan of the *Shasthya shebikas*, this study intends to look at the economic incentives of their work and the determinants of income from the activity. It will also investigate whether there is any trade-off or synergy between their two types of activities i.e. awareness raising and sale of health commodities.

EDUCATION STUDIES

Achievement of competencies of primary graduates: a comparison of government and BRAC schools

Goutam Roy, A Hossain and SR Nath

Using the test instrument developed under Education Watch in 2000 this study looks at the learning achievement of the students completing primary education in BRAC and government primary schools. Six hundred students from 30 schools of each type were brought under study. This is the second such comparison after Education Watch 2000.

BRAC school curriculum: reflection of primary competencies and pupils skills in language and mathematics

Samir Ranjan Nath, et al.

This diagnostic study looks at the primary curriculum of BRAC in the light of the competencies supposed to be addressed at primary level. Three basic subjects viz., Bangla, English and mathematics are brought under this study. Review of curriculum and testing the pupils' learning achievement at various classes are two major parts of this study.

A comparative look into a government and a BRAC primary school

Sharmina Bashir

This study compares overall operational system of two primary schools of two different types - the government and the BRAC. Investigation was done using qualitative research method. This study would provide insights into these schools.

Continuation and performance of BRAC primary school graduates in secondary schools

Samir Ranjan Nath and A Hossain

This longitudinal study is expected to trace the BRAC primary school graduates of 1995 in the secondary schools for next five years or more. Six thousand graduates from 300 BRAC primary schools were sampled for this. It would basically provide information on BRAC school graduates'

continuation in secondary schools and their performance.

Effect of PACE-mathematics training on mathematics teachers of rural secondary schools

M Mahbubul Kabir, G Roy and SK Dhali

Mathematics teachers of the rural non-government secondary schools are trained under PACE programme of BEP. The aim of this study is to see how effective is the training course in improving classroom practice and students' learning achievement.

Empowerment of adolescent: impact assessment of Adolescent Development Programme

M Mahbubul Kabir and R Afroze

The adolescent development programme of BRAC aims to improve the quality of life of the adolescents, especially the vulnerable girls. This research intends to assess the impact of intervention on the target group. Comparing the data collected under the study with the national data of Bangladesh Adolescent Survey 2005, various interventions of the programme will be assessed.

An ethnographic study on primary school culture in Bangladesh

Samir Ranjan Nath and A Mahbub

This is a joint study with Plan Bangladesh. It looks into two issues in four B grade government schools - school culture and effect of NGO intervention. Eight month long ethnography was done in each school. The report is being prepared.

Impact of education on the lives of BRAC school graduates

Samer Al Samarai, et al.

This study looks at livelihood outcome of BRAC school programme. Three cohorts of graduates (graduated in 1995, 2000 and 2002) are expected to be brought under surveillance for five years. This longitudinal study would provide valuable information and analysis of expanded outcome of educational intervention.

Secondary education under general and madrasa streams: curriculum, learning achievement and

employment opportunities (Education Watch 2007)

AMR Chowdhury, et al.

This is the second study on secondary education under Education Watch initiative. A comparative analysis of secondary curriculum and learning achievement of the students of two major streams viz., general and madrasa is the aim of this study. Besides, employment opportunities of the secondary graduates of these two streams are also being explored.

A study on partnership programme with the government primary schools

Samir Ranjan Nath, et al.

Along with operating its own schools, BRAC provides training support to the government and non-government schools in some upazilas. This study looks at what changes it made in these schools after BRAC intervention at student, teacher and management levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Assessment of existing improved cook stove (ICS) in Bangladesh

MA Quaiyum Sarkar, N Akter and M Rahman

This study aims to know which type of ICS people accept more. Specific objectives are to know i) what fuels are being used in improved cook stove; ii) what types of ICS are being used and preferred; iii) the satisfaction level of the users of ICS; and iv) select some models of ICS that will be recommended for further experimentation.

Assessment of selected improved cook stoves (ICS) in laboratory set up

Nasima Akter, MAQ Sarkar and the team

The laboratory experiment of four selected ICSs and two traditional cook stoves will be done to assess the efficiency of those stoves in terms of fuel consumption, cooking time, pollution emission, exposure level (selected pollutants), etc. Based on this experiment two most efficient stoves will be selected for intervention of 'Experimental investiga-

tion of indoor air pollution related to cooking fuel and cook stove in rural Bangladesh'.

Baseline survey of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme

Nasima Akter, KFB Seraj, M Rahman, MAQ Sarkar, TM Kamal and SM Ahmed

This survey is designed to provide background data and insights at the household level for evolving suitable strategies for the programme, and to assess the effectiveness and success of the WASH programme in future. The objectives of this study can be categorized in three broader fields: a) to find out the percentage of people/area under safe water and sanitation coverage (direct household coverage and institutes); to find out the status and access of water sources, different type of latrines and defecation practices; b) to assess existing knowledge, attitude and practice of hygiene among man, women, and children; c) to find out people's demand for safe water and sanitation, willingness to pay for different services, and people's willingness to change their existing unhygienic behaviours. These analysis and findings will be used to develop monitoring and evaluation indicators and impact assessment of the WASH programme.

Cultural construction of hygiene practice and behaviour in rural Bangladesh under WASH Programme

Hasanur Rahman

The study aims to understand cultural construction of hygiene practice and behaviour. Thus, the study will try to explore perception, knowledge, belief and practice; and investigate favourable environment (culturally effective means) and barriers in hygiene promotion.

Evaluation of medical waste management pilot project at Rajshahi City Corporation

Nasima Akter, M Rahman, TM Kamal and IPSU-MoEF team

The pilot was designed to introduce an appropriate waste management system in hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centers in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area using a standard manual and training module and develop a public-private partnership

model in medical waste management (MWM). Evaluation of this pilot is going on after baseline survey and final implementation of MWM in RCC area. Based on this evaluation final recommendation will be made.

Hygiene in rural Bangladesh: baseline for the BRAC WASH programme

Tanveer M Kamal

The study aims to obtain a baseline status of selected hygiene practices [such as hand-washing (at critical times) and use of latrines]. Nine indicators will be used to gauge the current situation (e.g., hand-washing before eating, and hand-washing after defecation). The baseline information will help assess programme impact, provide the WASH Programme with a monitoring methodology for more accurate measure of hygiene practice.



A Shasthya shebika demonstrating hand washing with soap after defecation and before handling food

Reasons and use pattern of existing sanitation facilities in WASH area

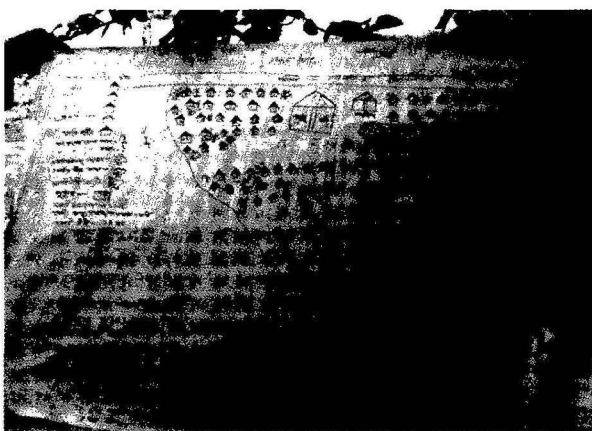
Mizanur Rahman

This study aims to know why people are not using existing sanitation facilities. High sanitation-coverage villages of WASH area will be selected to investigate the current practice of toilet use. It will help know the reasons of using and not using existing sanitation facilities that will be used to design hygiene education and promotion intervention.

Process documentation on PRA social mapping, wealth ranking and formation of village WASH committee

Md. Hasanur Rahman

The objective of this study is to observe and document PRA social mapping, wealth ranking and formation of village WASH committee. The findings would help fine tune PRA techniques that are being used in the WASH area for programme implementation.



Mapping exercise at community level

Use of cook stoves and fuels in Bangladesh: a quick survey

MA Quaiyum Sarkar, N Akter and IAP team

The survey is designed to finalize survey instruments for 'Experimental investigation of indoor air pollution related to cooking fuel and cook stove in rural Bangladesh'. The findings will be used to finalize sampling size of the village and households, and to optimize the intervention options for the project.

Willingness to pay for improved sanitation in rural Bangladesh

Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj

This study aims to estimate the willingness to pay, ability to pay, and demand for improved sanitation in rural Bangladesh. The findings will be used for sanitation intervention strategy of WASH programme.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION STUDIES

CFPR/TUP: i) Capacity development of informal providers, and ii) CFPR/TUP phase II

SM Ahmed, AKMM Rana, A Hossain and SM Islam

A pilot operation research was undertaken in three selected *upazilas* of Nilphamari to develop an informed, need-based intervention module for improving the quality of care provided by informal health care providers (HCP). Based on insight gained from the need-assessment workshops, findings from the baseline survey and informal discussions with various HCPs in the informal sector (all carried out during 2005-06 in phases), a comprehensive training package divided into six modules was developed: i) Fever and rational use of drugs (reducing misuse/overuse of drugs), adverse drug reaction and pharmaceutical care; ii) Diarrhoea, dysentery and digestive problems; iii) Pain and body aches (rheumatism); iv) Pneumonia/ARI in children; v) Reproductive health, RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS; and vi) Food, nutrition, and healthy life style. Training began in Domar *upazila* in September 2006 on these modules for the salespeople at drug retail outlets and the *Palli chikitsaks* who are one of the major providers of allopathic healthcare for the poor in Bangladesh. The training is expected to be completed by June 2007 after which a post-intervention survey will assess its effectiveness. Also, work on health component of the CFPR/Phase II baseline survey is currently underway.

Development of a food-based educational intervention to promote appropriate complementary feeding practices and physical growth in infants and young children in ultra poor households

Farhana Haseen

A new culturally appropriate complementary feeding-related education intervention among the ultra poor children is planned. A prescribed requirement-based cheapest food menu will be developed. Special software developed by WHO will be used to prepare the food menu. The nutrition education module will be prepared covering all the issues of supplementary food. Features of the intervention will include providing training and mobilizing TUP health POs who will make monthly growth moni-

toring and complementary feeding counseling during their visit to all mothers or caregivers of under-2 children in the intervention villages. Intervention will be implemented for one year in two branch offices and other two branch offices will be included as control areas.

DOTS strategy for tuberculosis control: socio-economic and gender divide in accessing DOTS services in rural Bangladesh

F Karim, et al.

The study is designed to measure the prevalence of pulmonary TB in the population, understand the patterns of and barriers to help-seeking behaviour for respiratory illnesses, assess socioeconomic and gender divides in the use of DOTS services including treatment and explore the role of private health providers in DOTS strategy at community level. A series of reports are expected by the end of July 2007.

Impact assessment of CFPR/TUP: nutritional outcome in CFPR/TUP 2nd phase districts

Farhana Haseen

A repeat survey will be conducted in four districts of the TUP 2nd phase (Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Madaripur and Gopalganj) to assess the impact of the programme on nutritional status of the programme participants. Panel data will be collected from 978 households. Nutritional outcome will be assessed by prevalence of anaemia and chronic energy deficiency, and calorie intake. All adult female (15-49 years) and under-5 children of selected households will be included as sample. Anaemia will be assessed by haemoglobin measurements with HemoCue photometer. Anthropometric measurements including weight, height and mid-upper arm circumference will be taken, and 24-hours recall will be used to collect food and nutrient consumption data.

The impact of periconceptional iron and folic acid tablets

Amina Khambalia and N Choudhury

The objective of this double-blind placebo controlled randomized trial is to examine the impact of

preconceptional iron supplementation on female iron status before and during the first trimester of pregnancy. The study will be carried out among adolescent females during periconception and pregnancy in the rural Kaliganj *upazila* of Gazipur district. Married women who have never given a live birth will be randomized to receive either a supplement with 60 mg of elemental iron and 400 µg of folic acid (the intervention arm) or a placebo (the control arm). The primary outcome will be maternal iron status (haemoglobin, ferritin and sTfR concentrations) during the first trimester of pregnancy. Secondary outcomes will include side effects and adherence. As a part of this, the pilot study was conducted in two clusters (~300 households each) in Kaliganj *upazila*.

Investigating factors associated with anaemia in infants at 6 months of age in a developing country
Yaseer Shakur and N Choudhury

IDA affects over half of infants in the developing world, especially between the ages of 6 and 24 months. A large proportion of these infants have already developed IDA by the age of six months. To have a better understanding as to why this occurs, this study is a prospective cohort that follows infants from birth to six months to identify factors contributing to IDA. A convenience sample of 490 infants, from an ongoing study investigating the use of Sprinkles vs. IFA tablets in pregnancy in Kaliganj *upazila*, was taken for this study.

