

## Education Research Update

### Study on teachers' praise of students completed

A study on teachers' praise of students in the classroom of BRAC primary schools has been completed. Findings showed that praise was done by using words, statements and facial expressions. While being practiced mechanically by the teachers, it seemed to reduce its potentials. The practice of praise, however, had no gender or merit bias. There was no significant mean difference in competency test and rank of (positive and negative) self-efficacy among the high, medium and low praise practicing schools. Statistically significant differences were found in attitude of the students in low, medium and high praise practicing schools.

### Study on the characteristics of learners of BRAC primary schools initiated

A study on BRAC primary schools has been initiated to know whether the learners were selected on the basis of the programme's set criteria. This study comprises batch-wise BRAC schools. Data will be collected from ongoing schools where 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th batches of schools are in operation. Forty schools will be randomly selected from each batch. Socioeconomic information of all learners of the selected schools will be collected from their parents. A draft report is expected in February 2011.

## Health Research Update

### Study on street dwellers completed

A study on the livelihood of the street dwellers has been completed. Cross-sectional data were collected from street dwellers of 10 purposively selected areas of Dhaka city using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The findings reveal that the street dwellers were driven out to the city by poverty and disasters (man-made and natural). They had to adopt a precarious and humiliating life on the streets devoid of all basic amenities, and under constant threat of eviction and harassment by law-enforcing agencies and hoodlums. Shelter and protection from abuse and harassment by hoodlums and law-enforcing agencies were perceived to be their most important problems. Need-based integrated interventions are suggested for their development. The report is being finalized.

### Study on model *Shasthya shebika* of BRAC begins

A study on model *Shasthya shebikas* (SS) (under *MANOSHI* programme) of Dhaka city has been initiated for understanding how the current model SS are doing, whether the project is in the process of achieving its stated objectives, the perception of the clients/consumers about the model SSs and their shops, and the perception of their supervisors about their activities. Data were collected from 35 model SSs and a comparable group of SSs. Data analysis is in progress. The findings are expected to guide further scaling up of the programme.

### TB study on BRAC health workers completed

A study to identify the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) among the BRAC health workers (*Shasthya shebika* or SS) has been completed. Data were collected from 751 SSs working in Trishal *upazila* of Mymensingh district. Ten SSs were identified as sputum negative. Thus, the estimated preva-

lence rate was 1,612.9 per 100,000 SSs at Trishal *upazila*. The draft report is being prepared.

### Study on TB and nutrition

This study was conducted among 1,000 TB patients in peri-urban Dhaka. The findings show that TB patients had a significantly lower nutritional status than healthy controls. The improvement of nutritional status with the commencement of treatment was not up to the expected level. The higher rate of malnutrition was observed in low income earner, illiterate, male patients, and who had long history of illness. The report will be available soon.

## MNCH Research Update

### Mid-term survey of rural MNCH impact evaluation is underway

A midline survey of the MNCH (Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health) programme has been initiated. Data are being collected from 9,360 respondents in 780 villages of 13 districts. The field research will be completed by January 2010. This is a collaborative study between BRAC-RED and the University of Aberdeen, UK.

### Studies completed

#### **An assessment of behaviour change communication tools: Experiences from MNCH programme in Nilphamari**

This study reveals that interpersonal communication, printed materials and entertainment education has potential for achieving clients' behaviour change through support, motivation and encouragement of families and community members in taking healthy decision for care seeking.

#### **Voice and accountability of MNCH committee in rural Bangladesh**

The findings show that the committee members took necessary steps in

solving the maternal complication by referral and follow-up referred cases, and providing financial support to the extreme poor. But the capacity of the committees to raise the voice of poor people is fairly limited, and the committee could not run properly due to disagreement between power and literacy among the committee members.

### **Oral misoprostol in preventing post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) at home birth in rural Bangladesh: how effective it is?**

This study provides evidence that community-based distribution of oral misoprostol (400 µg) appeared to be effective, safe, acceptable, and feasible in preventing PPH in rural Bangladesh.

