



Ms. Sharin Shajahan Naomi, Research Associate, RED presenting the findings of her study on judicial remedy in rape case.



Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, GoB delivering speech as chief guest (Centre). Ms. Sultana Kamal, Executive Director, Ain-O-Shalish Kendra and former adviser of the caretaker government (Left) and Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director of BRAC (Right) also attended the seminar.

Seminar on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Judicial Remedy in Rape Case Held

RED, along with the Human Rights and Legal Services programme of BRAC, arranged a seminar to share the findings of two recent studies with the civil society on 26 August 2009 in Dhaka. The studies are – a) Understanding the alternative dispute resolution for the rural women in Bangladesh: some illustrations from BRAC HRLS programme by Debasish Kumar Kundu, *et al.* and b) The legal challenges on the way to judicial remedy in rape case: the role of HRLS programme of BRAC by Ms. Sharin Shajahan Naomi. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh attended as the chief guest while Ms. Sultana Kamal, Executive Director of Ain-O-Shalish Kendra and former advisor of the caretaker government of Bangladesh attended as special guest. Others attended the seminar include representatives of human rights NGOs, lawyers and activists, researchers, teachers, students, and journalists.

into two: specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) and other targeted ultra poor (OTUP). STUP and OTUP packages were further disaggregated into STUP 1 and 2 and OTUP 1 and 2. This study aims to develop a strategy on how to identify the eligible target groups by appropriate models reflecting heterogeneity among them. This study is based on cross-sectional data on a sample of 2700 households surveyed during September-October 2009. A draft report is expected by the end of November 2009.

Research Update on Social Development and Human Rights

Study on HRLE *Shebika* Initiated

A study on BRAC Human Rights and Legal Education *Shebika* (field worker) has been initiated to assess their socioeconomic and demographic situations, including their vulnerabilities and barriers in “protest, prevent, protect” role in the community. Data collection is in progress. A draft report is expected by March 2010.

Study on Human Rights Lawyering Begins

This study aims to compare the BRAC panel lawyers of HRLS programme and non-BRAC lawyers on the basis of selected indicators of human rights lawyering. These indicators include communication with clients, legal skills, patience to deal with clients, client empowerment, critical analysis of the duty of lawyer, etc. Data analysis is in progress. The preliminary findings will be shared in January 2010.

Study on BRAC's Popular Theatre Begins

BRAC has been staging popular theatre throughout the country since 1998. It is an innovative communication medium widely

used to raise awareness for social development. Its success primarily depends on the extent to which messages are understood by the target audience. RED has initiated a study to examine the extent to which the members of BRAC ultra poor programme and other viewers understand these messages. The study is in progress.

Evaluation of *Palli Shamaj* Initiated

BRAC's Social Development Programme has established 12,260 *Palli Shamaj* (ward-level rural civil society organizations) to help the marginalized people uplift their socioeconomic status, and become active citizens in society. This study will assess the extent to which *Palli Shamaj* are able to meet three programme objectives – a) access to government services such as VGD/VGF cards, b) participation in local government activities through voting and local decision-making, and c) participating in local social initiatives. It will also map the organization's coverage, both geographically within wards as well as in terms of its linkages with other BRAC and non-BRAC organizations, as well as the local government. The study is in progress.

Economic Research Update

Study on Targeting of the Ultra Poor for Different Models of CFPR Initiated

A study on ‘How can ultra poor be differentiated to reach with different packages of CFPR?’ has been initiated. The support packages of CFPR II are primarily divided

Early Assessment of CFPR Phase II Support Packages Completed

A draft report on ‘Early assessment of CFPR phase II support packages’ has been completed. This study provides assessments of the four packages (STUP 1 and 2 and OTUP 1 and 2) delivered by CFPR phase II. All four packages were found to have significant positive impacts on the livelihoods of the participating households although the dimensions and magnitude of impacts vary within the packages. It was found that as a result of programme participation, households experienced an increase in farm self-employment for both males and females, diversification of income sources, increase in per capita income and food expenditure, and increase in saving behaviour.

Study on BRAC *Kallyan* Project Initiated

A study on BRAC *Kallyan* Project for the retrenched workers of state-owned enterprises has been initiated. It aims to explore the differences between project participant and non-participant workers in their basic livelihoods. This study may help improve project operations and further extension of the project. A draft report is expected by the end of November 2009.

MNCH Research update

Three consultants from Aberdeen University, UK visited BRAC in March 2009 to provide

technical support to analyze baseline data of 2008 of the 'Impact Evaluation of Rural MNCH' project. The baseline report has been completed. The preliminary findings were shared with the donors and the government of Bangladesh on 18 June 2009.

Guest researchers Prof. Maigun Edhborg and Dr. Zarina Nahar Kabir of Karolinska Institute, Sweden visited RED to review, supervise and provide technical support in the data analysis of 'Maternal perinatal depression project' run in collaboration with Karolinska Institute, Sweden (2008-2011). A new study has been initiated on supply side costing (cost of providing MNCH services).

Workshops and Seminars Held

Workshop on CFPR held

RED organized a workshop entitled 'Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction (CFPR): Innovations, impact and influence' on 19 July 2009 in Dhaka to share some of the key research findings on this programme. The workshop aimed to create a larger discussion on crafting a scaled up, inclusive and forward looking social safety net strategy for the poorest in Bangladesh. The presentations include assessment of trends and policies of extreme poverty in Bangladesh, the CFPR concept, targeting approach, panel doctor model, elite support for the ultra poor, non-economic determinants of graduation, and effects of the programme in improving the lives of the ultra poor. The members of the civil society, representatives of the government, donors, and other development partners attended the workshop.

