

## Update on Social Development Research

### Exploring the formal and informal justice system in Chittagong Hill Tracts

This study aims to explore the comprehensive landscape of formal and informal justice system in three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts – Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari. The informal justice section will deal with the traditional dispute resolution system and the formal justice section will focus on the formal legal court, procedures, and institutions. The customary laws of the indigenous people and the national and international laws will also be analyzed keeping linkage with the perception of justice among the local people. Data are being collected on four indigenous communities – Chakma, Marma, Tripura and Mro.

### Study on group formation, dynamics and performance of LRIC

This study aims to explore the dynamics of group formation, the strength and weakness of the group, and the performance in achieving expected goals of a ward-based Legal Rights Implementation Committee (LRIC) of Human Rights and Legal Services programme of BRAC. The second phase of data collection is going on in four pilot areas (Khulna, Maulvibazar, Jamalpur, Munshiganj).

### Understanding the reasons of the dropout of BRAC primary school

The second phase of data collection is going on to identify the underlying causes of the dropout of BRAC primary school. At present, in-depth interviews are going on in 124 schools. The study will also find out the number of the students dropped out from BRAC

schools. The study is being conducted in Dhaka and Chittagong urban areas along with Chittagong Hill Tracts.

### Legal challenges on the way to judicial remedy in rape cases: the role of BRAC's Human Rights and Legal Services programme

The study will unfold the legal challenges which the programme confront to get remedy for the rape victims. Information was collected on ten cases applying qualitative methods. The report writing is in progress.

## Update on Environmental Research

### Study on selected hygiene indicators and hygiene practices begins

This study has been initiated in 30 randomly selected villages of WASH phase I areas. Different research techniques have been used including survey, scoring, group discussion, observation, pocket voting to find out effectiveness and appropriateness of selected hygiene indicators and its greater effectiveness for programme implementation.

### Environmental performance evaluation of BRAC micro-finance

A study on environmental performance evaluation of BRAC micro-finance programme has started recently to know the state of environmental considerations in BRAC micro-finance programme. This is to fulfill the requirements of FMO, Norfund and Standard Chartered Bank financing. Therefore, the monitoring is focusing on *Dabi*, *Unnati*, and *Progoti* projects with a sample size of 2,436 from 28 regions. This study will help prevent any adverse environmental impact raised from the activities of enterprise with micro-finance programme, protect the health and safety of

those directly involved in the activities of enterprises, and thus ensure environment-friendly micro-finance programme in BRAC.

### Survey on indoor air pollution and health in developing countries begins

An intervention study on indoor air pollution and health in developing countries has recently been initiated in cooperation with Stanford and Yale Universities. This study aims to know the factors affecting the adoption of improved cook stove in Bangladesh. Baseline information will be collected from Jamalpur Sadar and Hatia *upazilas* from 3,080 households, and from additional 1,000 households during follow-up survey after 9 months.

## Economic Research Update

### Studies on overseas programmes

The study on the impact of BRAC-living goods health programme was initiated in Uganda in collaboration with Stockholm University and the Institute for International Economic Studies. This study will evaluate an intervention which aims to lower causes of under-5 mortality, with a sample drawn from 14 of 24 branches.

The baseline report on Tanzania essential healthcare programme was completed. The study investigated the use of safe water and sanitary latrines, contraceptive prevalence, methods choice, pregnancy-related care, children's immunization status, emotional health, and availability of health services.

The baseline survey for adolescent development programme in Uganda was completed.

A baseline survey for adolescent development programme launched in Tanzania.

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### Study on the impact of public access to ICT in Bangladesh initiated

A five-year research project was initiated to study the impact of public access to ICT in Bangladesh. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and IDRC, this project is being conducted in collaboration with DNet.

### Study on seasonal food insecurity among the TUP households completed

A draft report on the seasonal food insecurity among the ultra poor households was prepared. The study found that during the *Monga* (lean) season the TUP households' food (cereal) intake was significantly high. The TUP members enjoyed various types of benefits provided by the government; got assistance from *Gram Daridro Bimochon* Committee (GDBC), and had access to finance during the *Monga* season. A small proportion of TUP households sold assets during the *Monga* season.

### Baseline survey on the other targeted ultra poor of CFPR phase II initiated

A baseline survey on the other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) of CFPR phase II was initiated in May 2008. OTUP is one of the sub-groups of CFPR beneficiary households. About 4,000 households will be interviewed. The survey is expected to be completed by July 2008.

### Survey on pathways for women's empowerment done

A survey on the Pathways for Women's Empowerment was done for women's work and empowerment in eight districts of Bangladesh. RED is working in collaboration with BDI and BRAC University, which is a member of the Research Programme Consortium (RPC) in South Asia. About 5,000 women aged  $\geq 15$  years were interviewed. An additional survey under this partnership was conducted on the number and sex preference of all the 625 women aged  $\geq 15$  years in Komorpur village under Faridpur district to see whether these preferences changed over time compared to a previous survey done in the same village.