Knowledge, practice and roles of health providers in detection of malnutrition in MNCH rural areas
Farhana Haseen and R Akhter

This study will describe the knowledge, perception and practice of providers from MNCH programme. Qualitative data will be collected through face-to-face interview with a checklist by trained interviewers. Two levels of health providers - managerial (manager, doctor, RHC and trainer) and community (PO, SK, SS and TBA) - will be interviewed. All the health service providers of Nilphamari Sadar and Domar will be included in the sample.

Malaria prevalence baseline survey

Syed Masud Ahmed, MA Hossain and AKMM Rana

A baseline malaria prevalence/socioeconomic survey will be done in collaboration with ICDDR,B in 13 districts of Bangladesh. The aim of the collaboration is capacity building of Laboratory technicians, doctors and community health workers of BRAC to implement malaria control programme under GFATM and to assess malaria disease burden in malaria endemic districts. Proposal and tools development is underway and the survey will be done during June-July 2007.

MANOSHI: i) Formative research, ii) baseline survey, iii) system performance, and iv) cost analysis

Syed Masud Ahmed, H Nasreen, MA Khan, N Choudhury, M Rahman, A Hossain and M Banu

The overall purpose of MANOSHI programme is to demonstrate effectiveness of community health actions and solutions to reduce maternal, neonatal and child deaths and diseases in urban slums of Bangladesh. Funded by Gates Foundation, the project started in October 2006. Five streams of research were identified: formative research, operations research, impact evaluation, cost analysis and community characteristics. Formative research on five identified themes is currently underway. Data collection will be completed by June 2007. Designing and tools development for baseline survey will be completed by April 2007 and field activities will begin from May 2007. From October 2007, research on system performance and cost analysis will be launched. The studies are done in collaboration with ICDDR,B.

MNCH study (Rural): i) Analysis of baseline data, ii) Process documentation and monitoring, iii) Longitudinal follow-up of selected pregnancy cases, and iv) A review of MNCH interventions in Bangladesh

Hashima-E-Nasreen, SM Ahmed, F Haseen, AM Shihab and S Rashid

The MNCH programme (launched in 2005) aims to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality and morbidity in rural areas through an integrated intervention based on 3 Ds model, and a partnership approach with government, community-based organizations, NGOs and agencies implementing

programmes in MNCH. A number of studies on MNCH rural intervention are in progress. Of these, a draft report of the baseline survey is expected in June and a review on MNCH by mid-April 2007. Data analysis and report writing of the process documentation and longitudinal follow-up of the pregnant women respectively are underway.

Sustainability in food consumption of the STUP members

Farhana Haseen and M Sulaiman

With the third round of food consumption survey of 2002 cohort of the CFPR/TUP beneficiaries, this study intends to look at the sustainability of the improvement that the beneficiaries made during the intervention phase. The key areas of sustainability are the amount and quality of their nutrition intake. This study will also reflect on the determinants of the sustainability.

Understanding the food provisioning experience of food insecure Bangladeshi women heads of household

L McIntyre, JM Hatfield, SN Huda, F Haseen, KS Islam, T Yasmin and AMM Dusablon

This study aims to understand a) the hunger, food insecurity, and family food provisioning experiences of women who live alone with their children and in deep poverty? b) what coping and decision-making strategies regarding family food provisioning do mothers use in situations of hunger and food insecurity? and c) what suggestions do women have to reduce and eliminate hunger and food insecurity for themselves and for women like them? Semi-structured in-depth interviews will be conducted using naturalistic emergent inquiry over 24 months. Ten women working in the garment industry in Dhaka, 10 rural women who engage in subsistence agriculture, 10 women who work in Dhaka as petty traders (a subsistence occupation), 10 women who work in rural areas as petty traders, and another 10 women of ethnic minority group (likely Shantal) will be interviewed.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Change in knowledge, perception and attitudes towards gender norms and relations: evaluation of GQAL programme

Md. Abdul Alim

The study aims to evaluate knowledge, perception and attitudes of the villagers on general perception towards gender, discrimination, empowerment, violence against women, and marriage. The study was conducted in two districts - Netrokona and Kishoreganj. It shows that there was tremendous change observed with regard to the above themes within a short period of time.

Effect of organization on the performance of female Union Parishad members: an exploratory study

Md. Abdul Alim and BA Siddiqui

The study intends to investigate the impact of BRAC as an organization in winning in the last Union Parishad election by the BRAC affiliated members and their performance as members against those who are not affiliated with any NGO. Data were collected from four BRAC backed members and four non-BRAC members in Domar, Jhaldhaka and Dimla of Nilphamari district.

Ethnography of truck and bus drivers

Mohammad Rafi, MA Alim and MBA Siddiqui

The objective of the study is to get an in-depth understanding of social and occupational life of truck and bus drivers, particularly their entertainments and problems they face in occupation and strategies taken to handle those. A total of 416 drivers from 12 terminals throughout the country were interviewed.

Evaluation of LeAD programme of BRAC

Raihana Karim and N Imam

The Training Division of BRAC initiated the Leadership for Advancing Development (LeAD), a six-month long training programme for the mid-level managers of BRAC. LeAD is likely to continue for the next six years. The programme intends to provide comprehensive knowledge on development concepts, debates and challenges, and expertise in operating programmes to enable these managers implement ideas/innovations and contribute to the policy making process in an efficient manner. RED evaluated the first LeAD training initiative. Course delivery in the classroom and the effectiveness of the programme is evaluated. A systematic classroom observation and interviewing the participants and their facilitators during the training were undertaken. Fieldwork has been completed. Preliminary findings of the study were disseminated. The final report is being prepared.

Evaluation of selected components of Gonokendra Pathagar and its impact on community

Raihana Karim, N Imam and RA Chowdhury

Gonokendra pathagar (Community library) programme was initiated in 1995 under BRAC's Continuing Education Programme to promote a learning environment as well as develop human resources in rural settings of Bangladesh. As of June 2006, there are 1,130 libraries having 473,849 members, 48% being female. This study aims to evaluate some of the selected components of *Gonokendra pathagar* like the nature of use of *pathagar* resources/facilities, and to assess the impact of *pathagar* resources on its users and non-users. The process of community formation based on *pathagar* is also assessed. The preliminary findings of the study were already disseminated. The final report is underway.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

OVERSEAS TRAINING

Doctoral programme

Chowdhury SB Jalal, Research Associate is pursuing doctoral programme in nutrition at the Cornell University, USA.

Fazlul Karim, Senior Research Fellow is pursuing doctoral programme in medical science at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Debdulal Mallick, Research Associate is pursuing doctoral programme in economics at the Emory University, USA.

AKM Masud Rana, Staff Researcher is pursuing doctoral programme in geriatric epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Masters programme

Mirja M Shahjamal, Research Associate is pursuing masters programme in education at the University of Oslo, Norway.

Short courses/workshops

Mehnaz Rabbani, Senior Research Associate attended a course on 'Knowledge Networking Programme on Engendering Macroeconomics and International Economics' organized by The International Working Group on Gender, Macroeconomics and International Economics (GEM- IWG) held in USA during 18-30 June 2006.

Sakiba Tasneem, Staff Researcher attended a 5-day workshop on 'Randomized Evaluation of Social Programmes' jointly organized by Poverty Action Lab and Centre for Microfinance Research in Chennai, India during 24-28 July 2006.

IN-COUNTRY TRAINING

Nuzhat Choudhury, Research Associate attended Training on Visualization in Participatory Planning (VIPT) organized by BRAC in Dhaka during 1-6 April 2006

Longitudinal Data Analysis Workshop organized by BRAC in Dhaka during 5-8 February 2006

Md. Mahbubul Kabir and Rifat Afroze, both the Staff Researchers attended a training seminar titled Teaching Strategies for the ESL Classroom organized by the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) held in Dhaka during 20-25 March 2006.

Marufa Aziz Khan, Research Associate attended the Longitudinal Data Analysis Workshop organized by BRAC in Dhaka during 5-8 February 2006

Mahjabeen Rahman, Senior Research Associate, Sakiba Tasneem, Staff Researcher, and Nahlin Zahra, Research Assistant participated in a Certificate Course on CGE Modeling for Economic Policy Analysis jointly organized by the Economic Research Group and the East West University, Dhaka during 7-14 October 2006.

SUPPORT EXTENDED TO OTHERS

Imran Matin, Director, RED conducted a 4-day training course on 'Microfinance Experiences of Bangladesh: Harnessing Possibilities, Thinking Differently' for the Chinese microfinance practitioners in Beijing, China on 20-23 April 2006. The course was organized by the Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Samir R Nath, Senior Research Fellow

- Offered technical assistance to the Save the Children, USA Bangladesh Country Office in identifying research issues for its SUCCEED Programme during April 2006.
- Visited Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) in Bhubaneswar, India on 8-9 June 2006. CYSD initiated Education Watch programme in Orissa where Mr. Nath offered technical support and gave a seminar on Bangladesh experience.
- Offered Research Methodology Course in two departments of BRAC University, Dhaka during Spring and Fall semesters in 2006.

Hasan Shareef Ahmed, Chief of Editing and Publication presented lectures on different topics at the following workshops/advance course organized by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council, Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh:

- Authorship of scientific articles, publication ethics, and scientific misconduct in an Advance Course on Research Bioethics held on 25 May 2006

- Who should be an author on 10 June and Ethics of publication on 11 June at a Workshop on Scientific Writing
- Writing research report at a Workshop on Research Methodology on 19 June
- How to peer review a manuscript at the Workshop on Peer Review of Research Proposal held on 18 December 2006.

Nasima Akter, Research Fellow

- Lectured on Sustainable development: effect of hazards on health, environment and development at Development Management Course for health professionals of other NGOs offered by BRAC Training Division in Dhaka on 24 April 2006.
- Lectured on Sustainability and development at the Foundation Training Course of BRAC Training Division held at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur on 14 May 2006.
- Lectured on Medical waste management: an orientation at a training course organized by Practical Action, Dhaka on 17 September 2006.
- Conducted classes on Solid waste management and climate change and Bangladesh: an update at the Environmental Health Course for MPH student of BRAC University, Dhaka during June-July 2006.

- Conducted class on Project emergence - a case study: sociological view for MDS students of BRAC University, Dhaka during February 2006.
- Supervised the theses of two MPH and one MDS students of BRAC university and one MSc student of Khulna University in 2006.

The Environmental Research Unit extended support to design and develop household census tools, and provided training and monitoring for the household census for WASH programme.

The Health and Nutrition Research unit extended extensive support to BRAC Health Programme throughout the year. Senior researchers from the group helped in the design, tools development, field operation strategies, training for rapid assess-

ment/household census, and MIS development and supervision related to the following programmes: WASH, MANOSHI and rural MNCH programme. Help was also extended beyond Bangladesh to BRAC Africa with respect to providing feedback in the development of tools for field survey/proposal development (health component). Help was also extended to select and commission external agency for conducting survey on health communication of the TB programme.

