



RED Update

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Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC

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RED Disseminates Research Findings at Field Level

The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) organized a day-long conference at the Training and Resource Centre of BRAC in Bogra on 19 June 2003 to disseminate the findings of recent BRAC research among the field managers/coordinators and trainers of BRAC. The conference also aimed at strengthening the interaction between the programme implementers and researchers, and to get their feedback.

The findings of some selected studies on BRAC's ultra poor programme, BRAC students in secondary schools, impact of BRAC education programme, effect of micronutrients on adolescent girls, arsenic-free alternative safe water options, prevention of neonatal death, impact of GQAL programme, BRAC federation, and post-election violence were presented. The findings generated interest among the audience. Seventy-seven field managers/coordinators and five trainers attended the conference. Mr. Md. Aminul Alam, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC inaugurated the conference. He highlighted the need and importance of research in successfully designing and implementing BRAC development programmes.

Contribution of UNFPA and IPPF Evaluated

RED, in association with Heidelberg University, Germany and Euro Health Group, Denmark has conducted an evaluation of the contribution of UNFPA and IPPF in Bangladesh in addressing the reproductive rights and health needs of young people after ICPD, Cairo. RED organized a stakeholder workshop in

Dhaka on 27 April 2003 to share the objective and approaches of the evaluation, identify and discuss priority sexual and reproductive health issues facing young people in Bangladesh. Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Executive Director of BRAC chaired the workshop

World Environment Day Research Findings on Arsenic Mitigation Presented

In observance of the World Environment Day RED organized an open discussion on safe water on 4 June 2003 in Dhaka in cooperation with the Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh. The findings of an action research on providing alternative safe water options to arsenic-affected communities in rural Bangladesh was presented. Mr. Han A Heijnen, Environmental Health Advisor of WHO attended as chief guest. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director of BRAC presided over the discussion session.

RED also participated in the Environment Fair, which was organized to observe the World Environment Day.

Study on Violence Against Women Done

RED recently completed a study titled 'Assessment of male attitude towards violence against women.' The study used sociological and psychological tools in assessing the attitude of 502 males in Mymensingh district. The males did not consider lot of violence, often done on women, as violence rather than corrective measures to ensure appropriate behaviour on their part. About 49% of the respondents had an

attitude favouring physical violence against women, while 23% who were against it had such an attitude for believing that the consequences of violence against women would make them looser. By considering all the agents of socialization the study suggested an integrated approach in building the attitude of male against violence against women.

CFPR-TUP Research Update

The process documentation of BRAC's experimental programme on the ultra poor called 'CFPR-TUP' (Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction – Targeting the Ultra Poor) is in progress. Various aspects of ultra poor targeting have already been documented. The events of asset transfer and the activities of Health and Social Development Programme Organizers are being documented. The draft report is expected in August 2003.

A nutrition baseline survey of a cross-section of ultra poor households (900) under the CFPR-TUP programme has been initiated. The draft report is expected in November 2003.

Education Watch 2002 Research Findings Shared

The findings of the *Education Watch 2002* were presented in a seminar on 04 May 2003 in Dhaka for broader sharing among the civil society members including teachers, researchers, NGO activists, policy makers, and government officials. Samir R Nath, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC presented the findings while Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BRAC University Institute of Education presented the policy implications.

Obituary

Shamim Ara Begum, Senior Staff Economist (PIN 3761) died on 24 April 2003 at the age of 38 (Innalillahe..... rajeun). She joined RED on 16 January 1990. She left behind her husband and lot of friends, relatives, and well-wishers. We pray for the peace of departed soul.

Md. Abdur Razzak Khan, Field Supervisor, National Low Birth Weight Survey 2003 died of cardiac arrest on 27 May 2003 while he was working in the field (Innalillahe..... rajeun). He was 42. He had been working with BRAC RED since 1992 as a temporary contractual field interviewer (as and when necessary). He left behind his wife and a son. We pray for the peace of the departed soul.

Material Fees in BRAC-Run Community Schools Need to be Reduced

The amount of material fees in the BRAC-run community schools need to be reduced – as suggested in a recent BRAC study. Data were collected from 550 students of 11 community schools. Findings reveal that a large proportion of the students were extremely poor. Majority schools were located in backward and coastal areas. Majority of the household heads had low income, no education, and no arable land. They were unable to pay the material fees regularly.

