

Education Research Update

Study on PACE mathematics training completed

This study investigated the impact of training programme offered by PACE for mathematics teachers. The findings show that teachers received training from PACE performed better than the teachers received training from other providers or the teachers yet to be trained. A number of suggestions were made to make the training more effective and ensure coordination between different providers and the education sector of the government.

Study on BRAC pre-primary programme completed

This study evaluated BRAC pre-primary (PP) education programme in the areas of curriculum, learning materials, implementation of curriculum, and learning achievement of the students. The findings reveal that the BRAC PP training has a role in better performance at the initial level of primary education. The primary school students of grades II-V with PP orientation performed equally with those had no PP experience.

Columbia university professor visits RED

Dr. Madhabi Chatterji, Associate Professor of Measurement and Evaluation in the Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, USA visited Bangladesh as a Fulbright scholar in March 2008. Dr. Chatterji gave a seminar on 'Assessment of student learning' on 10 March 2008 at BRAC. The educational researchers of RED discussed about student assessment, evaluation and measurement, and further collaboration of BRAC with her institution.

Environmental Research Update

WASH baseline survey completed

A baseline survey on BRAC WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) programme has been done. It will provide background data and insights at the household and institutional levels for evolving suitable strategies, and to assess the effectiveness and success of the WASH programme in future.

Study on the impact of flood on sanitation in flood-prone areas of rural Bangladesh completed

Overall unusable latrine found in the study was 73%. Mostly damaged latrine materials found through a sequential ranking were ring, wall and slab. A cost analysis has also been done to show the loss in economic term. The study found that if rings are exposed out of the ground, elevation of latrines are below the homestead, latrines are installed by inexpert then the possibility is very high that latrines will be damaged during floods.

Study on effectiveness of hand washing with soap, ash and mud begins

This study aims to compare the effectiveness of hand washing with soap, ash, and mud and also know the peoples' preference to use those for hand washing after defaecation.

Study on review of sanitation technologies and water options available in Bangladesh done

The study focused on low cost, appropriate, sustainable and environment-friendly sanitation and arsenic mitigation technological options (hardware) for

critical areas. Study found that most of the technologies are in experimental stage and implemented only for certain period of time. There was no such technology implemented in the field level as wider intervention.

Economic Research Update

Baseline survey for adolescent development programme launched in Uganda

A baseline survey has been initiated in Uganda in February 2008 for impact evaluation of Adolescent Development Programme. This study, in collaboration with London School of Economics, follows a randomized control experiment design. About 6,000 adolescent girls and their parents will be interviewed.

Baseline survey of FFTIG programme in Southern Sudan completed

A baseline survey has been completed for Food for Training and Income Generation (FFTIG) programme in Southern Sudan. Using randomized control-experiment design, the survey covered 500 beneficiaries and 700 non-beneficiary households. The major indicators of the survey are engagement in income generating activities, household expenditure, assets and educational status of the household members.

Microfinance BRAC Afghanistan

A study on the 'Profiles of the VO (Village Organization) members of microfinance programme of BRAC Afghanistan' has been initiated. This study, based on the baseline survey conducted on 480 VO members and 600 non-members (comparison group), was conducted during September-October

2007. The study will analyze the demographic characteristics, social awareness, and empowerment of the women, education, income and employment, and financial market participation of the households.

Targeting effectiveness survey on OTUP completed

A survey on the other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) of CFPR II was conducted in January 2008. OTUP is one of the sub-groups of CFPR beneficiary households. The support package for OTUP includes enterprise development training, soft loans from BRAC's microfinance programme with repayment as per cash flow, daily subsistence allowance, health subsidy, and social development support. The survey information was used for assessing targeting effectiveness and process evaluation of training of OTUP beneficiaries.

Data collection for tracer study done

A study on 'Urban poverty index' for MANOSHI programme initiated to create appropriate indicators for the ultra poor in urban setting to assist targeting for BRAC's urban programmes.

Nutrition Research Update

Integrating mainstreaming nutrition initiative into BRAC's programme baseline survey completed

In February 2008, RED has conducted a baseline survey on piloting of integrating Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative into BRAC's Maternal Neonatal and Child Health programme in 6 unions of Nilphamari district. Data were collected on feeding pattern and nutritional status of under-2 children and their mothers to assess the effect of maternal and child nutrition intervention. Data processing is in progress.

Presentations at Workshops and Seminars

Shamim Ahmed presented a paper titled 'Exploring the perception of guardians about drowning in rural Bangladesh' at the 9th South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting held in Dhaka on 9-12 February 2008.