INTERNS AT RED

Eleven interns, eight of them from abroad, were placed at RED for internship during 2006. They were attached to different research projects and have gained extensive field level experience. Particulars of the interns are given below:

Name	Institution
Amina Khambalia	Hospital for Sick Children, Canada
Nadia Ghani	University of Toronto, Canada
Maisun M Haque	North South University, Bangladesh
Md. Mahedi Al Masud	Khulna University, Bangladesh
Nicola Banks	On individual capacity, UK
Rifat Rashid	Dhaka University, Bangladesh
Samira Khan	On individual capacity, USA
Sangeeta Ahmed	Wellesley College, USA
Sania Ashraf	BARD College, USA
Sanjan Haque	On individual capacity, UK
Yaseer Abdul Shakur	University Toronto, Canada

RED SEMINARS IN 2006

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 05	Evaluating the process and impact of the 'ICT in multipurpose community learning centres/ <i>Gonokendras</i> ' programme designed and implemented by BRAC	Raad Ahmad
Feb 02	Interventions and intervention studies-to change professional practice in relation to rational use of drugs	Cecilia Stalsby Lundborg Associate Professor Health Systems Research IHCAR, Karolinska Institute Sweden
07	Effect of training on English language teachers of the rural non-government secondary schools (Proposal presentation)	Md. Mahbubul Kabir Rifat Afroze
08	Longitudinal data analysis: problems and prospects in public health settings	Max Petzold Nordic School of Public Health and Karolinska Institute, Sweden
19	Appraisal of BLR workshop and BLRs' activities	Lammia Sharmin M Mahbubul Kabir Rosie Nilufar Yasmin Nuzhat Imam Ashrafuzzaman Khan
	BRAC AI programme: challenges and prospects	Proloy Barua
Apr 03	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) project at Nilphamari district: the baseline survey 2006 (Proposal presentation)	Hashima-e-Nasreen Farhana Haseen Syed Masud Ahmed

Date	Topic	Speaker
Apr 06	Evaluation of BRAC NNP programme: an experience on food supplementation programme in BRAC NNP	Marufa Aziz Khan Qazi Shafayetul Islam
May 02	Effect of BRAC in winning the election and performance of female <i>Union Parishad</i> members: an exploratory study (Proposal presentation)	Md. Abdul Alim Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi
07	Panel doctors of the CFPR/TUP programme: current situation and future prospects (Proposal presentation)	Syed Masud Ahmed Md. Awlad Hossain
	Exploring the present status of 100% sanitation programme on the use of sanitary latrine in Shibpur upazila	Nuzhat Choudhury Md. Awlad Hossain
Jun 08	The motivation and incentive mechanism for <i>Shasthya shebikas</i> in Nilphamari: an economic perspective (Proposal presentation)	Mahjabeen Rahman Munshi Sulaiman Sakiba Tasneem
21	Role of a poverty reduction programme in improving participant's wellbeing, care-giving practices and nutritional status (Proposal presentation)	Chowdhury SB Jalal
28	Effect of BRAC-PACE training on English language teachers of rural non-government secondary schools (Proposal presentation)	Arifa Rahman Md. Mahbubul Kabir Rifat Afroze
Jul 02	A fresh look at BRAC's health programme in Nilphamari	Sania Ashraf, RED intern BARD College, New York, USA
03	Environmental assessment of small and medium enterprise of BRAC Bank towards environment-friendly enterprise development	MA Quaiyum Sarkar Nasima Akter
Sep 16	Whose politics for whom: inside the student politics in Dhaka University (Proposal presentation)	Mirja M Shahjamal
24	Impact assessment of adolescent development programme (Proposal presentation)	M Mahbubul Kabir Rifat Afroze

PRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Syed Masud Ahmed, Research Coordinator presented a paper titled *Reaching the poorest of the poor with health services: the case of BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme in Bangladesh* at a conference on The Private Sector in Healthcare Delivery - Potentials and Challenges held at Jinan, Shandong, China, during 26-28 September 2006.

Nasima Akter, Research Fellow presented a paper titled *Risk of bird flu prevalence in Bangladesh and the means of prevention: role of NGOs and private sectors in bird flu prevention and management* at a Seminar on Bird Flu organized by BAPA in Dhaka, on 15 April 2006.

Nuzhat Choudhury, Research Associate presented the following papers:

- *Strategy to promote home fortification with Sprinkles for controlling anaemia among young children* at the 8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition (CAPGAN) in Dhaka on 6-8 February 2006
- *Child feeding practices in Bangladesh* at the 2nd National Conference on Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding held in Dhaka on 19-20 August 2006
- *Home fortification for controlling anaemia among young children* at the 8th IUNS International Symposium on Clinical Nutrition (ISCN) and 5th

Asia-Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society (APCNS) Conference held in Hangzhou, China during 15-18 October 2006.

Farhana Haseen, Research Associate presented the following papers:

- *Prevalence, severity and determinants of malnutrition in under-5 children in ultra poor households in rural Bangladesh* and *Effect of daily versus once weekly home fortification with Sprinkles on haematological and iron status among young children in rural Bangladesh* at the 8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition (CAPGAN) held in Dhaka on 6-8 February 2006
- *The 24-hour recall for ultra poor households: validation exercise* at the 6th International Conference on Dietary Assessment Methods (ICDAM) held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 27-29 April 2006
- *Colostrum and milk concentration of immunoglobulins (IgA, IgG, IgM) in Bangladeshi mothers and Breastfeeding and weaning practice in rural ultra poor households in Bangladesh* at the 2nd National Conference on Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding in Dhaka on 19-20 August 2006
- *Change in food and calorie consumption among the ultra poor: is the poverty reduction programme making a difference?* at the 8th IUNS International Symposium on Clinical Nutrition (ISCN) and 5th Asia-Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society (APCNS)

Conference held in Hangzhou, China during 15-18 October 2006.

SM Ziauddin Hyder, Director Programs, Sprinkles Global Health Initiative, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada presented the paper titled *Effectiveness of daily and flexible home fortification with micronutrient Sprinkles to control childhood anaemia in rural Bangladesh* at the 8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition (CAPGAN) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6-8 February 2006.

Fazlul Karim, Senior Research Fellow presented the paper titled *Sex differentials in various clinical steps for tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment and its outcome in rural Bangladesh* at a seminar of the participants of Health Policy and Management Course, held at Karolinska Institute on 9 November 2006.

Marufa Aziz Khan, Research Associate, QS Islam, Staff Researcher and CSB Jalal, Research Associate presented a paper titled *Effect of anthelmintic treatment on helminth infection and anaemia among the female workers of the Ayesha Abed Foundation in Bangladesh* at the 8th IUNS International Symposium on Clinical Nutrition (ISCN) and 5th Asia-Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society (APCNS) Conference held in Hangzhou, China during 15-18 October 2006.

Imran Matin, Director, RED presented the following papers:

- *BRAC's experiences with designing social protection interventions for the poorest* at the Ford Foundation Programme on Social Protection in Asia, held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-17 May 2006, and at the Social Protection in Asia Workshop organized by the World Bank in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 17-19 May 2006
- *Extreme poverty: concepts and approaches* at the BRAC-DFID organized Workshop on Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh held in Dhaka on 26 June 2006
- *The highlights of research on CFPR/TUP* to DFID's staff in London, UK on 05 October 2006

- *BRAC's approach to microfinance* at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Microfinance in the House of Commons, London, UK.

Hashima-E-Nasreen, Research Fellow presented a paper titled *Gender inequity, social vulnerability, and HIV/AIDS: integrating prevention into BRAC's poverty eradication programme* at a conference on Emerging Population Issues in the Asia Pacific Region: Challenges for the 21st Century in Mumbai, India during 10-13 December 2006.

Samir Ranjan Nath, Senior Research Fellow presented the following papers:

- *State of secondary education: progress and challenges* at the launching ceremony of the Education Watch 2005 held in Dhaka on 17 April 2006
- *Internal efficiency of secondary educational institutions: results from a reconstructed cohort analysis* at the UNESCO-BAFED Educational Researchers Forum held in Dhaka on 27 May 2006
- *Knowledge generation and dissemination in BRAC* at the KIC Conference organized by Oxfam-Novib held in Nordwijk, The Netherlands on 30-31 October 2006
- *Students' assessment at the beginning of secondary education* at the UNESCO-BAFED Educational Researchers Forum held in Dhaka on 25 November 2006
- *Education provisions and exclusions: evidence from Bangladesh* at the conference titled What Works for the Poorest: Knowledge, Policies and Practices held in Dhaka on 3-5 December 2006
- *BRAC's partnership with the UN agencies in Bangladesh* organized by UN ExCom Agencies held in Dhaka on 14 December 2006.

AKM Masud Rana, Research Associate presented a paper titled *The impact of health education in managing self-reported arthritis-related illness among elderly persons in rural Bangladesh* at the Ageing Research Centre, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden on 28 September 2006.

Mehnaz Rabbani, Senior Research Associate presented a paper on *Rural maintenance programme as a safety net* at the International Conference on Employment Guarantee Policies: Theory and Practice held in New York, USA on 13-14 October 2006.

Sakiba Tasneem, Staff Researcher presented a paper on *Child labour: a review of economic literature* at a seminar at Save the Children, UK in Dhaka on 30 May 2006.

Harriet Torlesse, Project Officer, Health and Nutrition Section, UNICEF Bangladesh presented

the paper titled *Anaemia survey of urban Bangladesh and rural Chittagong Hill Tracts* (a collaborative study by RED, BBS and UNICEF) at the 8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition (CAPGAN) held in Dhaka on 6-8 February 2006.

Harun KM Yusuf, Team Leader presented the paper titled *National low birth weight survey of Bangladesh* (a collaborative study by RED, BBS and UNICEF) at the 8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition (CAPGAN) held in Dhaka on 6-8 February 2006.

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ABSTRACTS OF COMPLETED STUDIES

A. POVERTY ALLEVIATION EMPOWERMENT, AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

01

Social capital and economic well-being

Farhad Ameen and M Sulaiman

Increasingly, scholars and development practitioners recognize the importance of social capital in enhancing economic and social well-being of individuals, households, groups and communities. A growing literature underscores the fundamental importance of social capital in economic development. This working paper seeks to better understand the impact of social capital in rural Bangladesh and to explore the links with economic well-being. Using data collected in BRAC's Social Capital Survey of 2004, the authors investigate the relationship between social capital and economic well-being among 810 households in 12 districts of northern Bangladesh. In the first part titled 'Does it pay to be social?', the effect of informal and formal social capital on economic well-being is explored using OLS regression. Results suggest a positive association between informal social interactions and per capita household expenditure, for both ultra poor and wealthier households, although the effect is possibly smaller for the ultra poor. The relation between formal social capital and household expenditure is more complex as the effect of membership varies by the type of group or organization. Given the rel-

atively early stage of the programme, the impact of the CFPR/TUP project in developing social capital is still unclear. In the second part titled 'Do relationships matter? an empirical study of social capital in rural Bangladesh,' the issue of causality is addressed focusing on informal social capital. Indicators of the quality of informal relations with neighbours and relatives are used to create an index of horizontal social capital, which tests the effect on well-being. To investigate causality, measures of 'trust' are used as instrumental variables. This reveals a strong positive influence of social relations on economic well-being after controlling for a number of variables, while the influence of income on social relations is not significant.

02

Targeting the poorest in microfinance: poverty outreach of BDP ultra poor programme

Proloy Barua and M Sulaiman

Despite the consensus that microfinance does not reach the poorest, recent evidence suggests that nearly 15% of microfinance clients in Bangladesh come from the poorest group. Realizing that even within the existing microfinance membership of BRAC, there is a significant percentage of the poorest; the CFPR-TUP programme has included a special focus on this segment of the poor whom they call the 'BDP ultra poor'. Basically, BDP ultra poor are those struggling members of existing BRAC village organization (VO) or very poor households in a village who with some additional support can

more fully participate and benefit from microfinance services. This study attempts to assess the targeting effectiveness of the BDP ultra poor programme by measuring relative poverty of BDP ultra poor. A total of 1,339 households were surveyed from 30 area offices consisting of BDP ultra poor, VO members and non-VO members. Findings show that 46% of the BDP ultra poor households belong to the poorest quartile and most of the remaining BDP ultra poor households belong to moderate poor quartile that suggests the programme is being able to concentrate on the target population. It was also found that the current focus of the programme is on the poorer VO members. To improve targeting effectiveness of BDP ultra poor package further, the focus will have to be on the poorest households outside the VOs most of whom have never participated in any microfinance programmes and possessed extremely low poverty score.

03

Self-perceived health of the ultra poor women: the effect of an inclusive development intervention

Vivek A Prakash and AKMM Rana

In 2002, BRAC launched a targeted and comprehensive development programme called Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction: Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR/TUP) aimed at the poorest of the poor, who have often been excluded from other development initiatives. This study examines changes in the self-reported health status of these ultra poor women in northern Bangladesh over a period of one and half years since the launch of this programme. The data for this study come from a baseline survey performed in 2002 and a follow-up survey from 2004. The ultra poor women selected for the CFPR/TUP programme fared far better than those not included in the programme with better self-reported health status. Programme effects remain positive and significant after controlling for marital status, education, age, previous health, disability, occupation, sanitary knowledge and behaviour, family planning, and location. We conclude that the CFPR/TUP programme has a significant effect on women's health, highlighting the importance of development as a holistic process with various components.

04

Impact assessment of CFPR/TUP: a descriptive analysis based on 2002-2005 panel data

Mehnaz Rabbani, VA Prakash and M Sulaiman

The 2002 baseline survey findings of the CFPR/TUP programme give us a detailed profile of the ultra poor in the poorest region of Bangladesh. It was found that the selected ultra poor were significantly worse-off than the non-selected ultra poor of our sample. The 2005 Repeat Survey intended to enrich our understanding of the lives of the ultra poor by studying both the asset bases and the strategies followed by participant and non-participant households. Using the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, we show that there has been a definite impact of the programme on the asset base of participant households. The selected household is more likely to possess assets such as cows and furniture, regardless of the assets received from BRAC. Unlike the other household, the participant household will almost certainly have savings and is more likely to have taken a loan. Participants are also more likely to be correctly informed about laws. Both households are likely to be more socially accepted than they were previously. As far as income and food shortages are concerned, participants are now better-off with larger incomes and lesser food shortages. Both now suffer severe illnesses less frequently, and the selected household is now able to spend as much as the non-selected household on medical needs. An issue of some concern is that the selected household remains far less likely to have its children enrolled in school - enrolment among the ultra poor remains low by national standards and selected households have not made any improvements over non-selected households in this regard. With the selected households overshooting the non-selected in many ways, the process of mainstreaming the ultra poor has evidently begun.

