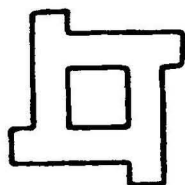


THE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT 1988

FEBRUARY 1989



BRAC

BANGLADESH RURAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

66 MOHAKHALI COMMERCIAL AREA

DHAKA-1212

THE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION DIVISION
ANNUAL REPORT 1988

February 1989

Research and Evaluation Division
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
66 Mohakhali Commercial Area
Dhaka-1212

Introduction:

With the ever expanding activities of BRAC, its independent unit the Research and Evaluation (RED) is becoming increasingly brisk in each successive year. The year 1988 was not an exception. In this year RED completed many planned studies of the previous year and also undertook new studies some of which are ongoing.

The studies undertaken by RED are essentially development research directed towards the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of BRAC programmes. Upto the end of 1988, RED has produced more than 150 research reports, many of which have received wide circulation.

Type of Research Activities:

RED's multidisciplinary researches are in conformity with BRAC's multifaceted interventions. RED's research activities can be classified under five broad heads:

- a) Baseline or bench mark surveys
- b) Monitoring studies
- c) Diagnostic studies
- d) Impact evaluation studies and
- e) Policy oriented studies.

Staff:

In RED there are fourteen personnels responsible for research. Among these core researchers: two are PhDs and four hold master's degree from abroad. The total strength of RED is more than 80 with 55 in the field.

New Recruitment, Promotion and Transfer:

In order to meet the growing need of increased activities, four staff members joined to strengthen RED during 1988. They are:

- i) Nasreen Huq, nutritionist with an MS from the University of

Introduction:

With the ever expanding activities of BRAC, its independent unit the Research and Evaluation (RED) is becoming increasingly brisk in each successive year. The year 1988 was not an exception. In this year RED completed many planned studies of the previous year and also undertook new studies some of which are ongoing.

The studies undertaken by RED are essentially development research directed towards the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of BRAC programmes. Upto the end of 1988, RED has produced more than 150 research reports, many of which have received wide circulation.

Type of Research Activities:

RED's multidisciplinary researches are in conformity with BRAC's multifaceted interventions. RED's research activities can be classified under five broad heads:

- a) Baseline or bench mark surveys
- b) Monitoring studies
- c) Diagnostic studies
- d) Impact evaluation studies and
- e) Policy oriented studies.

Staff:

In RED there are fourteen personnels responsible for research. Among these core researchers: two are PhDs and four hold master's degree from abroad. The total strength of RED is more than 80 with 55 in the field.

Staff Recruitment, Promotion and Transfer:

In order to meet the growing need of increased activities, four staff members joined to strengthen RED during 1988. They are:

- 1) Nasreen Huq, nutritionist with an MS from the University of

California at Berkeley, USA;

- ii) N.C. Mallick, statistician with an MS from Carleton University in Canada;
- iii) AKM Atiqur Rahman, economist with a master's degree from the University of Dhaka, and
- iv) Sanzidur Rahman, agricultural economist with a bachelor's degree from the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Three staff members were promoted, they are, i) AMR Chowdhury (Programme Head, Research and Evaluation Division), Munir Ahmed (Staff Economist) and CR Das (Staff Sociologist).

Jalal Ahmed, a Research Demographer was transferred to the Child Survival Programme (CSP) as Regional Manager. Dr. Shafiqul Islam, a Research Economist, was transferred to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) as Manager, Monitoring Cell. Ms Zarina Kabir, Staff Economist, was transferred to the RDP as Programme Organizer.

Staff Development:

As per needs to carry out potential researches, RED equips its staff through higher training at home and abroad. The following gives a brief of staff development activities of RED in 1988.

- a) Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Research Demographer, returned to BRAC after completing MSc in Community Health in Developing Countries at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England.
- b) Mr. Shams Mustafa, Senior Staff Economist, returned to BRAC after completing MSc in Development Studies at the University of Bath, England.
- c) Dr. Nazrul Islam, Medical Officer (Research), attended the Second Asian Course in Tropical Epidemiology at Mahidol University, Thailand.

d) Mr. Fazlul Karim, a Senior Programme Organiser, went to the Netherlands to read for Master's in Public Health at the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam.

e) Mr. Sadequr Rahman Chowdhury, a Staff Statistician, went to England to read for Master's in Demography at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Acclamation of RED's Activities:

RED's activities particularly in the field of health, have been highly acclaimed by both local and foreign evaluators. The local office of the Ford Foundation in their memorandum on "Community Health Network in Bangladesh" was profused in praising RED's contribution in health evaluation. "RED is arguably the best health programme evaluation unit in the country", reads the memorandum. Professor Patrick Vaughan of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine reviewed the activities of RED in May 1988 and highly praised the activities and contribution of RED.

In recognition of his contribution to health evaluation & research, RED's head Dr. AMR Chowdhury has recently been honoured by the Evaluation & Planning Centre of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine by making him its Overseas Associate. Dr. Chowdhury was also made an Honorary Member of Centre Oncologique et Biologique de Recherche Appliquee (Oncological and Biological Centre for Applied Research), St. Etienne, France.