Employment Changes the Lives of Kishori Supervisors

Positive changes occurred in the lives of Kishori Supervisors (KS) due to employment in BRAC Education Programme (BEP). Data were gathered from 26 KSs, 24 non-KSs, 36 guardians, 67 community people and 5 regional sector specialists of BEP. Findings reveal that due to employment the KSs were economically benefited. Their social status, mobility and social network increased significantly. Although employment contributed to their schooling, it created problem in attending the afternoon classes that might cause poor attainment in school examinations. It also discourages practice of early marriage. More adolescent girls can be employed. It is also neces-

sary to explore ways to improve the level of their educational attainment.

Professional/Academic Achievements

Doctoral Degree Conferred

Nasima Akter, Senior Research Associate obtained the degree of Doctor of Technical Science (DTech) from the School of Environment, Resource and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Congratulations to Nasima. Her thesis was on “Appropriate management options of medical waste for developing countries (the case of Bangladesh and Thailand).”

Kaosar Afsana, Research Fellow obtained PhD in public health from the Edith Cowan University, Australia. Congratulations to Afsana. Her thesis was on “Power, knowledge and child-birth practices: an ethnographic exploration in Bangladesh.”

Shahaduz Zaman, Research Fellow, obtained PhD in medical anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Congratulations to Shahaduz Zaman. His thesis was on “Broken limbs, broken lives: ethnography of a hospital ward in Bangladesh.”

RED Annual Report Published

BRAC Research 2002 – the sixteenth annual report of RED – is published. The salient features of BRAC research conducted in 2002 and the major activities of RED are documented in this 87-page report. Abstracts of completed studies and published papers are included. Lists of more formal publications and ongoing studies are also included. Copies are available on request.

Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

Journal articles, books and book chapters

Afsana K, Rashid SF. A women-centered analysis of birthing care in a rural health centre in Bangladesh. *In: Access to quality gender-sensitive health services: women-centred action research*. Kuala Lumpur: Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women, 2003:43-60.

Hadi A. Fighting arsenic at the grassroots: experience of BRAC's community awareness initiative in Bangladesh. *Health Policy Plann* 2003;18(1):93-100.

Hadi A. Management of acute respiratory infections by community health volunteers: experience of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). *Bull WHO* 2003; 81(3):183-9.

Hadi A, Parveen R. Promoting knowledge of sexual illness among women in Bangladesh: can non-governmental organizations play a role? *Asia-Pacific Pop J* 2003;18(1):1-16.

Halder SR. BRAC's business development services – do they pay? *Small Enterprise Dev* 2003 Jun;14(2):26-35.

Hossain M, Janaiah A, Husain M. Hybrid rice in Bangladesh: farm-level performance. *Econ Pol Weekly* 2003;38(25):2517-22.

Husain AMM. Bangladesh agriculture in 2020: review of trends and potentials for growth. *In: Hossain M, Nabi AKMN, Islam I. Bangladesh's development agenda and vision 2020*. Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2003:77-90.

Hyder SMZ, Persson L-A, Chowdhury AMR, Lönnerdal B, Ekström E-C. Impact of daily and weekly iron supplementation to women in pregnancy and puerperium on haemoglobin and iron status six weeks postpartum: results from a community-based study in Bangladesh. *Scandinavian J Nutr* 2003;47(1):19-25.

Matin I, Hulme D. Programs for the poorest: learning from the IGVGD program in Bangladesh. *World Dev* 2003;31(3):647-65.

Rahman S, Hossain MZ. Pesticide demand among hybrid vegetable and cereal seed producers in Bangladesh: a simultaneous equation analysis. *Bangladesh J Agr Econ* 2000;23(1&2):91-102.

BRAC Research Monograph

Jakariya M. The use of alternative safe water options to mitigate the arsenic problem in Bangladesh: community perspective. Dhaka: BRAC, 2003. iv, 61p. (Research monograph series no. 24)

Newsletter

Husain AMM. Agricultural development in Bangladesh and the role and effectiveness of NGOs: the case of BRAC. *The Weekly Holiday*, 24 Jan 2003.

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