05

Morbidity and poverty: measuring economic burden of illness requiring in-patient services

Mahjabeen Rahman and SM Ahmed

Severe illnesses may have important consequences for the poor in terms of the costs of treatment they have to bear and income erosion effects of those ill-

nesses. The resulting depletion of wealth may also transmit poverty to the next generation. This study compared the cost of illness between the SUP and NSUP households and investigated whether health expenditures are catastrophic. It also investigated the crisis coping mechanism for meeting the cost burden of illness and its implications for the poverty status of households. The survey interviewed SUP and NSUP households during February-March 2006 in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Kurigram, drawn randomly from the TUP Repeat Survey 2005 based on those with severe illness. On average, findings revealed lower direct costs of illness for SUP households compared to NSUP ones but higher indirect costs for the former. A higher percentage of SUP households incurred catastrophic health care expenses as compared to NSUP households. Interestingly, asset depletion was found to be lower among SUP households who also reported higher asset value compared to NSUP households. Potential positive effect of the CFPR/TUP interventions was noted which may be important for guiding policy and practice by the programme.

06

Microfinance engagements of the 'graduated' ultra poor

Munshi Sulaiman, I Matin, MSH Siddiquee, P Barua, S Alarakhia and V Iyer

Despite the slogan of 'credit for the poorest of the poor', the poorest have not fully benefited from the microfinance revolution of late 90s in Bangladesh. To bring these 'left-out' group into the mainstream microfinance, BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme assists them to build-up an asset base (physical, human and social) so that they can have meaningful participation in microfinance activities. After the 'grant' phase of the programme which lasts for 18 months, as the first step towards the 'graduation process', the ultra poor women form their own groups and they are offered small amounts of credit. This study takes a look at the beneficiaries who were selected at the first round in 2002 to explain various dimensions of their engagement with microfinance. With a lower borrower-member ratio and relatively smaller sized credit, microfinance for the poorest may take longer to achieve sustainability. Even within the ultra poor household group, the

better-off ones are more likely to engage themselves with microfinance. Their engagement in semi-formal microfinance does not reduce involvement in informal financial market. Along with credit, accumulating savings is of utmost importance for the ultra poor households and their informal savings have increased. Given that almost a quarter of the TUP members may not be borrowers, the importance of appropriate savings products cannot be overemphasized. More innovation in this regard is thus critical.

07

Rebuilding lives after the Tsunami: exploring the livelihood status of BRAC's beneficiaries in Sri Lanka

Munshi Sulaiman

BRAC Sri Lanka started rehabilitation and livelihood support programme for the Tsunami-affected people about 6 months after the disaster. Though the programme components include a range of rehabilitation and livelihood supports, this study focused only on the grant and loan receivers. The study finds some evidences of effective targeting by the programme. There is also evidence of programme impact on the beneficiaries' income and assets. Length of participation in the programme has positive associations with the income and assets of the beneficiaries. However, the associations are more obvious for the grant receivers than the loan receivers. The loan programmes were initiated at a later stage once the 'grant phase' was over. Since it usually takes a few loan cycles to show a clear impact on income and assets, the proper assessment of borrowing should wait for two more years. BRAC's loan programme in Sri Lanka seems to have a very good prospect of flourishing further.

08

Targeting effectiveness of CFPR/TUP in scale-up environment

Munshi Sulaiman and I Matin

Effective targeting is a hallmark of the BRAC's CFPR/TUP programme. Like many other targeted programmes, CFPR/TUP combines a number of targeting methods. Launching in 2002, this programme has scaled up in 2005. Despite this scaling

up, success in targeting has been maintained. Using poverty assessment tool, developed by CGAP, it was observed that about three quarters of the beneficiaries of this programme belong to the poorest quartile. This is a commendable achievement when compared to other targeted programmes. The success was achieved not only by adopting appropriate tools of targeting but also by implementing them rigorously. Community-based wealth ranking was found to be crucial in achieving high level of aggregate accuracy.

09

Using change rankings to understand poverty dynamics: examining the impact of CFPR/TUP from community perspective

Munshi Sulaiman and I Matin

Studies of poverty dynamics relying solely on household income-expenditure surveys can yield noisy results, overestimating transient poverty and underestimating persistence of poverty, especially for the poorest. In this study, we make use of an approach that relies on community-based change ranking to explore various directions and levels of change experienced by almost 6,000 households living in over 100 communities. We found that changes were initial condition dependent and that improvement, even small ones were far less likely to happen over time for the poorest. Traps seemed to exist and matter for the poorest. This suggests that intervention design for the poorest will have to be far more comprehensive including promotional, protective and transformative strategies to make a real dent on extreme poverty. We also argue that most empirical studies of poverty dynamics by focusing on relatively large movements into and out of poverty in different waves, misses out on the smaller movements experienced by households. Understanding the extent of and the forces that drive such smaller movements is important as it is the accumulative dynamics of these that ultimately lead to the larger movements of ascent, descent and trap, especially for those at the very bottom, the poorest. Exploring poverty dynamics of the poorest from such 'small change' perspective also allows us to develop indicators of incremental graduation to monitor and assess interventions targeted to bring about positive change in the livelihoods of the poorest.

B. STUDIES ON HEALTH POPULATION AND NUTRITION

10

Facilitated access to health facilities for treatment of illnesses: experiences of the ultra poor households in the CFPR/TUP programme

Syed Masud Ahmed

This study explored the management of illnesses requiring treatment at health facilities within past one year by the ultra poor households in the northern part of Bangladesh, and to see whether this differed between ultra poor households with and without CFPR/TUP intervention to any substantial degree. Data from the follow-up survey in 2005 were used in this analysis. Similar trend in management of the illnesses between the intervention and the control households was observed. Hospitalization was required for only 10% of the study population in the past one year. Hospitalization was mostly required for illnesses of the gastrointestinal tract such as diarrhoea and dysentery among those under 15 years of age. That the intervention could increase the use of available facilities in the public sector is shown by greater use of Upazila Health Complex by the intervention households. Active role of BRAC community health volunteers (SS) in this is revealed by greater proportion of them accompanying the patients to health facilities compared to the control area. Very few diagnostic investigations were done before admission in the hospitals. The mean cost of treatment was comparatively less for the intervention households due to reduced service charges by the SS, free consultation, lab tests and medicine at cost prices at BRAC health centres, financial help provided through 'emergency revolving fund' kept at the field office which is later replenished from locally mobilized fund. The implications of these in the context of reducing 'health shock' for the ultra poor households are discussed.

11

Knowledge and practice of unqualified and semi-qualified allopathic providers in rural Bangladesh: implications for the HRH problem

Syed Masud Ahmed and MA Hossain

To explore the current knowledge and practice of the unqualified/semi-qualified allopathic providers in the informal sector in rural Bangladesh towards the development of an informed, need-based intervention for them. A cross-sectional descriptive survey was conducted in three conveniently selected sub-districts in the northern part of the country where a targeted poverty alleviation programme for the ultra poor was in place since 2002. Pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaires were used to elicit information on socio-demographic, training and professional characteristics, and knowledge and practices on some common illnesses and conditions. Two-way and three-way cross-tabulations were done to compare and contrast the different groups, using SPSS PC+ ver.12. The different groups of providers were found to possess superficial knowledge on the conditions they commonly provide services for. Differences were noted between the unqualified and semi-qualified providers with respect to knowledge and practice on common illnesses and conditions, and especially rational use of drugs and management of pregnancy and its complications. Given the shortage of qualified healthcare professionals in rural Bangladesh, the importance of these informal providers should be recognized by the public sector, and their capacity developed in a planned way to improve their effectiveness and reduce irrational use of drugs.

12

Taking healthcare where the ultra poor are: the Panel Doctor Scheme of the CFPR/TUP programme - an assessment of current status and future possibilities

Syed Masud Ahmed and MA Hossain

To facilitate the access of the ultra poor households to qualified allopathic care, especially for moderate-to-severe and chronic morbidities, the CFPR/TUP programme appointed a panel of doctors for its Area Offices. This study was carried out to assess the current status of this 'panel doctor' scheme, identify its problems and prospects from a participatory perspective, and suggest remedial measures for future improvement. Two upazilas from each of the 12 CFPR/TUP regions where the scheme is running for more than one year were included in the survey. Research activities included inventory of

physical facilities, participant observation of the services provided, and exit interviews of the patients coming for treatment in these 24 sites. In addition, in-depth interviews with 12 panel doctors and six FGDs with groups of health workers and the community people were done. Findings reveal that the scheme was received quite favourably by the ultra poor and the beneficiaries were in general satisfied with the services of the panel doctors. However, some concerns were raised with respect to responsiveness of the scheme as also financial restrictions imposed such as capping the costs of medicines and lab tests. These issues need some rethinking in order to improve the ability of the scheme to mitigate the income-erosion consequences of ill-health (health shock) for the ultra poor households and contribute to their efforts at sustainable livelihood.

13

Efficacy of Sprinkles and iron folic acid tablets to control anaemia during pregnancy

Nuzhat Choudhury

The study was conducted to evaluate the relative efficacy of two different models of iron supplementation: iron folic acid (IFA) and Sprinkles. The subjects were pregnant women aged 14-45 years who had a gestational age between 14-22 weeks and were permanent residents of Gazipur district. The prevalence of anaemia at baseline was 47%. After 10-14 weeks of supplementation, both IFA and Sprinkles groups did not show any significant changes in Hb level. Nevertheless, of the women with anaemic at the beginning of the study showed a significant increase in haemoglobin concentration after supplementation. These anaemic women at baseline responded 13-17 times more in increasing of Hb level compared to those were not anaemic at baseline. However, on an average, after supplementation the anaemia prevalence was also 47%. Despite a significant difference between two intervention groups at baseline and also after supplementation, determined on the basis of Hb level by Hemocue machine, we can conclude according to protocol that Sprinkles is not inferior to IFA and both models are equal in responding Hb level.

14

Exploring the present status of 100% sanitation programme on the use of sanitary latrine in Shibpur upazila

Nuzhat Choudhury and MA Hossain

A cross sectional study was carried out in Shibpur upazila in April 2006 to explore the present status of sanitation programme on the use of sanitary latrine. Housewives and different stakeholders were the respondents. It reveals that people have knowledge on sanitation but there is a huge gap between knowledge and practice. Two percent households did not at all have any latrine access whereas about 85% owned latrine and 13% did not own but they had access to latrine of any type. However, fixed place defecation is 96% and 54% for adult people and under-5 children respectively. There is no influence of seasonal variation on the use of latrine. Habit, lack of awareness and financial problems were the main barriers to transform knowledge into practice for sanitation. Community awareness is believed to be the main factor that could contribute to sanitation success in the study area.

15

Baseline nutritional situation in the MNCH area

Farhana Haseen

Objective of this survey was to establish a baseline nutritional profile to assess the impact of the MNCH programme interventions at the end of the project duration. Nutritional status and related factors were assessed using different indicators - anthropometric status of under-5 children, adolescent girls and adult women (non-pregnant aged 20-49 years), household food security, intra-household food distribution, knowledge of women on micronutrient and food during pregnancy and lactation. Data were collected from 1,113 programme and 803 control households. Mean height, weight and MUAC of under-five children was similar in the programme and control households. More than half and one-third of children were underweight and stunted respectively both in programme and control households. Mean weight, BMI and MUAC was comparable between both groups of adolescent girls. No significant difference was observed in height, weight, MUAC and BMI of non-pregnant

women between programme and control households. More than one-third women of both households were suffering from chronic energy deficiency.

16

Pilot project on capacity development of the unqualified/semi-qualified allopathic healthcare providers (Interim report of an ongoing intervention)

Mohammad Awlad Hossain and SM Ahmed

This report focuses on the on-going interventions being implemented under the pilot project 'Capacity development of the unqualified/semi-qualified allopathic healthcare providers (HCP) in the CFPR/TUP areas' which began in September 2006. Initially, a comprehensive inventory was carried out to list the unqualified/semi-qualified HCPs in the study areas. The inventory registered 1,749 HCPs. Of them, the medical assistants, the family welfare visitors, and some community health workers (CHW) were employed in the public sector. The data also reveal that the village doctors (524), CHWs (502) and allopathic drug retailers (463) were the most common allopathic care providers in the areas. After completing the inventory, some need assessment workshops and informal discussion with the HCPs were done to assess the willingness to attend the training, competencies and training-related needs. It was found that most of the providers were highly fascinated at the prospect of a training programme to be offered by the project, and were enthusiastic in attending the training. A baseline quantitative survey on the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of the unqualified/semi-qualified HCPs was carried out in the study areas. Based on the insight gained from the need assessment workshops, findings from the baseline survey and informal discussions with the HCPs, a comprehensive training package divided into six modules was developed. The training is initially focused on village doctors (Palli chikitsaks) and allopathic drug retailers as they form the major proportion of the informal allopathic care providers for the poor and the disadvantaged. An MBBS doctor is conducting the training. After classroom sessions, the practices of the HCPs are also monitored through spot-observation by the field workers of the project. The training has already completed its two phases and

currently it is in the 3rd phase. The training is expected to be completed in June 2007 followed by a post-intervention KAP survey to assess the impact of the training.