Nasima Akter presented a poster titled 'Medical waste management in Bangladesh: experience of public-private partnership model' at the 9th South East Asia Regional

Scientific Meeting held in Dhaka on 9-12 February 2008.

Gazi Mahabubul Alam and Sarwar Basher presented a paper titled 'The impact of the brain drain on education and development: a comparative study between skilled and semi/unskilled emigrants' at the First National Education Conference on Whither Policy Reform in Education: Lessons and Challenges held in Dhaka on 3 March 2008.

Nuzhat Choudhury presented the following papers –

- 'Dietary behaviour of lactating women in urban slums of Dhaka city, Bangladesh' at the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation Conference 2008, held in Perth, Australia during 31 January-05 February 2008.
- 'An exploratory study on the maternity care practices in selected slums of Dhaka city, Bangladesh' at the South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting of the International Epidemiological Association held in Dhaka during 9-12 February 2008.

Mehnaz Rabbani presented a paper titled 'Seasonal internal migration: a coping strategy for extreme poor households' at the National Seminar on Monga in Bangladesh held in Dhaka on 2-3 January 2008.

Mirja Mohammad Shahjamal and Gazi Mahabubul Alam presented a paper on 'Students' involvement in party politics in Bangladesh: the impact on higher education and national development' at the First National Education Conference on Whither Policy Reform in Education: Lessons and Challenges held in Dhaka on 3 March 2008.

Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

Journal article

Alam GM. The role of technical and vocational education in the national development of Bangladesh. *Asia-Pacific J Cooperative Edu* 2008;9(1):25-44.

Hossain N and Matin I. Engaging elite support for the poorest? BRAC's targeted ultra poor programme for rural women in Bangladesh. *Dev Practice* 2007;17(3):380-92.

Nath SR. Private supplementary tutoring among primary students in Bangladesh. *Edu Stud* 2008;34(1):55-72.

Wahlin AK, Anstey KJ, McDonald SWS, Ahmed SM, Kivipelto M, Kunnukatitil KSS, et al. The International Network on Public Health and Aging (INOPA): Introducing a Life Course Perspective to the Public Health Agenda. *J Cross-cultural Gerontology* DOI:10.1007/s10823-007-9055-1.

Book and book chapters

Hossain N (contributor). The economics and governance of nongovernmental organizations in Bangladesh: World Bank Country

Study. Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2007, xxx, 156p.

Jahan F. Gender, violence and power: retributive versus restorative justice in South Asia. In: Singh A and Saheb NAZ (Editors). Labyrinthine justice framework of South Asia: impediment to pro-poor governance. New Delhi: SAGE India, 2007.

Jahan F. When women protect women: restorative justice and domestic violence in South Asia. New Delhi: South Asian Publishers, 2007.

Research monograph series

Tariquzzaman S and Kaiser E. Employers' perceptions of changing child labour practices in Bangladesh. Dhaka: BRAC, 2007. vi, 28p. (Research monograph series no. 35)

RED Working paper

Seraj KFB. Willingness to pay for improved sanitation services and its implication on demand responsive approach of BRAC water, sanitation and hygiene programme. Dhaka: BRAC, 2008. 16p. (RED working paper No. 1)

Working paper (Other)

Hussain N. The politics of what works: the case of the vulnerable group development programme in Bangladesh, 2007. 20p. (Chronic Poverty Research Centre Working Paper 92)

Newspaper and newsletter articles

Ahmed S. Bonnar provab hote pare shudurproshari (In Bangla). *Prothom Alo* 13 Aug 2007.

Alam GM. Expansion of private higher education. *Holiday* 28 Mar 2008.

Alam GM. Investing in children's education. *Holiday* 21 Mar 2008.

Alam GM. NGOs must be apolitical. *Holiday* 7 Mar 2008.

Alam GM. Public vs. private education in developing countries. *Holiday* 21 Feb 2008.

Naomi H. Elite perceptions of poverty (cover story). *SLATE* May 2007.

<http://www.newagebd.com/slate/2007/may/01.html>

Naomi H. The price we pay. *Forum* January 2008. <http://www.thedailystar.net/forum/2008/january/price.htm>

Nath SR. Some thoughts regarding education in the year of election. *Prothom Alo* 30 Jan 2008.

Sulaiman M and Matin I. Making micro-finance work for the extreme poor: evidence and experiences from Bangladesh. *Finance for the poor* 2008;9(1):1-7.

Tariquzzaman S and Rashid M. Livelihood of people of enclaves (In Bangla). *Samokal* 28 Jun 2007.

Editor: **Hasan Shareef Ahmed**

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