### **Stakeholder's knowledge on obstetric complications and role of health providers in referring obstetric complication: experiences from Nilphamari district**

The findings reveal that the level of knowledge on maternal danger sign found to be inadequate among women and community, and to be average among community health workers (CHW). CHWs were able to refer 86% emergency obstetric cases and assisted in accessing them in the facility.

#### New studies initiated

Incidence and risk factors for post-partum depression

Referral system for management of emergency obstetric cases in rural Bangladesh

## **Environment Research Update**

### **WASH end-line survey initiated**

The fieldwork of the end-line survey of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme of BRAC has recently been initiated. The aim of the survey is to assess the effect of WASH interventions in water, sanitation and hygiene practices in the study areas of Bangladesh since 2006.

#### Studies completed

### **Changes in the use of safe water and water safety measures in**

### **arsenic prone areas of Bangladesh: a midline assessment**

The findings show that the use of safe water for drinking and other purposes increased in midline at households and educational institutions. Overall, the number of arsenic-free tubewells increased in midline and most households (83%) drank arsenic-free tubewell water. Water safety measures including awareness of cleaning/purifying water and hygienic management of water increased significantly. However, there still remained impediments to use 100% safe water by the households, that include arsenic contamination of tubewell water, financial inabilities of the ultra poor and poor households for installing tubewells for arsenic-free water, and unmarked tubewell (whether contaminated by arsenic or not).

### **Factors influencing knowledge and practice of hygiene in WASH intervention areas**

This study measured the changes in knowledge and practice of hygiene and explored factors from the perspective of successful and unsuccessful WASH practitioners in BRAC intervention areas. Findings show improved knowledge and awareness, BRAC's financial assistance, sense of responsibility, social prestige and privacy facilitated hygienic practices. On the other hand, lack of interest in attending cluster meeting, traditional knowledge, poverty, difficulties in carrying water, location of latrine, lack of will to practice, and complex mind-set were the impeding factors to hygiene knowledge and practice.

### **Effects of WASH programme in improved sanitation: changes from baseline to midline**

Use of sanitary latrines increased significantly both at household (7.1%) and institutional levels (2.4%). Additionally, the quality of sanitary latrines improved significantly. During midline survey higher percentage of latrines were found clean (17.2% at the households, 23.7% at the educational institutes) and with available water nearby the latrines (5.5% at the households, 11.4% at the institutes). There were also reduced percentage of latrines with stink (14.8% at the households, 22.4% at the institutes)

and residual fecal left (12.8% at the households, 21.6% at the institutes). The improvements of sanitation status could be attributed to the BRAC WASH activities implemented in the study areas for two years. However, there were some impediments such as, shifting of households using sanitary latrines to unsanitary practices, poverty, illiteracy etc., which were delaying the sanitation improvements.

### **Exploring adherence of environmental aspects in BRAC microfinance-supported enterprises**

The findings indicate that higher proportion of borrowers got information on air pollution, plantation, safe water, and sanitation. Information on child labour, insecticides, fertilizers, soil fertility was infrequent. Most of the borrowers reported that they received environment-related messages from the staff of microfinance. About 1/10th of the borrowers opined that they received environment-related messages from other staff of BRAC as well. Availability of safe water, improved sanitation, ventilation, hand washing equipments and first aid was found to be reasonable in the enterprises. The use of decomposable materials was found to be higher than non-decomposable, liquid and gaseous materials. Presence of child labour was noted in some of the enterprises, which has decreased over time. A negative impact on soil degradation, water and air pollution, biodiversity and damage of natural drainage system was observed in small proportion of the enterprises.