Research Methods:

In doing research studies RED adopts different types of methodologies. For example, the positive deviance methodology developed at the Tufts University, USA, was used to test different behavioural messages for CSP. 'Indepth' and 'Focus Group Discussion'

methodologies were used to study the perceptions of the people about different diseases and study attitudes towards different interventions. Regular surveillance (weekly or fortnightly) was used to monitor disease, treatment and dietary patterns, household income, employment, wages and market prices. Registration of vital events (birth, death & migration) was also an important activity of RED to monitor changes in this area. Assessment of different components of different programmes was also undertaken through short visits, spot observation and discussions. Experimental designs were used to measure the impact of BRAC's credit programme on income, employment, asset possessions, etc.

*

Reports Published/Prepared During 1988 :

1. Study on immunization coverage in selected unions.
2. A manual on causes of death reporting by lay interviewers (revised).
3. TBAs in Bangladesh - A review of their training programmes with reference to BRAC
4. The growth monitoring component under BRAC's Child Survival Programme: an early assessment.
5. Perception about night blindness in rural Bangladesh.
6. The Vitamin A Capsule distribution programme: a coverage survey in six areas.
7. The 1987 flood in Bangladesh: an estimate of damages in 12 villages.
8. Perception of immunizable diseases and vaccination in rural Bangladesh.
9. Profile of volunteers selected for EPI in 11 Upazilas.

* These reports are available from BRAC

0. A summary report of the Jhitka Project on 'Positive Deviance'.
1. Health research capacities in Bangladesh: some observations.
2. Posters to communicate development messages: how do villagers comprehend?
3. Immunizing Bangladesh's children: coverage in three areas assisted by BRAC.
4. The diet of children under 5 years of age (data analysis completed)
5. Using the standard 30-cluster immunization surveys to monitor coverage of vitamin A capsule distribution.
16. Peasant perception towards child marriage, dowry and divorce.
17. BRAC's nutrition education intervention, message development through behavioural trail.
18. Pre-primary students in formal school: an early assessment of their attendance.
19. A study of the government health & family planning service delivery system in an upazila in northern Bangladesh (draft).
20. Primary education in Bangladesh in retrospect: A review of their potential and constraints (review paper).
21. Economic empowerment of the rural poor: change in household income, employment and resources.
22. Economics and sociology of loan repayment in an expanding rural development programme.
23. Self employment promotion: BRAC approaches, technologies and an outlook to future.
24. Impact of credit for the rural poor: the case of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee.

25. Economic upliftment of poor Women: a strategy of NGOs collaboration with the government.
26. Sectoral programme of BRAC: principle and operation.
27. Changing Bangladesh village women: four case studies.
28. An evaluation of BRAC's training programme of traditional birth attendants (TBA).
29. Credit for vulnerable group development programme: A manual.
30. Institution building for the poor: a review of the Landless Secretariate in Sulla.
31. Socio-economic baseline survey of the shrimp culture project (a contract job from a French firms with World Bank assistance).

Academic Reports Submitted:

1. "Evaluation of rural development programmes: some political, conceptual and methodological aspects of NGOs intervention in rural Bangladesh". MSc dissertation submitted by Shams Mustafa to the University of Bath.
2. "A comparative study of rice and gur - based ORS in rural Bangladesh" MSc dissertation submitted by Jalal Ahmed to the University of London.

On-going Research:

1. Continuous study of the morbidity patterns in 10 villages.
2. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population in three unions of Manikganj - baseline assessment.
3. Immunization coverage, prevalence of night blindness and vitamin A capsule distribution in Manikganj - baseline assessment (data analysis completed).
4. Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population in three unions in Joypurhat - baseline assessment.

5. Immunization coverage, prevalence of night blindness and VAC distribution in Joypurhat - baseline assessment (data analysis completed).
6. Diarrhoeal diseases and other health practices in three unions in Manikganj district.
7. Diarrhoeal diseases and other health practices in three unions in Joypurhat district.
8. Registration of vital events (birth, death and migration) in six unions.
9. Comparative community study on the acceptance and safety of rice and gur - based ORS.
10. Periodic six monthly survey on immunization coverage in six unions.
11. Periodic six monthly survey on VAC distributions in six unions.
12. Impact of ORT on mortality - analysis of data from the second phase of the ORT project.
13. Immunization coverage surveys in BRAC and other areas.
14. VAC distribution surveys in BRAC and other areas.
15. Effect of multiple teaching of ORT.
16. Cross-sectional survey of the 'positive deviance' project.
17. Anthropometric measures and dietary pattern of adolescents in rural Bangladesh.
18. Message development on supplementary feeding (12 to 24 months babies).
19. The 1988 flood and people's survival: seven case studies. (first draft prepared).
20. Effects of the 1988 flood. A micro-level study to assess the effects of flood on rural poor's economic condition.
21. Morbidity and mortality patterns of under five children in rural Bangladesh.