17

Rapid assessment survey of current sanitation, immunization and contraception status in selected unions of Bangladesh 2006

Mohammad Awlad Hossain, A Ali, Nazimuddin, AA Joarder and F Ahmed

Since December 2004, BRAC has been implementing a programme with the target of achieving 100% sanitation in all households, 85% immunization of children and 70% use of contraception among eligible women by 2005 in 100 selected unions across the country. A rapid quantitative survey was conducted to assess the impact of the programme covering 480 households that were randomly selected across six division of BRAC health programme. The survey included four types of households: ultra poor, BRAC VO, VO of other NGOs VO, and non-VO non-poor. The study found a significant progress in achieving the target in the mean time. It was found that 89% of the households had the access to sanitary latrine including ring slab with water seal or without water seal. However, 79% of the household's adult members (both men and women) were currently using sanitary latrine. Still a remarkable proportion of children (<5 years) from all groups (36%) went anywhere for defecation. It was also found that adult and children of ultra poor households defecated anywhere more frequently than all other groups. Data reveal that the programme already covered 84% of immunization of children while 68% of eligible women were using contraception of any kind that is a little away to reach the target by the programme.

18

Exploration of the role of informal providers in detecting and treating TB in rural community of Bangladesh

Qazi Shafayetul Islam, et al.

This cross-sectional study explores the current knowledge and practice of the informal health providers (village doctor, drug store salesman) in detecting and treating TB suspects and cases using

the DOTS strategy in rural areas. The study was implemented in 16 randomly selected sub-districts spread in 6 districts of Dhaka division representing BRAC and Damien Foundation DOTS programme areas. In total, 1,006 conveniently selected health providers (405 village doctors and 601 drug salesmen) were interviewed. The data were rigorously processed manually, and analyzed in SPSS software. Most rural informal health providers in terms of village doctor and drug salesman had no formal training on their profession. Their knowledge on the symptoms of different illnesses, which had been commonly treating was poor. Considerable differences between the village doctors and the drug salesmen in respect with knowledge and practice of TB-related illnesses, especially rational use of drugs and management of TB suspects and cases were observed. In referring the patients to individual organization by village doctors, the village doctors in BRAC areas were more concerned than that of village doctors under Damien Foundation areas. If appropriately trained and functionally linked with the DOTS strategy, these popular informal health providers can play an effective role in increasing TB case detection, diagnosis and treatment in rural Bangladesh.

19

Improving iron status before pregnancy: predictors for time to first pregnancy in rural Bangladesh

Amina Khambalia, N Choudhury and S Zlotkin

It has recently been advocated that iron supplementation begin before childbearing. A key operational issue is timely identification of females prior to pregnancy. The purpose of this study was to examine factors associated with time to first pregnancy and adolescent pregnancy. A cross-sectional survey was conducted in Gazipur, Bangladesh (April-May 2006) among ever married females aged ≥ 50 years. Data on 603 females were analyzed. Mean age was $32 \text{ years} \pm 9$. Only 15% (7/47) of never pregnant females reported iron use in the past 6 months. Mean age at marriage was $17 \text{ years} \pm 3$. Fifty-eight percent (322/556) of females were ≥ 18 years at first pregnancy. Median time from marriage to first pregnancy was 12 months (range: 0-408). Multivariate hazard analysis found risk of pregnancy increased by 13% for every year increase in age at

marriage ($p < 0.0001$) and decreased by 3% for every year increase in female's current age ($p < 0.0001$). Risk among medical contraceptive users was 58% of the risk among non-users ($p = 0.0001$). Using multivariate logistic regression analysis the probability of an adolescent pregnancy decreased by 3% for each year of marriage during adolescence (CI: 0.95-0.99), by 10% for every year increase in husband's age at marriage (CI: 0.87-0.94), by 68% among female wage earners compared to non-wage earners (CI: 0.16-0.64) and by 50% among medical contraceptive users compared to non-users (CI: 0.30-0.85). In this population females are married at a young age with short time to first pregnancy intervals. Periconceptional iron supplementation programmes should target adolescents and newly-weds.

20

The food supplementation process in BRAC areas under the National Nutrition Project (NNP): an exploratory study

Marufa Aziz Khan, QS Islam and SM Ahmed

This study explored the process of food supplementation in BRAC NNP areas focusing on the process of selection of recipients, quality and quantity of food in supplementation packets, and its preparation, storage and distribution. Data were collected from Monohardi and Lakshmipur Sadar upazilas (10 Community Nutrition Centres or CNC from each upazila) during December 2005 to January 2006 from 66 pregnant women and lactating mother (PW and LM) and 54 under-two children, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Community nutrition promoters (CNP) of the two upazilas were also included. Findings reveal that around 22% PW and LM's weight were correctly measured and only 11% of BMI of mothers (by community nutrition organizers/promoters combined) correctly calculated. Done alone, 8% of the CNPs could calculate BMI correctly. For children, 29% of weight measurements were correct. Seventy-two percent of the CNCs used medium quality of rice for preparing the supplement. In the case of lentil, 97% of the CNCs used poor quality in their food packets. In case of molasses and oil, 79% and 72% respectively were of medium quality. It was found that 68% of the areas where the food sup-

plementation was prepared were clean while 37% of the women volunteers started working without washing their hands. Seventy-four percent of the packets were found to be defective (leakage). Only 40% of PW and LMs regularly visited the centers for feeding children with supplementation. In Monohardi, about 5 out of 10 CNCs distributed the same number of packets prepared for the recipients. The rest of the CNCs distributed a lesser number of packets in a week. In Lakshmipur one CNC distributed all the packets they prepared. It was found that an extra amount of bill was prepared for the last 7 days in most centers.

21

Preliminary exploration of birthing hut facilities of MANOSHI programme

Marufa Aziz Khan, SM Ahmed and HE Nasreen

The main objective of the study was an initial exploration of the urban birthing center facilities in slum area of Dhaka city operated by the newly launched MANOSHI programme of BRAC. The perception and acceptability of the birthing centers by the local people, available services and service providers' knowledge and perception about the birthing centers were explored. Four centers were selected at Shabujbag, Ershad Nagar, Koroil and Namashampur. Respondents were pregnant mothers and their family, local leaders and BRAC staff working at the centers. The findings reveal that the community expects 'doctors' to provide services in a formal setting like that of birthing hut. They also expect a complete health package from these huts. Most of the mothers expressed that if birthing centers arranged TT injection and supportive medicines than it would be a better option for them. Referral points were not sufficiently responsive for patients attending the birthing huts. Among the staff involved in services of the centers SSs were not motivated enough and remuneration was the main cause of this de-motivation. Urban birth attendants expressed the same feelings about their remuneration. From the providers' side, POs expressed that they faced problems in motivating the pregnant mothers for registration and referral costs. One of the centers at Tongi Ershad Nagar was found to be less relevant because of the saturated services of TDH - an NGO from Netherlands for pregnant and

lactating mothers. The implications of these findings for redesigning the birthing huts are discussed.

22

The effect of classification of nutritional status on the interventions provided in the national nutrition programme

Christine M Least and MA Khan

This exploratory study looked at the process involved in growth monitoring sessions as carried out in the National Nutrition Programme. The specific aim of this study was to identify misclassification of nutritional status of mother and children arising from errors in taking weight and height and its reasons. Data were collected from seven CNCs of the Kapasia conducting growth monitoring sessions during July 17-27, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. In order to show this differences or errors, programme beneficiaries were re-weighed and re-measured by researchers using separate standard equipment directly after the CNP completed these measurements. Forty-five pregnant and lactating women were involved. No significant difference was seen between the weight measurements by the researchers and the CNPs on both of the scales. However, significant differences were seen in case of height measurement ($p=0.02$). On the standard height scale mean differences was also significant ($p=0.004$). Using paired t-tests to compare each of the different BMIs obtained for either group showed that there was a significant difference between the BMI for pregnant women calculated by the CNO and the BMI obtained by the researcher on measurements from standard equipment ($p=0.012$). Information was obtained on 47 children. Classifying the children by nutritional status, 27 were within the normal weight for age and the rest of them were malnourished. Using paired t-tests, there was no significant difference between weights obtained by the CNP and the researcher. A statistically significant difference also was not found between the nutritional status determined by the CNP and the researcher ($p=0.208$). The CNPs identified limited time, high workload, and lack of interest from beneficiaries as barriers to their jobs.

23

BRAC HIV/AIDS programme: the mid-term evaluation

Hashima-e-Nasreen and F Karim

In response to the possible threat of HIV epidemic in Bangladesh, BRAC has piloted several HIV prevention modules since late nineties. A four-year HIV prevention programme was initiated in 2002 in four districts which addressed the high-risk, bridging and general population to respond to the full cycle of HIV prevention. In mid-2005, an evaluation was done aimed to measure the targeted effects of the three-year intervention in relation to the process and resource invested. A cross-sectional evaluation study including 1,560 community adults, 1,360 adolescents, 580 bus-truck driver/helpers, 430 brothel-based sex workers and 160 health providers from Faridpur and Khulna districts was done. A significant difference of AIDS-aware population was observed between baseline and mid-term evaluation. The programme had achieved success to some extent in the behavioural aspects of high-risk population. Condom compliance is increased only among the brothel-based sex workers. Treatment-seeking behaviour of STI patients was modified from keeping it in silence to seeking treatment from elsewhere. However, the correct and comprehensive knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STI among both target population and health providers was still at a lower level compared to the expected level by 2005.

24

Safe motherhood promotion project in Narsingdi district: baseline survey 2006

Hashima-e-Nasreen, N Imam, R Akhter and SM Ahmed

Data for this study were collected from three randomly selected upazilas of Narsingdi district using both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the current status of MNCH-related services. A total of 1,049 respondents, comprising currently pregnant women and mothers of under-one children were sampled from 7,000 households. Findings reveal that the respondents were to some extent aware about the common pregnancy complications requiring medical attention but were less aware

about more severe life-threatening complications. They had some awareness about important delivery complications requiring immediate therapeutic attention such as delayed labour (75%), mal-presentation (35%), hand/leg prolapse (32%), convulsion (18%), absence of pain/contraction (15%), etc. Around 40% of the pregnant women had at least one ante-natal check-up visit, and 23% had three or more visits. The majority of the delivery were attended by either untrained TBAs (43%) or trained TBAs (26%). In 21-22% cases, the hemorrhage was substantial during natal and post-natal periods but in most cases no action was taken. Only 10% women went for a post-natal check-up. Around 60% of the neonates suffered from illnesses and treatment was sought most commonly from MBBS doctors (30%), village doctors/drug sellers (27%), and homeopaths (31%). Qualitative exploration reveals that there is little difference in staffing, equipment and services among government health facilities at different level. None, even the district hospital, was able to provide emergency obstetric care. In general, the quality of maternal and child health services in government hospital is poor. The major problems encountered at the service delivery points include vacant posts; staff absenteeism; shortage of competent staff trained to manage obstetric complication, lack of furniture, equipment and supplies; lack of good record-keeping system; lack of commitment of health providers; and absence of systematic referral system. The other barriers identified in using government health facilities are health brokers and very high out-of-pocket expenditure. Voices from the community were critical about the government health facilities and doctor-patient interactions.

25

Morbidity and poverty: measuring economic burden of illness requiring in-patient services

Mahjabeen Rahman and SM Ahmed

Severe illnesses may have important consequences for the poor in terms of the costs of treatment they have to bear and income erosion effects of those illnesses. This study compared the cost of illness between the SUP and NSUP households and investigated whether health expenditures are catastrophic for these households. It also investigated the crisis coping mechanism for meeting the cost burden of illness and its implications for the pover-

ty status of households. The survey interviewed SUP and NSUP households during February-March 2006 in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Kurigram, drawn randomly from the TUP Repeat Survey 2005 households experiencing severe illness requiring in-patient services in health facilities. Findings revealed lower direct costs of illness for SUP households compared to NSUP ones but higher indirect costs for the former. A higher percentage of SUP households incurred catastrophic healthcare expenses compared to NSUP households. Interestingly, asset depletion was found to be lower among SUP households who also reported higher asset value than the NSUP households. Potential positive effect of the CFPR/TUP interventions was noted which may be important for guiding policy and practice by the programme.

