

Health Research Update

Occupational TB among Healthcare Providers of BRAC Health Programme

A study on occupational health related to tuberculosis (TB) was initiated to identify the prevalence of TB among the BRAC health workers and recommend preventive actions. The workers included are *Shasthya Shebikas*, *Shasthya Karmis* and programme organizers who are involved in the delivery of DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment – Short course) for TB in the community. Data collection (including sputum collection and chest X-ray) is in progress.

KAP Study on Malaria Bed Net is in Progress

An annual follow-up study on insecticidal bed nets distributed by the National Malaria Control and Prevention Programme in 70 *upazilas* of 13 malaria endemic districts of Bangladesh is ongoing. One of the aims of this study is to understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices of people on insecticidal bed nets in malaria endemic areas. Data analysis is in progress.

Rural MNCH Research

The Management and Technical Committee of the rural MNCH research project met during 29 June - 01 July 2010 at BRAC, Dhaka where members from Aberdeen University, UK, government of Bangladesh, UNICEF, BRAC-RED and BRAC Health Programme participated. A national level seminar

will be organized to present research findings to related stakeholders.

Economic Research Update

Study on Financial Market Participation of Graduated Members of CFPR Done

This study explores the long-run financial market participation of the graduate members of CFPR Phase I with special focus on BRAC microfinance participation. Longitudinal data from three rounds of survey (2002, 2005 and 2008) were used. The draft report has been completed and the findings have been shared through in-house presentation. We found that 69% of the graduates participated in BRAC microfinance by taking loans at least once. More than half of the graduates were active borrowers. However, this participation is not always instantaneous. It has also been found that microfinance participation had positive impacts on asset holding.

Study on Targeting Effectiveness of CFPR Initiated

A study for assessing the targeting effectiveness for selection of different groups of ultra poor using PRA technique for CFPR support packages has been initiated. A total of 2,700 households were surveyed. Data collection has been completed.

Impact Assessment of CDSP Initiated

Impact assessment of Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP) has been initiated. The project is being implemented in Noakhali district by five local NGOs and coordinated by BRAC. A total of 1,600 households were surveyed. Data processing is underway. The study is expected to be completed by September 2010.

Draft Report on Impact Assessment of Border ADP Completed

A draft report on the 'Impact assessment of border ADP' has been completed. Using panel data from two rounds of survey (2008 & 2010), this study explores the programme impacts

on awareness about various issues among the adolescents and their parents, and physical mobility and involvement in income generating activities (IGA) of the adolescents. It was found that the programme had significant positive impacts on the adolescents in terms of their awareness on social and legal issues, increased involvement in IGA, and physical mobility to different places.

Environment Research Update

Study on Exploring Adherence of Environmental Aspects in BRAC Microfinance Supported Enterprises

This study aimed to examine the adherence of environmental aspects in BRAC microfinance supported enterprises. Data were collected from randomly selected 1,441 borrowers who received microfinance from BRAC. Findings indicate that higher proportion of borrowers got information on air pollution, plantation, safe water and sanitation from BRAC. Information dissemination on child labour, insecticides, fertilizers, and soil fertility is infrequent. Availability of safe water, improved sanitation, ventilation, hand washing materials and first aid facility was found to be reasonable in enterprises. Child labour was present in some of the enterprises, which decreased over time. A negative impact on soil degradation, water and air pollution, biodiversity and damage of natural drainage system was observed in negligible proportion of enterprises. Environment-related messages should regularly be disseminated among the borrowers to increase adherence to environmental aspects.

Study on Status of Arsenic Test and Exposure to Arsenic-contaminated Tubewell Water in Southern Bangladesh Done

This study aimed to explore the status of arsenic test of tubewells and exposure to arsenic-contaminated tubewell water in the arsenic prone southern Bangladesh. Through a survey of 6,593 households, 3,812 tubewells were sampled at baseline

(2006/07) and 3,591 at midline (2009). The proportion of unmarked tubewells increased from 80% at baseline to 90% at midline ($p < 0.001$). Proportion of tested tubewells was significantly decreased from 75% at baseline to 69% at midline ($p < 0.001$). Of the tested tubewells, 60% was reported to be free from arsenic contamination. Around 44% of the household members usually drink water from arsenic contaminated tubewells.