22. Economic aspect of rearing high yield variety poultry: A case study.
23. Evaluation of the training programme of family welfare assistants (FWAs) of the government.
24. Transformation of informal market for rural finance: indebted households revisited.
25. Subsistence level development trap in an empowerment strategy.
26. Profitability, capital & labour productivity of small scale enterprises.
27. Micro enterprise development and promotion: BRAC strategy of employment generation.
29. A look on the unequal credit mobility within BRAC organised landless groups.
30. A study on the tuberculosis programme in Manikganj project.

Proposed Studies:

1. Home gardening of vitamin A rich foods and the effect on the health & nutritional status of children.
2. Perception studies of traditional birth attendance and education.
3. Quick monitoring of CSP and RDP using focus group discussions, spot visits, and case control studies.
4. Social categories and health practices: An analysis of interlinkages and reciprocity.
5. Analysis of growth monitoring information as collected by BRAC's Child Survival Programme.
6. Health consciousness: an evaluation of BRAC's primary health care programme.
7. Impact of BRAC's PHC programme at Manikganj on infant mortality.
8. Action research on reducing maternal morbidity and mortality.

9. Follow up of the nutritional status of the children of the Betila Nutrition Centre in Manikganj.
10. Nutritional status of children in the Vulnerable Group Development Programme.
11. Impact of credit on the nutritional status of the children of BRAC organised landless group members.

Conference/Seminar Presentation:

1. "The BRAC ORT programme in Bangladesh: description, evaluation methods and some results". Paper presented by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the first meeting of the Community Epidemiology/Health Management Network, Khon Kaen, Thailand, February, 1988.
2. "Role of NGOs in international health". Paper presented by Mr. F. H. Abed at the Third Takemi Symposium on International Health, Tokyo, Japan, July, 1988.
3. "Folk terminology for diarrhoea in rural Bangladesh". Paper presented by Z. N. Kabir at the Applied Diarrhoeal Disease Research workshop on Invasive Diarrhoea, Bangkok, Thailand, December, 1988.
4. "Towards Universal Child Immunization: The contribution at BRAC in Bangladesh". Paper presented by Mr. F. H. Abed at the regional workshop on mechanisms for collaboration between Governments and NGOs in health, with special reference to Universal Child Immunization, Male, The Maldives, December, 1988.
5. "Empowerment through health education: The primary health care approach of an NGO in Bangladesh". Background paper presented by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the workshop "Alma Ata Ten Years After: PHC's Past, Present & Future", Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December, 1988.

6. "ORT: Popularising a homemade method". Paper presented by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the first seminar of the Indonesian Epidemiology Network, Jakarta, November, 1988.
7. "Reaching ORT message to millions". Paper presented by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the Third International Conference on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ICORT III), Washington D.C., December, 1988.
8. "BRAC approaches to local economic development", discussion by Mr. Zafar Ahmed at the International Commonwealth Conference on Local Economic Development, Goa, India Sept. 1988.
9. "The Non-formal primary education programme of BRAC". Presentation by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the Department of International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA, December, 1988.
10. "Rural development needs in Bangladesh". Seminar by Dr. AMR Chowdhury at the Faculty of Education, Queen's University Kingston, Canada, December, 1988.
11. Role of NGOs in development. Paper presented by Dr. S. Ahmed at the annual seminar of the Swiss Development Cooperation, Berne, Switzerland, September, 1988.

Journal Publication:

1. Mothers learn how to save the lives of children. World Health Forum. Vol. 9, 1988.
2. Use and safety of homemade oral rehydration solutions: an epidemiological evaluation from Bangladesh. International Journal of Epidemiology. Vol. 17, 1988.
3. Teaching ORT to women: individually or in groups? Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Vol. 31, 1988.
4. Problems of diarrhoeal disease in developing countries. "Bangladesh Journal of Child Health. Vol. 11, 1987".

5. Oral rehydration therapy for diarrhoea. Bangladesh Journal of Child Health. Vol. 11, 1987.
6. The 1987 flood in Bangladesh: an estimate of damages in twelve villages. Disasters, Vol. 12, 1988.

Articles Accepted for Publication:

1. Night blindness and its prevention in rural Bangladesh. World Health Forum.
2. Diarrhoea perception and the use of homemade ORS. Journal of Diarrhoeal Disease Research.

Collaborative Research:

The Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC and the Royal Tropical Institute (RTI), Amsterdam, have agreed to jointly undertake a study on the "effect of home gardening on the vitamin A status of children". The field work for this study will start from October, 1989.

RED is collaborating with the office of Population Research at the Princeton University in the study "Women's health and nutrition: does gender inequality play a role"?

Seminar Organized

1. "Approach to development: strategy for eradicating hunger and mass poverty" by Dr. A. Neaz of the Department of Economics, University of Brussels, Belgium.
2. "Health and the social power of women" by Dr. C.P. MacCormack of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England.