C. STUDIES ON EDUCATION

26

The state of secondary education: progress and challenges

Manzoor Ahmed, SR Nath, A Hossain and MA Kalam

This is the first study on secondary education under Education Watch initiative. Five issues viz. participation, educational facilities and learning provisions, internal efficiency of institutions, financing, and management of secondary education were explored. A total of 23,971 households from 1,088 communities and 600 educational institutions located in all over the country were brought under the study. Findings reveal that enrolment of children in secondary education was increasing where the girls were more in number than the boys. However, inequality existed in terms of households' economic status and parental education. The educational institutions were on average 25% efficient with wider variation by types. The girls lagged behind the boys in pass rates. The government secondary schools and the school-cum-colleges were wealthier than others in terms of infrastructure and teachers quality. Scarcity of science education was found in the madrasas. The students had to spend huge amount of money for their education of which a good proportion went for private supplementary tutoring. Management problems were also existed. A number of policy measures were made at the end.

27

Research plan for BRAC Education Programme 2006-2009*BRAC Education Programme and Research and Evaluation Division*

This report provides RED's education research plan for the remaining duration of the fourth phase (2006-09) of BRAC Education Programme (BEP). The basis of the plan was a review report on existing research studies on BEP focussing on research on quality issues of various components of BEP using an input-process-output framework. Based on this review, a draft research plan was developed and this was discussed for prioritization and revision in joint meeting of RED and BEP. This document is the outcome of these exercises which includes a list of 22 studies, tentative issues to be addressed under each, and timeline. The studies will be conducted basically by the researchers in RED; however help would be sought from external experts as and when needed.

28

Test development for assessing learning achievement of the students of class x*Education Watch research team*

This report describes the process of test development for assessing learning achievement of the students of class X. Considering the learning objectives as the basis for testing the students this instrument developed four test batteries - one each for Bangla, English, mathematics and everyday science. Each battery contains 20 items totalling 80 for the whole test. Subject-wise reliability of the instrument varied from 0.75-0.89. However, the whole test was found 95% reliable. Content validity of the test items was ensured through following the national learning objectives, and by the teachers and the national level experts. Finally, minimum criterion for each subject was set through subject-wise median analysis.

29

Children's access to pre-school education in Bangladesh*Samir Ranjan Nath*

Using Education Watch household survey database this paper explores children's access to pre-school education in Bangladesh. Access to pre-school education in Bangladesh is increasing at the rate of 0.6% per year and the net enrolment rate rose to 13.4% in 2005. Enrolment of over-aged children in pre-school education made the gross enrolment ratio as high as 30.5%. Over half of the currently enrolled children of pre-school age also enrolled in primary classes. Over 70% of the pre-school aged children were out of school. Only a third of the pre-school pupils got the opportunity to enrol in the right kind of schools where the English medium kindergartens and NGO-run non-formal schools were playing important role. Urban children, especially those had educated parents and better-off economic background, were more likely to have access in pre-school education compared to the others. Lack of common curricula for pre-school education creates inequity among children at their very early age. A pro-poor policy with enough responsibility of the state and scope for current providers to contribute is an urgent need.

30

Education status of the youths in Bangladesh*Samir Ranjan Nath*

Using the databases generated through Education Watch and BANBEIS, this study provides an overview of the education status of the youths in Bangladesh. This includes educational provision for the youths, current enrolment status, years of schooling completed, and literacy skills. School enrolment information was available only for the youths aged 15-20 years. However, youths aged 15-35 years were brought under all other analyses. The findings reveal that overall educational attainment of the youths in Bangladesh is increasing over time. The youths below 25 years of age were more educated than other age groups in terms of years of schooling completed and literacy attainment. Youths' involvement in madrasa education is also increasing over time.

31

An exploration of the students assessment at the beginning of secondary education*Samir Ranjan Nath*

This paper examines the results of pre-assessment held in 2005 in all the secondary educational institutions in Bangladesh. The results show a wide variation in the performance of the students by institution, stream, upazila, and district. In-depth exploration of the process in two districts in two successive years (2005 and 2006) hints a variation in the process from one district to another. Poor correlation between the results of the schools and the madrasas and both with the district-wise literacy rates raised question about the validity of the assessment. No standard procedure was maintained in question preparation or assessment of answer sheets. Wide variation was observed in the results of two successive years in some upazilas. Thus, any generalised conclusion from the assessment results regarding quality of primary education is at risk. Moreover, no use of the results at the institution level questions the main purpose of the assessment. Finally, a standardised assessment system was suggested maintaining current nature of decentralised management.

32

Factors affecting variations in the achievement of competencies: a case study of BRAC primary schools

Samir Ranjan Nath, G Roy and A Hossain

Under a broader aim of exploring the quality of BRAC Education Programme (BEP), this study aims to examine the level of competency achievement of the BRAC primary school students graduated in 2005. Randomly selected 5,946 students (65% girls) from 298 schools under 150 BEP programme areas were sampled for the test. In addition, background information of the students, schools, teachers, programme organisers, and area managers were collected. In general, the students did very well in the test with an average achievement of 22.7 competencies, and 10% of the students achieved all the 27 competencies under test. Proportion of contents in the textbooks taught in the classes, duration of attachment of programme organisers with the schools, experience of area managers and religion of the students came out as significant predictors of performance of the schools. A number of suggestions were also made.

33

Internal efficiency of secondary educational institutions: results from a reconstructed cohort analysis

Samir Ranjan Nath

Examining promotion, dropout and repetition in various grades and performance in public examinations at the end of secondary schooling this paper explored the internal efficiency of secondary educational institutions in Bangladesh. Using the database of 598 educational institutions created for Education Watch 2005 the estimates were done through UNESCO-PROAP software called Edu Analysis. Estimates were made available for five types of secondary educational institutions - three of which are general type (viz. government, non-government, and school-cum-college) and two are Islamic religious (viz. Dakhil and Alim madrasas). The findings reveal that on average, the system was 25.9% efficient with a wide variation by school type - government schools showed the highest efficiency (54.9%) and the Dakhil madrasas lowest (22.7%). The provisions, in general, were more efficient for the boys than the girls (32.9% vs. 20.2%). Gender variation commonly existed in all types of institutions. The madrasas were less efficient than the schools under general stream. The situation of the madrasa girls was the worst.

34

Private supplementary tutoring among primary students in Bangladesh

Samir Ranjan Nath

Using the databases created under Education Watch, a civil society initiative to monitor primary and basic education in Bangladesh, this paper explores trends, socioeconomic differentials, and cost in private supplementary tutoring among primary students and its impact on learning achievement. The rate of primary school students getting access to private supplementary tutoring is increasing two percentage points per year and reached at 31% in 2005. Incidence of private tutor was more among the boys and the urban students than their respective counterparts. Educated parents and the well-off families were more likely to arrange supplementary tutoring for their children. A wide variation in the cost for private tutoring prevailed. The tutees

spent 46% of their total private expenditure for education on supplementary tutoring. Supplementary tutoring helped students learn more than those had no such support. Private tutors for primary school students have become a well-accepted norm. Finally, a number of social implications were discussed.

35

Quality of BRAC Education Programme: a review of existing studies

Samir Ranjan Nath

Considering an input-process-output (IPO) framework of analysing quality of education this report reviewed all the research studies conducted in the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC during the last 18 years. The main aim of this review was to explore the quality of BRAC Education Programme. More than 80% of the 120 studies have been on children's and adolescents' education programme and thus the findings of the studies can be easily fitted into the IPO model. The findings reveal that the quality of such school programmes were satisfactory compared to the mainstream primary education provision. Research on other components of BEP also showed positive effect on the subjects. However, the IPO model could not be fitted for them due to unavailability of adequate research output. More research on them is needed. Some of the limitations of the studies are also identified. Finally, we suggest that at least one study on each of the components of BEP be carried out following the said analytical framework during the timeframe of phase IV.

36

Youths access to mass media in Bangladesh

Samir Ranjan Nath

This chapter explores Bangladeshi youths' access to mass media and its socioeconomic correlates. The database of *Education Watch 2002* was used for this study. A total of 6,427 youths aged 15-35 years taken from 268 neighbourhoods of all the 64 districts were included in the analysis. Three media viz. radio, television, and newspaper were considered. The findings reveal that over a half (56.4%) of the Bangladeshi youths had access to at least one of the

media. These youths have enjoyed any of these media at least once during one week prior to the survey. Separately, 41% had access to television, a third to radio, and about 17% to newspaper. Gender, area of residence, age, and religion divides exist in access to mass media. Youths having characteristics like being female, living in rural areas, aged 25 years and above, and being Muslims were less likely to have access to mass media than their respective counterparts. These divides at youth stage can be eliminated through enhancing appropriate education at child and adolescent stages.

37

Effect of BRAC-PACE training on English language teachers of rural non-government secondary schools

Arifa Rahman, MM Kabir and R Afroze

This study investigated the effect of the BRAC-PACE training programme of English language teachers of rural non-government secondary schools. Introduced in 2001, it aims to enhance capacity of English teachers to help them cope with the demands of the revised curriculum. The study examined the change in teachers in terms of their pedagogic skills, language skills development, knowledge about communicative language teaching (CLT) and their attitudes towards this new approach. The relevance of the training and the existing challenges were also investigated. The study findings point to a mixed picture. Positive signs are apparent in a general improvement on some particular issues but there are variations across districts and across age, gender, experience, and educational level of the groups. In spite of a general improvement in teachers' knowledge about CLT and the skills involved in its application in the classroom, there is little evidence of much difference in the existing classroom practices of trained and non-trained teachers. More importantly, students are not being affected very much. Although most teachers perceive the training programme and the materials both relevant and useful for their professional development, they do not believe that CLT can be effectively applied in the classroom settings of the rural schools, thus implying a set of ingrained beliefs which influence teachers' attitudes and behaviour in classroom. An understanding of cognition, context and the preva-

lent educational culture needs to be incorporated into the programme. An interaction with trainee-teachers' perceptions and attitudes is likely to enable them to engage with and make sense of the training process. The issue of re-casting ideas within one's own frame of reference in order to suit the local culture is emphasised.

38

Causes behind differential performance in various types of BRAC schools

Goutam Roy, NC Dutta and SR Nath

Differential learning achievement of the graduates of three types of BRAC schools viz., BRAC primary school, BRAC community school and BRAC formal school came out through a recent study with some hypothetical explanation of the reasons behind such difference. This study aims to fill this gap through an in-depth and qualitative exploration. Observation, in-depth interview and focus group discussion were the techniques that applied using various checklists. Although the aim and objectives of all three types of schools were similar to those of the national level, the formal school students had better home background, qualified teachers, longer contact hour, use of full range of government prepared textbooks, and other enabling conditions in the schools, thus they did better in performance test compared to the other two types of school. In terms of value addition, the BPS model has contributed more than others with their limited wealth.

STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

39

Evaluation of public-private partnership model of medical waste management in Rajshahi City Corporation

Nasima Akter, M Rahman, M Nahar, and Institution of Policy Support Unit-Ministry of Environment and Forest team

This study aimed to assess the medical waste management (MWM) practices in the area under Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) after providing training and implementation of in-house MWM partnership pilot. The specific objectives were to: i)

evaluate the status and practice of in-house waste management after training, ii) see the change in waste generation and quality after training and in-house management implementation, iii) assess the improvement in waste collection and disposal system by RCC, and iv) find the reasons behind improper MWM during the pilot phase. Based on this evaluation, an implementation strategy, final disposal option, and the partnership model will be evaluated. Almost all hospitals/clinics/ diagnostic centers within the RCC area were surveyed during the monitoring period (April-June 2006). Data were collected by field observation and interview through checklists. Data on waste generation and category were collected by three days' weighing of waste in selected hospitals. Those were selected according to the size of hospitals/clinics and service delivery. Two rounds of data collection during April-June 2006 showed a remarkable improvement in certain stages of in-house MWM. Use of different bins for different kinds of waste, destruction of sharp waste, separate space or room allocation for temporary storage of waste, use of personal protective uniform and disinfectants as safety measure, etc. are some positive changes observed during the study. Overall perception, knowledge and practice have been improved after the training provided during the pilot project. Few respondents also mentioned that RCC did not have proper waste collection system for hospitals/clinics. However, after providing training and implementing the pilot in-house management system, respondents mentioned constraints those were different from baseline findings. They also mentioned that proper collection and disposal system by RCC was very much needed. They are conscious about the final collection, transport, and disposal of medical waste. There are lots of obstacles related to total MWM system. Hence, any kind of positive changes would take time. More time and much effort are needed to change practice and implementation of proper MWM at all healthcare facilities and capacity development of all level of stakeholders. Few more things are needed to be done to establish the partnership model, these are: finalizing the final disposal option at RCC; organizing a seminar involving all city corporations to understand their involvement and capacity, and developing strategy to incorporate MWM in their policy and planning; and evaluation of partnership

model by discussion, meeting, and consultation with all stakeholders.

