



RED Update

The quarterly newsletter of the
Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC

Volume 5, No. 1

March 2006

Baseline Survey of GOAL Programme Completed

This study aims to find out the pre-GOAL (Gender Quality Action Learning) gender perception and attitude towards gender relations of villagers. A survey was conducted in eight *upzilas* 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 does not appear to have much impact on views of gender equality.

Research on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Programme Launched

BRAC has launched a new pilot programme in July 2005 on maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) based on action learning approach to develop a sustainable model that works. RED provides research support. 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.

Study on Voluntary Health Workers Initiated

A study on the voluntary health workers (*Shasthya shebikas or SS*) has been initiated. This study would focus on the incentive mechanisms of the SS. Since a large number of new SS are being trained at Nilphamari, the study would conduct a baseline on them along with retention of training. Moreover, the old SSs of that area will be surveyed to identify the determinants of their income.

Study on English Teachers' Training Initiated

BRAC-PACE has been engaged in subject-based residential training of English language teachers in the rural non-government high schools to increase their capacity particularly in the new topics introduced in revised curricula. This study aims to find out to what extent the capacity building of teachers have taken place in terms of pedagogy, language skills development, knowledge in Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and attitudinal change towards the new approach to teaching. Further, the relevance of training and exiting challenges will be investigated. Almost half of the data were collected in February and March 2006 and rest of the data

will be collected in April 2006. The study is expected to be completed by first week of May 2006.

A Review Report on Quality of BRAC Education Programme Drafted

Considering an input-process-output (IPO) framework of analyzing quality of education, this report reviewed all 120 educational research studies conducted in RED during last 18 years. The main aim of the work is to explore the quality of BRAC Education Programme, find out the gaps in research and suggest new research studies. Based on this review report a three-year research plan on quality of BRAC Education Programme interventions will be prepared.

Examining Relative Poverty Status of BDP Ultra Poor

A survey has been completed on about 1500 household among which one third are beneficiaries of BDP ultra poor programme. Using CGAP relative poverty assessment tool, this study would investigate the targeting effectiveness of BDP-UP programme. This survey would also allow examining targeting effectiveness of the general VO members in comparison with the non-participants.

Study on Indoor Air Pollution Initiated

RED is going to conduct a study on the causes and consequences of indoor air pollution in rural Bangladesh in collaboration with the University of Colorado at Boulder, Brown University, and Stanford Medical School of the USA. A

series of randomized interventions will be carried out 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.

Study on Popular Theater Launched

The study aims to understand and assess the communication process of the messages received from two popular theaters performed in two villages in Nilphamari and Kishoreganj districts. The study also aims to examine the changes in the level of conscientization among the audiences in terms of their socioeconomic positions in the society.

Study on the Impact of 100% Sanitation Programme Initiated

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, collected through quantitative and qualitative methods, are being analyzed. The draft report is expected in June 2006.

Study on Kangaroo Mother Care Completed

The community based kangaroo mother care (CKMC) method, whereby *hospital-born 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 jointly piloted by BRAC, Mitra and Associates, and Population Council in a rural area in Bangladesh in 2002 to see the adaptability of CKMC method. As a follow-up of that pilot, a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) was initiated by the same study team in 2004 in Sylhet and Dhaka divisions, where NMR in the past decade was highest in Bangladesh (8.2% in Sylhet and 5.2% in Dhaka) to see whether CKMC method reduces neonatal mortality and morbidity. The intervention part of the RCT has recently been completed.

Dissemination at CAPGAN 2000

The following six studies of BRAC RED were presented at the '8th Commonwealth Congress on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition' held on 6-8 February 2006 at ICDDR,B, Dhaka:

1. Prevalence, severity and determinants of malnutrition among under-5 children in ultra poor households in rural Bangladesh
 2. Effect of daily versus once weekly home-fortification with Sprinkles on haematological and iron status among young children in rural Bangladesh
 3. Strategy to promote home fortification with Sprinkles for controlling anaemia among young children
 4. Effectiveness of daily and flexible home fortification with micronutrient Sprinkles to control childhood anaemia in rural Bangladesh
 5. Anaemia survey of urban Bangladesh and the rural Chittagong Hill Tracts, 2003
 6. National low birth weight survey of Bangladesh, 2003-4
-

Book Published

Can we get along? An account of communal relationship in Bangladesh
By *Mohammad Rafi*

The book started by investigating the changing relationship among the religious communities in Bangladesh from past until the incidence of violence in the 2001 post-parliamentary election. The major part of the study was directed towards investigating the causes of this violence. Besides, the study gave considerable thought on how Bangladesh might come out of such violence against the minorities. The study learning can also be relevant for countries having similar problems. This book should attract a wide range of readers particularly those dealing with social problems.

Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

Journal articles

Rahman M, Vahter M, Wahed MA, Sohel N, Yunus M, Streatfield PK, *et al.* Prevalence of arsenic exposure and skin lesions. A population based survey in Matlab, Bangladesh. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2006;60:242-8

Walker S and Matin I. Changes in the lives of the ultra poor: an exploratory study. *Dev Practice* 2006;16(1):80-4.

Book

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

Book chapters

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.

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.

Manual

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.

Newspaper article

Sulaiman M. Micro finance. *The Daily Star* 16 January 2006.

CFPR/TUP working paper series

Prakash VA, Rana AKMM. Self-perceived health of ultra poor women: the effect of an inclusive development intervention. Dhaka and Ottawa: BRAC and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2006. vi, 18p. (CFPR/TUP Working Paper Series No. 10).

Sulaiman M, Matin I, Siddiquee HSM, Barua P, Alarakhiaia and Lyer V. Microfinance engagements of the 'graduated' TUP members. Dhaka and Ottawa: BRAC and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2006. vi, 18p. (CFPR/TUP Working Paper Series No. 9).

Sulaiman M and Matin I. Targeting effectiveness of CFPR/TUP in scale-up environment. Dhaka and Ottawa: BRAC and Aga Khan Foundation Canada, 2006. vi, 20p. (CFPR/TUP Working Paper Series No. 8).

Editor: Hasan Shareef Ahmed

Published by:

Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh Phone: 9881265, 8824180 (PABX)
(E-mail: research@brac.net)
Website: www.bracresearch.org