Study on the Role of NGOs in Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Status

This study was initiated to explore the role of NGOs in improving water, sanitation and hygiene status in Bangladesh. Data were collected through qualitative and quantitative methods from 10 purposively selected upazilas. A total of 420 households were selected from each upazila through multi-stage 30-cluster random sampling. Data analysis is underway.

Case Studies on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Practices in WASH Programme Areas

This study aims to identify the factors influencing to accept or reject certain components of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and spot observations. The issues emerged from the experiences of targeting people will be documented, analyzed and sorted out for actions that need urgent considerations. A total of 144 cases equally from ultra poor, poor, and non-poor households were investigated. Data are being analyzed.

Capacity development

Shyamal Chandra Ghosh visited Nepal during 23-28 May 2010 with a team of 12 BRAC staff involved in BRAC-WASH programme. This study tour was arranged to have knowledge on existing water, sanitation and hygiene intervention in Nepal, and to assess whether any of their interventions can be incorporated into BRAC-WASH programme.

Staff Separated/Newly Joined

The following staff separated/joined during April-June 2010.

Separated

Goutam Roy, Research Associate-I; Shumona S. Salam, Research

Associate-II; Sabia Afroz, Staff Researcher; Sharif Mahmud, Young Professional; Shamima Zaman, Senior Research Associate; M Hasanur Rahman, Research Associate; and M Mafizur Rahman, Staff Researcher.

Joined

Antora Mahmud Khan, Research Associate-I; Hasina Shikder, Staff Researcher; Syed Mahfuz Al-Hasan, Staff Researcher; M Mahfuz Al-Mamun, Research Associate-I; and Shahnaz Afroz, Research Associate-II.

Conferences/Workshops/Meetings Attended

Syed Masud Ahmed attended the Programme Committee meeting of the Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research Programme of the NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research)/WOTRO of the Dutch government to finalize the research proposals for funding.

The following five papers were presented at the 10th South East Asia Regional Scientific Meeting of the International Epidemiological Association, Colombo, Sri Lanka during 23-26 May 2010:

- Cultural perspective of maternal care practices in two Bangladeshi villages - Sarawat Rashid
- Effect of water, sanitation and hygiene intervention in reducing waterborne diseases in rural Bangladesh - AKM Masud Rana
- Health education improves both arthritis-related illness and self-rated health: an intervention study in rural Bangladesh - AKM Masud Rana
- MANOSHI referral system: addressing delays of emergency obstetric care in Dhaka city slums - Morsheda Banu
- Marital relationship is a major contributory factor for ante-partum depression and anxiety in rural Bangladesh - Hashima-E-Nasreen

Shyamal Chandra Ghosh presented the findings of a study titled 'Revisiting Jamuna bridge resettlement areas: exploring the livelihood status of the affected people' in an international conference on Land Acquisition and Resettlement: Balancing Development with Social Justice organized by the BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University, Dhaka, 29-30 June 2010.

Recent Publications (Arranged alphabetically)

Journal articles

Ara J and Hamid SA. Moving ahead in Bangladesh. *Development Cooperation* 2010;37(5):196-8.

Hamid SA and Ara J. Progress in Bangladesh. *Development Cooperation* 2010;37(02):66-8.

Haque U, et al. Spatial prediction of malaria prevalence in an endemic area of Bangladesh. *Malaria J* 2010;9:120. Doi: 10.1186/1475-2875-9-120

Research Compendium

Nirjash (In Bangla). Vol. 20. Dhaka: BRAC, Jun 2010. 96p.

RED working paper

Das NC, Qayum N, Khan M, Karim F. Social protection package for the retrenched workers of state-owned enterprises: a quick assessment. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. iv, 28p. (RED Working Paper No. 10)

Hossain S, Kamruzzaman M, Ahmed SM. Exploring explanatory model of malaria in hill tracts of Bangladesh: perspective from Dighinala upazila. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. vi, 26p. (RED working paper No.11)

CFPR working paper

Das NC and Misha FA. Addressing extreme poverty in a sustainable manner: evidence from CFPR programme. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. 36p. (CFPR working paper No.19)

Newspaper article

Roy G. Ekti guruttyapurna siddhanter bastabayon (In Bangla). *Jugantar*, 12 January 2010.

Roy G. Private tutoring and school management (In Bangla). *Jugantar*, 06 April 2010.

Editor: Hasan Shareef Ahmed

Design: Md. Abdur Razzaque

Published by:

Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC
75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Phone: 9881265, 8824180-7 (PABX)
Website: www.brac.net/research