40

Revisit BRAC's programme: an environmental assessment

Nasima Akter and MM Rahman

This study aimed to develop environmental guidelines for some of the BRAC programme/projects to minimize the negative environmental impacts and ensure environmental sustainability. The objectives of the study were to i) revisit different BRAC programmes to assess how environmental component was incorporated and implemented, and ii) set up environmental guidelines for different programmes. This qualitative study was conducted in March 2005 using structured checklists. Development programme, support programme, health programme and few commercial enterprises were taken under this study. Most of the programmes have different kind of environmental and occupational health problems. Some of the programmes followed few recommendations made by the Environment Group in 1996. Nevertheless, there are several programmes which have not been evaluated before. An environmental guideline is recommended for both BRAC-operated programme support enterprises/factories and VO level income generating programmes. The guideline is developed considering the following categories: i) habitat and wildlife (landscape, drainage, rare/endangered species and condition of native species were considered), ii) raw material use (use of chemicals, natural alternatives, least harmful, storage and transport, quality and standard), iii) natural resource use (minimal inputs, alternative energy sources, re-use and recycling, and use of ground/surface water), iv) waste (minimal waste, alternative uses, treatment, disposal, storage), and v) health and safety (training, use of safety protector, management concern, adaptation, monitoring, awareness). Based on the environmental guideline a monitoring and evaluation mechanism need to be introduced to follow-up the programme activities. Previously developed environmental training and awareness programmes should be resumed to make programme people more aware regarding different environment-friendly activities and for their health and safety.

41

Assessment of existing improved cook stove in Bangladesh

MA Quaiyum Sarkar, N Akter and M Rahman

There are different models of Improved Cook Stove (ICS) being used in Bangladesh. This study aimed to know which type of ICS people accept more. Specific objectives were to know i) what fuels are being used in improved cook stove; ii) what types of ICS are being used and preferred; iii) the satisfaction level of the users of ICS; and iv) select some models of ICS that will be recommended for further experimentation. Local partner NGOs of VERC and Practical Action were selected for this study. Data were collected by interview, informal discussion and observation using structured questionnaire and checklist during July-August 2006. The findings reveal that the sampled households used two types of ICSs - fixed and portable. About 56% of the households used fixed ICS, majority of which were without grate. Fifty-four percent of the users were completely satisfied with ICS. The respondents mentioned some limitations of using ICSs. However, majority of the users mentioned some advantages of ICS like creating less smoke in kitchen, less time to cook, saving energy (fuel), etc. Fifty-six percent of the households used traditional cook stoves in addition to ICS. A number of reasons behind using traditional cook stoves they mentioned which include feeling comfortable, fuel easily available, cheaper to use, meeting seasonal demand, etc. However, majority of them said that they were habituated and felt comfortable in using traditional cook stove in addition to ICS. Study shows that 24% of the households faced problems related to fuels such as: cost of firewood, availability, smoke especially in the rainy season, etc. However, all of the households agreed to use ICS continuously. Among them, 73% agreed to pay for new ICS. Most of them opined to pay within the range of Tk. 50-100 for new ICS. It is quite clear from this study that any one type of ICS would not be suitable for all areas and households. Selection of appropriate and popular ICS depends largely on availability of fuels, energy savings, and reduction in smoke emission. However, an effective laboratory test of selected ICS models is needed to find out the appropriate one that may be replicated countrywide after successful pilot intervention.

42

Environmental assessment of small and medium enterprise of BRAC Bank towards environment-friendly enterprise development*MA Quaiyum Sarkar and N Akter*

This study assessed environmental concerns of selected Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) of BRAC Bank. Data were collected in January-February 2006 through in-depth interview, focus group discussion, and observation. The study included 15 types of SMEs. These include textile and dyeing, leather and leather products, plastic product, hotel and restaurant, hospital/clinic, poultry, rice mill, oil mill, bakery, wood and wood products, cosmetics and toiletries, sawmill, engineering metal products, printing and packaging, and dairy. Environmental assessment was done based on standard procedure use in different project assessment. Findings show that most of the SMEs studied did not follow any environmental guidelines and/or regulation. Recommendations were made to conduct an environmental audit of all SMEs and develop an environmental monitoring system for BRAC Bank. Based on this study an environmental guideline has been prepared for BRAC Bank SMEs.

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Environmental guideline for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) of BRAC Bank Ltd.*MA Quaiyum Sarkar and N Akter*

An environmental guideline was prepared for small and medium enterprises (SME) of BRAC Bank following a standard format. Objectives of the guideline include i) to prevent any adverse environmental impact raised from the activities of SMEs, ii) to protect the health and safety of those directly involved in the activities of SMEs, and iii) to make SMEs environment-friendly. This guideline focused on habitat and wildlife, natural resource use, chemical use, waste management, and health and safety. Guideline also categorized all SMEs in "green", "yellow" and "red" category following the government environmental regulation. This guideline would be able to make BRAC Bank SMEs socially and environmentally responsive.

E. STUDIES ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

44

Popular expectations of government: findings from three areas in Bangladesh*Tariq Ali and Naomi Hossain*

This paper presents findings from research into expectations of government, based on focus group discussion sessions with over 100 poor and very poor people in rural and urban Bangladesh. The research was designed to help improve our understanding of the political constraints shaping public policy with respect to poverty. In particular it aimed to understand the following: if, as is commonly asserted, the interests of the poorest do not make it onto the public policy agenda, why do the poor appear to tolerate this relative neglect? What is the least a government must do for the poorest in order to retain the level of cooperation and legitimacy necessary for it to function? In brief, what do the poor and the very poor expect from their government? The risks and difficulties of conducting research of this kind were addressed through a careful process of testing research tools detailed in the report. The team finally developed a semi-structured discussion guideline that incorporated participatory discussion tools. Even then, the analysis of the research findings is cautious and tentative. The paper concludes with a discussion of this finding, offering some preliminary conclusions about its implications for political process and the poor.

45

Voices of the youth: findings from youth consultation in Bangladesh*Tariq Omar Ali, N Imam, R Karim and N Selim*

This report was a synthesis of "youth voices" from consultation meetings carried out with 23 youth groups by the authors in four areas of Bangladesh - Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet. The major variations in the youth groups were according to gender, socioeconomic status, education, religion, ethnicity and location. The consultation meetings were focused on five key transitions that youths experienced and were, according to the World Development Report, key in addressing youth

development concerns: (1) transition to continuing education, (2) transition to work, (3) transition to family formation, (4) transition to healthy and secure lifestyles, and (5) transition to meaningful citizenship. With each key transition, focus was on how the youths were planning for the future, in terms of what they aspired towards, the major sources of risk and/or threats, and the limited control youths had over certain key decisions regarding their future.

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Knowledge and behaviour of drivers and pedestrians on road safety: a baseline survey

Md. Abdul Alim, AT Rashid and A Khan

The existing literature show that the main reasons behind the accidents are the ignorance of drivers and pedestrians on different road safety rules and violation of these rules. Therefore, this study aims to measure the knowledge of pedestrians, and drivers, and their behaviour of road use. The data were collected through survey and observation method from pedestrians including female, students, and shopkeepers, and drivers of different vehicles of the eastern part of Bangladesh. Findings show that the pedestrians and drivers did not have much knowledge about the traffic rules. Pedestrian were not aware of rules of walking along and crossing road. Both drivers and pedestrians were ignorant about the meaning of signs and symbols placed on the road. On the other hand, same as drivers, pedestrians did not abide by traffic rules properly despite having little knowledge on few issues. As they had less knowledge and tendency of ignoring the traffic rules thus results an accident. So, the pedestrians and drivers should be more aware of traffic rules and regulations for road safety, and the enforcement of traffic laws must strictly be ensured at the same time.

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Dowry and the transition to marriage

Hanne Cecilie Geirbo and Nuzhat Imam

The paper focuses on how the practice of dowry works as a means of transition to socially sanctioned adult statuses. At the same time, the practice of dowry implies continuity in that the vulnerability and dependence of the female child and the entitlement of the male child are perpetuated in the

married status. Marriage is crucial part of adulthood in Bangladesh. This paper argues that for most adolescent girls, the ability of her guardians to raise enough dowries will have significance for how her adult life will be. It is understood as enhancing the likelihood of a secure transition into the new status as wife and daughter-in-law, as well as a secure transition out of married status in case of divorce, as the right to mahr is seen as depending on the demand given. For an adolescent boy, the amount of dowry he and his guardians can successfully claim, functions as a sign of his quality as a breadwinner and marriage partner. For a groom, dowry often represents a start capital that ensures his transition to the status of breadwinner for a wife and future children. Dowry is thus an institution that highlights vulnerability and dependence as female attributes and entitlement as a male attribute.

48

The motivations behind giving and taking dowry

Hanne Cecilie Geirbo and N Imam

This monograph argues that in order to target dowry as a social problem, we need to know more about why people continue the practice. It gives an overview of the transactions connected to wedding and divorce before it explores the motivations people have for giving and taking dowry. In the end, it is discussed how this rationality meets the rationality of the government and NGOs in the local interpretation and use of legislation and in the use of micro credit. Security is found to be the main motivation for giving dowry. A paid dowry gives a hope that the daughter will be treated well in her in-law's house. Because dowry is connected to mahr, it also gives a security in case of divorce. However, a paid dowry does not give women entitlements towards her in-laws, only a hope that they will treat her well. Also, women's entitlement to mahr depends on payment of dowry as well as her performance as a wife. Men, on the other hand, are perceived as having unquestioned entitlement to dowry. This imbalance is seen as being connected to a perception of women as being vulnerable to physical and social risk as well as representing a threat to their family and community. As a conclusion it is recommended that instead of targeting dowry directly, advocacy efforts would gain from targeting the causes behind the motivations for giving and taking

dowry. Reducing the risk factors that make married status and dowry crucial for women is a way to combat the practice. One way to do this is by implementing livelihood programmes for adolescent girls. Apart from this, the prevailing gender ideology has to be challenged systematically among both girls and boys from an early age. The monograph is based on qualitative research in Domar upazila, of Nilphamari district.

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Inheriting extreme poverty: household aspirations, community attitudes and childhood in northern Bangladesh

Naomi Hossain with M Haque, RI Sarkar, M Rahman, R Karim and L Street

This report, a collaborative initiative between BRAC RED and Save the Children, UK, presented findings of research into the influence of community institutions and actors on the inheritance of extreme poverty. Based on a survey of community officials and leaders in the areas of Rangpur and Kurigram districts, the report explored the scope for community institutions and actors to support action on childhood poverty along with the analysis of the patterns of work, school and marriage among the children of the ultra poor. The key finding was that little progress had been made towards tackling the practice of and attitudes towards harmful child labour at the community level. Parents, children, and community leaders and officials all treated the early entrance of children into work as the inevitable outcome of extreme household poverty. There was little awareness of the immediate risks and longer-term harmful consequences of children's work. Against this background, the report attempted to assess why there appeared to have been more progress on schooling and early marriage than on harmful child labour. The contrast between these cases was instructive, as it highlighted the underlying conditions and intervening factors that supported progress on some and prevented movement on other aspects of childhood poverty.

50

Sex workers and condom use - the political economy of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh

Raihana Karim, N Selim and SF Rashid

A study was undertaken in Madaripur brothel to understand condom use reality within the social context of the commercial sex workers' (CSW) lives in brothel and to critically analyze BRAC's HIV/AIDS programme's effectiveness in condom promotion. It was found that the chukris (bonded sex workers) were controlled by the sardarnis (madam) and the sardarnis did not promote condom use among the chukris as most of them (sardarnis) only bothered about money and about keeping on high client flow to the chukris, in context of most of the clients refusing to use condoms and even willing to pay double the rate for not using condoms. On the other hand, the older sex workers were found less in demand, and did not have the financial power to bargain condom use with the clients. The HIV/AIDS programme, one of the two wings of BRAC's brothel-based intervention was found over-shadowed by and preoccupied with the activities of the other wing, 'Microfinance'. Furthermore, for distributing condom the brothel-based staff targeted only the bariwalis and sardarnis who belonged to the top of brothel hierarchy, and never tried to reach the chukris who consisted of the majority of the brothel community. Moreover, though BRAC was supposed to provide condom to the CSWs at subsidized rate (100 condoms for Tk. 10), the brothel-based staff delivered it at much higher price, Tk. 20-25. Thus, BRAC's brothel-based HIV/AIDS intervention was facing the opposite way of promoting condom use among the brothel-based CSWs.