## **Economic Research Update**

### **Impact assessment of Char Development and Settlement Project completed**

A draft report on the impact assessment of Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP) has been completed. The CDSP was a joint initiative of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the government of Bangladesh to achieve sustainable development in the livelihoods of coastal char dwellers of Bangladesh. The third phase of CDSP was implemented during 2005-2010 in Boyer Char of Noakhali district. The

programme was implemented by six government agencies and five local NGOs, with overall coordination by BRAC. This study assessed the effectiveness of the project using cross-sectional data collected in 2010. The analysis showed substantial improvement in the livelihoods of participant households in terms of food security, income, housing condition, asset holding, etc. CDSP had no direct intervention on education. This was reflected by poor enrollment rates found for both boys and girls. Further interventions are suggested especially in the form of more educational institutions, by both public and private sectors, for achieving educational improvement.

### Harvest Plus activities in Bangladesh

BRAC has signed an agreement with Harvest Plus in April 2010 to coordinate the Harvest Plus activities and for the delivery and promotion of high zinc rice in the country. Harvest Plus is a global research project of CGIAR jointly convened by CIAT, Cali and IFPRI of USA, which is engaged in bio-fortification of staple crops in nine countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to increase the micronutrient content of the crops to improve the nutritional status of people. In Bangladesh high zinc rice is under breeding trials at BRRRI and under human trials at ICDDR,B. Prof. Rezaul Karim, Advisor, RED, BRAC also work as the Country Manager of Harvest Plus in Bangladesh. He presented the 'Bangladesh seed sector' in a Harvest Plus Delivery Team meeting in Uganda in September 2010. A draft plan on 'Zinc rice delivery and promotion' is under review.

### Capacity Development

Tahera Akter attended the 'International Graduate Conference on Climate Change and People' jointly organized by the University of Colorado, the Small Earth Nepal and AIT in Kathmandu, Nepal on 15-19 November 2010.

Shamim Hossain, Md. Kamruzzaman, Rehnuma Rahman and Mrinmoy Samadder attended a course on 'SPSS and applied statistics' at Dhaka University during 1-30 June 2010.

Atiya Rahman, Morsheda Banu and Tasmeen Quayyum attended a month-long training workshop on manuscript writing jointly organized by BRAC and ICDDR, B during November-December 2010.

### Conferences/Workshops/ Meetings Attended

Syed Masud Ahmed presented a paper titled '*Shasthya shebikas* of BRAC health programme: redefining the boundaries of volunteerism' at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health Conference held in Bali, Indonesia on 4-6 October 2010.

Nepal C Dey presented a paper on the 'Use of pesticides in vegetable farms and its impact on health of farmers and environment' in an international conference on 'Crop Production under Changing Climate in Bangladesh: Agronomic Options' held in Dhaka on 6-7 October 2010.

Mahbubul Kabir (RED) and Prof. Shaheen Islam (Dhaka University) presented the findings of a study titled 'Teachers' praise of students in the classroom of BRAC primary schools, at a seminar held in Dhaka on 31 August 2010.

Umme Salma Mukta presented a paper titled 'Exploring the knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of infant and young child feeding among adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh' at the 1st Regional Public Health Seminar held in Dhaka on 12-13 December 2010.

Hashima-E-Nasreen presented two papers - i) Marital relationship is a major contributory factor for antepartum depression and anxiety: evidence from rural Bangladesh, and ii) Low birth weight in offspring of women with depressive and anxiety symptoms during pregnancy: a population-based study in Bangladesh - at the 16th International Congress of the International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology in Venice, Italy on 28-30 October 2010.

Samir Ranjan Nath presented a key note paper at a workshop with the female lawmakers of Bangladesh on

'Gender Equality in Education: Beyond Numbers' held in Dhaka on 4 December 2010.

Sarawat Rashid presented a paper titled 'Factors influencing utilization of Manoshi delivery center in urban slums of Dhaka' at the Global Health Conference 2010 in New Delhi, India on 30 August -01 September 2010.