### Study on the impact of food price inflation on food security and nutritional status initiated

A study on the impact of food price inflation on food security and nutritional

status was initiated. As of DFID initiative for policy and programming responses to the likely impact of recent food price inflation, RED has designed this rapid assessment study. Nutritional surveillance project, HKI/IPHN, 2006 survey data will be used as bench mark. The study will be conducted in July 2008. National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) is a collaborative partner of this study.

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## Workshop Presentation

Hasan Shareef Ahmed gave a guest lecture on writing scientific report at a 'Workshop on Research Methodology' organized by Bangladesh Medical Research Council for medical doctors held in Dhaka on 11 May 2008.

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## Academic Attainment

Shamim Ahmed has been selected as one of the 25 participants globally to attend the summer institute on sexuality, gender and society at ISHSS, University of Amsterdam to be held from 4 July to 2 August 2008. He received the Netherlands Fellowship Programme award to attend the course.

Dr. Hashima-e-Nasreen visited Karolinska Institute, Sweden during 14 – 28 April 2008 to attend the planning meeting of the project 'Impact of maternal perinatal mental illnesses on infant health, growth and development in rural Bangladesh.'

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## Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

### Journal articles

Das NC. Export demand function for Bangladesh's tea. *Bangladesh J Agri Econ* 2006;29(1&2):1-18.

Gosonju GD, Ganapathy S, Kemp J, Auer C, Somma D, Karim F, Weiss MG. Gender and socio-cultural determinants of delay to diagnosis of TB in Bangladesh, India and Malawi. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 2008;12(7):848-55.

Rana AKMM, Lundborg CS, Wahlin A, Ahmed SM, Kabir ZN. The impact of health education in managing self-reported arthritis-related illness among elderly persons in rural Bangladesh. *Health Edu Res* 2008;23(1):94-105.

Somma D, Thomas BE, Karim F, Kemp J, Arias N, Auer C, Gosonju GD, Abouihia A, Weiss MG. Gender and socio-cultural deter-

minants of TB-related stigma in Bangladesh, India, Malawi and Colombia. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 2008;12(7):856-66.

Weiss MG, Somma D, Karim F, Abouihia A, Auer C, Kemp J, Jawahar MS. Cultural epidemiology of TB with reference to gender in Bangladesh, India and Malawi. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 2008;12(7):837-47.

### Books and book chapters

Sinha S, Gidwani J, Das NC. Cost-benefit analysis of CFPR. Dhaka and Gurgaon: BRAC and EDA Rural Systems Private Limited, 2008. 55p.

Sulaiman M and Gulesci S. Resource booklet: CFPR-II evaluation. Dhaka and London: BRAC and The London School of Economics and Political Science, 2008. 68p.

Zohir S, Rabbani M, Mallick BA, Huq I, Afsana R. Exclusion and poverty: an analytical approach for understanding exclusion and assessing programmes targeting the very poor in Bangladesh. Dhaka: BRAC and Economic Research Group, 2008. 39p.

### RED Working paper

Ahmed S, Rahman H, Rashid M, Hasan B. Understanding the relationship between government and BRAC in implementing WASH programme. Dhaka: BRAC, 2008. 28p.

### Working paper (Other)

Matin I, Sulaiman M, Rabbani M. Crafting a graduation pathway for the ultra poor: lessons and evidence from a BRAC programme. London: Chronic Poverty Research Centre, 2008. (Chronic Poverty Research Centre working paper No. 109)

### Newspaper article

Ahmed S. *Nirapod pani o poinishkashon kormoshuchi* (In Bangla). *Prothom Alo* 07 May 2008.

Alam GM. Different types of banking. *Holiday* 04 Apr 2008.

Alam GM. Future of business studies in private varsities. *Holiday* 01 May 2008.

Alam GM. Role of education in national development. *Holiday* 06 Jun 2008.

Nath SR. Primary education: collective efforts needed in current situation (In Bangla). *Prothom Alo* 17 Jun 2008.

Rashid M. Krishir bumper falaneo narir srom nai shudhu shikriti (In Bangla). *Samokal* 26 Mar 2008.

Roy G. *Vashar pokkhopatittwo* (In Bangla). [www.nauba-aloke-bangla.com/issue7/seventh\\_edition7.htm](http://www.nauba-aloke-bangla.com/issue7/seventh_edition7.htm)

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Editor: **Hasan Shareef Ahmed**  
Published by: BRAC Research and Evaluation Division  
75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh  
Phone: 9881265, 8824180 (PABX)  
E-mail: [research@brac.net](mailto:research@brac.net)  
Website: [www.brac.net/research](http://www.brac.net/research)

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