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Popular theater and BRAC

Mohammad Rafi, H Rahman and MBA Siddiqi

The objectives of the study include evaluation of the popular theater of BRAC as being performed, extent the messages of the theater are being communicated, evaluate the changes brought about in the attitude of the attendees to the theater, and the extent they take initiative in their development. In order to achieve these objectives the study intensively observe two popular theaters - one organized by the Social Development Programme and the other by the Advocacy Programme of BRAC, and the catchments of these theaters. Findings indicate that the programmes have standardized the

process of conducting theater without being sufficiently participatory with the community for whom the theaters were being played. In spite of this the theaters were well communicated to the audiences for the theme of the theaters were part of their experience and the theaters managed to conscientize them and bring a change in their attitudes. But, audiences did not transformed their changed attitude to action for development because they considered the theaters only as entertainment, they did not have a sense of ownership to it as they were not a part in the selection of the play, and in organizing and acting in the theater.

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Small ethnic groups of Bangladesh: a mapping exercise

Mohammad Rafi

Although it is well known that Bangladesh is ethnically heterogeneous for ages, to anybody's surprise available studies including the national census of Bangladesh could hardly answer a very fundamental question - how many small ethnic groups reside in Bangladesh? This prompted us into this mapping exercise. In fact, the exercise is a census of small ethnic groups of Bangladesh but unconventionally it is of the households rather than of the individuals as done in the case of census. The study proceeds with three objectives - find out exact number of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh; estimate their size and identify their locations; and gather selected information on demographic, educational, and socioeconomic status of these groups. To make the huge data set user-friendly we have provided the set and associated maps in a compact disc along with a programme which would allow users to draw part of the data from the whole set as desired.

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A study on job satisfaction and retention of BRAC University faculty members

Ahmed Tareq Rashid and F Jahan

This study aims to find out what attracts faculty to join BRAC University (BU), analyze issues related to job satisfaction, and reasons for their leaving the university. The target population consists of the existing full-time as well as dropout faculty members. For

exploring the attitudes and opinions of current faculty, Visualization in Participatory Programmes (VIPPP) method was used. A questionnaire was sent to each dropout faculty member via email, snail mail, and through personal contact. In addition, six case studies of the dropouts were conducted with in-depth interviews. Secondary information on the dropout cases was also gathered from the university database. The time period considered was from inception of the university (April 2001) to when the study was undertaken (March 2006). We have found that BU enjoys a comparative advantage over other private universities in attracting good faculty members due to its affiliation with BRAC as well as its own vision and leadership. However, despite its reputation it is yet to create its own pool of talented and diverse faculties. A significant portion of its faculty members does not stay at BU. Forty-nine dropouts in five years is an evidence of this problem. Most importantly, many dropout faculties are going to the same organizations which they ignored at the time of joining BU. And, the possibility of further dropout is real. Thus, we recommend that the university should recognize that the environment and nature of academia is different than that of NGO or corporate sectors. Moreover, issues regarding salary structure, service rule, job responsibilities of the faculties may be rationalized as well as more emphasis should be given to professional development of faculties.

F. OTHER STUDIES

54

Authorship conflict in selected research institutions in Bangladesh: an exploratory study

Hasan Shareef Ahmed, A Hadi and N Choudhury

This study aimed to explore the causes, types, and consequences of authorship conflicts among the researchers of selected research institutions in Dhaka, Bangladesh; and suggest ways to reduce conflicts. A sample of 100 researchers was purposively selected from BRAC, ICDDR,B, and the participants of a training course on research bioethics held in Dhaka. They were given a semi-structured questionnaire to fill out. Of them, 45 responded. The responses were confidential and anonymous. While over two-thirds of the respondents were aware of

authorship conflicts, one-third actually faced conflicts with their co-authors. Of them, four faced conflicts with their juniors, while 13 with seniors/supervisors. The primary causes of such conflicts appear to be unethical claims of authorship, violation of authorship order, and deprivation of authorship. In most cases, the victims had to give up, became frustrated, and avoided direct clash to safeguard their job. Reportedly, four cases were victimized for raising the issue. Conflict was never resolved in seven cases. To reduce conflicts, they suggested that authorship should be decided before the study begins, order of authorship must be determined

according to contribution, and standard code of authorship should strictly be followed. Authorship conflicts arise among researchers mostly due to unethical practice of their co-authors, supervisors, and department heads in the absence of formal authorship policy in the institutions. A standard code of authorship, sensitization of researchers on the problem through open discussions and advocacy, and formation of a grievance redress committee are suggested to minimize such conflicts. However, the findings should not be generalized due to small sample size.

TIMELINE OF RED: MAJOR EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1972 | BRAC founded. | 1990 | Village Study Project (VSP) launched. |
| 1975 | Research and evaluation activities initiated at BRAC. | | Nutritional Surveillance Project (NSP) started with Helen Keller International. |
| 1976 | RED initiated its first study through a survey in Sulla in cooperation with BIDS and ICDDR,B. Village study launched in four areas. | 1991 | Research on the fallout of the 1991 cyclone conducted. |
| 1977 | Baseline survey of Manikganj and a follow-up study of monthly Gonokendra done. | | 'A tale of two wings: health and family planning programmes in a upazila in northern Bangladesh' published. |
| 1978 | Research and Evaluation Division (RED) formally established. | 1992 | Assessment of Basic Competencies (ABC), a new simple technique of education research developed. |
| | Two papers on BRAC's experience in family planning activities published jointly with BIDS. | | BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab initiated. |
| 1979 | 'Who gets what and why: resource allocation in a Bangladesh village' published. | 1993 | The Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of RDP initiated. |
| 1980 | Research studies on Oral Therapy Extension Programme (OTEP) started. | | A large scale survey on Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP) undertaken. |
| | 'The net: power structure in ten villages' published. | | Collaborative research with CDS, University of Wales, Swansea initiated. |
| 1983 | Rural Study Series launched. | | Collaborative work with IDS, Sussex started. |
| 1986 | Watch Project launched. | | |

- Joint study with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine undertaken on maternal morbidity.
- 1994 Helen Keller International Award for Best Performance in Nutrition Surveillance Project received.
- Initiated a research project with the University of Manchester, Faculty of Education, 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 of 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 Conference on Universal Primary Education in Bangladesh 1996 organized, and attended by the Prime Minister, Government of Bangladesh.
- '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 Umeå University, Sweden initiated.
- Two studies on poultry and artificial insemination started with Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute.
- Project on Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge initiated.
- 1997 Operationalization of Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project on Compensation of Erosion and Flood Affected Persons initiated.
- 'Getting Started: Universalizing Quality Primary Education in Bangladesh' published.
- A major article on tuberculosis published in *The Lancet*.
- 1998 Fourth International Course on the Anthropology of Health and Health Care held.
- Global Health Equity Initiative - Phase I Conference held, attended by the Prime Minister, GoB and Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen.
- Studies on Chittagong Hill Tracts begins.
- Special studies conducted on 1998 flood losses and damages.
- 1999 Initiated regular display of research findings and major RED activities at all the 18 training venues of BRAC.
- Report on nationwide *Education Watch* entitled "Hope not complacency: state of primary education in Bangladesh 1999" published.
- Report on Social Science and Immunization published.
- Preliminary findings on arsenic study published in *Science*.
- 2000 BRAC's contribution to GDP of Bangladesh was found 1.15% in 1998.
- The third Impact Assessment Study (IAS III) of RDP begins.
- BRAC-IRRI joint study on hybrid rice done.

- RED performed a pioneering work in developing a rapid, simple, inexpensive and replicable method of identifying rick-ets.
- The findings of a baseline study on Chittagong Hill Tracts disseminated at Rangamati.
- BRAC-ICDDR,B Joint Research Project at Matlab entered into the third phase.
- The survey to identify the erosion and flood-affected people due to construction of Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge completed.
- 2001 *Education Watch* 2000 titled 'A question of quality: state of primary education in Bangladesh' published.
- 'Bangladesh Health Equity Watch' launched jointly by BRAC, ICDDR,B, BIDS and BBS.
- Kangaroo Mother Care project initiated.
- 2002 Research on BRAC's ultra poor programme (CFPR/TUP) begins.
- Study on 'Communal relationship in Bangladesh: post election violence 2001' begins.
- Multi-country operation research for improving PHC for older people initiated under PHILL programme.
- Multi-country study on 'Gender barriers in controlling tuberculosis' initiated.
- RED involved in a multi-country new initiative called 'System of Rice Intensification' (SRI) to increase rice yield, productivity and profitability.
- Education Watch* report 2001 entitled 'Renewed hope daunting challenges' published.
- RED Update - the quarterly newsletter of RED launched.
- Baseline survey for resettlement of affected people due to construction of a flyover at Mohakhali, Dhaka conducted.
- 2003 National low birth weight and anaemia survey conducted in partnership with UNICEF and BBS.
- Education Watch* report 2002 launched.
- 2004 Census of small ethnic groups in Bangladesh begins.
- Kangaroo mother care study launched.
- Bangladesh Health Equity Watch enters into second phase.
- Formative research on micronutrient Sprinkles initiated.
- Study on of quality primary education in Bangladesh done.
- Education Watch* 2003-04 done.
- Assessment of rural piped water system started.
- 2005 CFPR/TUP repeat survey begins.
- Research on BRAC's MNCH programme launched.
- Education Watch* 2005 conducted.
- Pilot research on rural electrification through alternative energy initiated.
- Study on global climate change and its impact on business sectors in Bangladesh begins.
- Bangladesh adolescent survey 2005 launched.

Research Unit formed at BRAC
Afghanistan.

RED launched its own website
(www.bracresearch.org)

2006 International conference on extreme
poverty held.

Research on BRAC's urban MNCH and
WASH programmes begins.

Research on the state of governance in
Bangladesh done.

Baseline survey of GQAL programme
done.

Education Watch 2007 initiated.

Dissemination and discussion workshop
on World Development Report 2007
held.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante-natal Care
AO	Area Office
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCDM	BRAC Centre for Development Management
BDP	BRAC Development Programme
BEOC	Basic Education for Older Children
BEP	BRAC Education Programme
BHC	BRAC Health Centre (Shushasthya)
BHEW	Bangladesh Health Equity Watch
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BLR	BRAC Local Representative
BMI	Body Mass Index
BU	BRAC University
CAMPE	Campaign for Popular Education
CAPGAN	Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
CFPR/TUP	Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction - Targeting the Ultra Poor
CFS	Complementary Food Supplement
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CKMC	Community-based Kangaroo Mother Care
CNC	Community Nutrition Centres
CNP	Community Nutrition Promoters
CSW	Commercial Sex Workers
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short Course

ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHC	Essential Healthcare
ERG	Economic Research Group
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GO	Government
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GQAL	Gender Quality Action Learning
GSC	Gram Shahayak Committee
Hb	Haemoglobin
HCP	Healthcare Providers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HNPP	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme
IAS	Impact Assessment Study
ICDDR,B	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
IDA	Iron Deficiency Anaemia
IDRC	International Development Research Centre, Canada
IFA	Iron Folic Acid
IGVGD	Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development
INDEPTH	International Network of field sites for continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health in developing countries
IPSU	Institute of Policy Support Unit (Government of Bangladesh)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAP	Knowledge, attitude and practice
LBW	Low Birth Weight
Madrassa	Islamic religious school/college/university
MANOSHI	The Bangla abbreviation of Ma, Nabojatak o Shishu which stands for the Mother, Neonate, and Child Health (MNCH) Programme of BRAC
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest, GoB
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoB
MUAC	Mid-upper Arm Circumference
MWM	Medical Waste Management
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NFPE	Non-formal Primary Education
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate

NNP	National Nutrition Programme
NORAD	The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NOVIB	The Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation
NSUP	Not Selected Ultra Poor
PHC	Primary Healthcare
PO	Programme Organizer
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
QoL	Quality of Care
RCC	Rajshahi City Corporation
RED	Research and Evaluation Division
RHC	Reproductive Healthcare
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SK	Shasthya Karmi (Health Worker)
SS	Shasthya Shebika (Female Village Health Volunteer)
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SUP	Selected Ultra Poor
TARC	Training and Resource Centre (BRAC)
TB	Tuberculosis
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
ToT	Training of Trainers
TUP	Targeting the Ultra Poor
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UP	Union Parishad - the lowest level local government body
Upazila	Sub-district - the lowest administrative unit of the government
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAC	Vitamin A Capsule
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VO	Village Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme of BRAC
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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