### Staff Separated/Newly Joined

The following staff separated/newly joined during October-December 2010:

**Separated:** Syed Mahfuz Al Hasan.

**Newly joined:** Sabrina Ahmed, Jyoti Naresh Chakma, Nusrat Jaitun Hossain, and Farzana Sayeed.

### Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

#### Journal articles

Ahmed SM, Hossain A, Khan MA, Mridha MK, Alam A, Choudhury N, Sharmin T, Afsana K, Bhuiya A. Using formative research to develop MNCH programme in urban slums in Bangladesh: experiences from *MANOSHI, BRAC. BMC Public Health* 2010;10:663. doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-10-663.

Haque U, Hashizume M, Sunahara T, Hossain S, Ahmed SM, Haque R, Yamamoto T, Glass GE. Progress and challenges to control malaria in a remote area of Chittagong hill tracts, Bangladesh. *Malaria J* 2010;9:156. doi: 10.1186/1475-2875-9-156.

Hossain S and Siddiki OF. Training front-line health workers for malaria control and prevention: experience of BRAC. *Proshikhyon* 2010;18(1):50-63.

Rahman S. Women's labour contribution to productivity and efficiency in agriculture: empirical evidence from Bangladesh. *J Agri Econ* 2010; 61(2):318-42. doi:10.1111/j.1477-9552.2010.00243.x

Reid H, Haque U, Clements AC, Tatem AJ, Vallely A, Ahmed SM, Islam A, Haque R. Mapping malaria risk in Bangladesh using Bayesian geostatistical models. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 2010;83(4):861-7.

## Books and book chapters

Akter A. Household level vulnerability to sea-level rise in Bangladesh: risks, perceptions and adaptation in the coastal areas. Saarbrücken: LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2010. 108p.

Chowdhury AMR, Chowdhury JA, Hadi A. The neglected outpost: a closer look at rural schools. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:11-28.

Hossain A, Imam SR, Amin MN, Rahman T. Classroom teaching in rural primary schools. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:28-58.

Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR. Introduction. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:1-10.

Nath SR and Shahjamal MM. Management in successful primary

schools. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:59-95.

Nath SR, Mahbub A, Shahjamal MM, Kabir MM, Zafar T. Quality primary education in Bangladesh: success factors and challenges. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:97-145.

Nath SR and Mahbub A. School culture of medium category government primary schools. *In: Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC.* Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010:147-80.

Roy G. Group discussion (In Bangla). Dhaka: Banglaprakash, 2010. 144p.

## Newspaper article and abstract

Hossain M and Karim R. Overcoming zinc malnutrition. *Daily Star* 22 November 2010.

Mukta US, Kristy H, Jalal CSB, Sellen D. Exploring the knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of infant and young child feeding among adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh (Abstract). *In: Programmes and abstracts of the 1st Regional Public Health Seminar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 12-13 December 2010:30-31.*

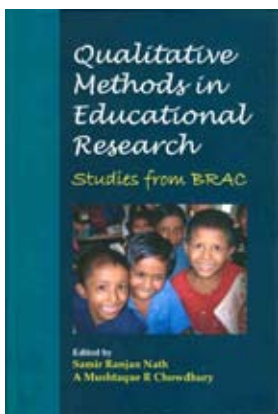
## RED Working papers

Ara J and Das NC. Impact assessment of adolescent development programme in the selective border regions of Bangladesh. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. 33p. (RED Working Paper No. 14)

Khan A and Samadder M. Beyond dropout: a study on BRAC primary school. BRAC, 2010. 19p. (RED Working Paper No. 16)

Kundu DK, Samadder M, Naomi SS. Revisiting group dynamic and legal rights. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. 27p. (RED Working Paper No. 15)

Kundu DK, Khan A, Samadder M. Understanding alternative dispute resolution for the rural women in Bangladesh: some illustrations from BRAC HRLS programme. Dhaka: BRAC, 2010. 34p. (RED Working Paper No. 13)



Nath SR and Chowdhury AMR (Editors). Qualitative methods in educational research: studies from BRAC. Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2010. 186p.

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