Workshop on Population Ageing Held

Workshop on 'Population ageing: integrating research and practice to improve health and quality of life of older persons' organized by the International Network on Public Health and Ageing (INOPA), Sweden was held on 29 September 2009 in Dhaka. BRAC/RED is a partner of this network and has provided management support in organizing this workshop.

Seminar on Gates Foundation Strategy Held

A seminar was given on 'Reducing hunger and poverty through agricultural development: the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation strategy' by Dr. Prabhu Pingali, Deputy Director, Agricultural Development, BMGF on 8 October 2009 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B, Dhaka. The seminar was organized by RED in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, Dhaka.

Conferences Attended

Syed Masud Ahmed, Morsheda Banu and Anita Sharif Chowdhury attended the 8th

International Conference on Urban Health, held on 18-23 October 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. Morsheda Banu and Anita Sharif Chowdhury chaired two sessions individually. The following papers were presented:

- An assessment of MANOSHI referral system in addressing delays of emergency obstetric care services in slum areas of Dhaka city.
Morsheda Banu, S Nahar, HE Nasreen
- Married adolescent girls in Dhaka urban slum: what barriers they face in accessing contraceptive services?
Anita S Chowdhury and SM Ahmed
- Using formative research to develop MNCH programme in slums: experiences from Manoshi, BRAC.
Syed M Ahmed, A Bhuiya, K Afsana

Chowdhury SB Jalal and Qazi Shafayetul Islam attended the 19th International Congress of Nutrition, held on 4-9 October 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The following papers were presented:

- BRAC's poverty reduction programme for the extreme poor improved nutritional status of pre-school children and reduced household food insecurity.
Chowdhury SB Jalal
- Knowledge and practice of mothers towards breastfeeding in rural Bangladesh.
Marufa Aziz Khan, Qazi Shafayetul Islam, Hashima-E-Nasreen
- Maternal nutritional knowledge is associated with nutritional status of children among poorest household in rural Bangladesh.
Nuzhat Choudhury and Chowdhury SB Jalal

Hasan Shareef Ahmed attended the 6th International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publications, held on 10-12 September 2009 in Vancouver, Canada.

Recent Publications

(Arranged alphabetically)

Journal articles

Ahmed SM, Hadi A, Razzaque A, Ashraf A, Juvekar S, Ng N, Kanungsukkasem U, Soonthornthada K, Minh HV, Bich TH. Clustering of chronic non-communicable disease risk factors among selected Asian populations: levels and determinants. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi:10.3402/gha.v2i0.1986

Ahmed SM, Haque R, Haque U, Hossain A. Knowledge on transmission, prevention and treatment of malaria among two endemic populations of Bangladesh and their health-seeking behaviour. *Malaria J* 2009,8:173 doi:10.1186/1475-2875-8-173

Ahmed SM, Hossain MA, Chowdhury MR. Informal sector providers in Bangladesh: how equipped are they to provide rational health care? *Health Policy Plan* 2009;1-12. doi:10.1093/heapol/czp037.

Ahmed SM. Capability development among the ultra-poor in Bangladesh: a case study. *J Health Popul Nutr* 2009;27(4):528-35.

Alim MA. Changes in villagers' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes concerning gender roles and relations in Bangladesh. *Dev Practice* 2009;19(3):300-10.

Ashraf A, Quaiyum MA, Ng N, van Minh H, Razzaque A, Ahmed SM, Hadi A, Juvekar S, Kanungsukkasem U, Soonthornthada K, Bich TH. Self-reported use of tobacco products in nine rural INDEPTH Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems in Asia. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.1997.

Bich TH, Nga PTQ, Quang LN, van Minh H, Ng N, Juvekar S, Razzaque A, Ashraf A, Ahmed SM, Soonthornthada K, Kanungsukkasem U. Patterns of alcohol consumption in diverse rural adult populations in the Asia region. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1.; doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.2017.

Haque U, Ahmed SM, Hossain S, Huda M, Hossain A, Alam MS, Mondol D, Khan WA, Khalequzzaman M, Haque R. Malaria prevalence in endemic districts of Bangladesh. *PLoS ONE* 2009;4(8):e6737. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0006737.

Haque U, Huda M, Hossain A, Ahmed SM, Moniruzzaman M, Haque R. Spatial malaria epidemiology in Bangladeshi highlands. *Malaria J* 2009;8:185. doi: 10.1186/1475-2875-8-185.

Kanungsukkasem U, Ng N, van Minh H, Razzaque A, Ashraf A, Juvekar S, Ahmed SM, Bich TH. Fruit and vegetable consumption in rural adult populations in INDEPTH HDSS sites in Asia. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.1988.

Ng N, Hakimi M, van Minh H, Juvekar S, Razzaque A, Ashraf A, Ahmed SM, Kanungsukkasem U, Soonthornthada K, Bich TH. Prevalence of physical activity in nine rural INDEPTH Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems in five Asian countries. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.1985.

Ng N, van Minh H, Juvekar S, Razzaque A, Bich TH, Kanungsukkasem U, Ashraf A, Ahmed SM, Soonthornthada K. Using the INDEPTH HDSS to build capacity for chronic non-communicable disease risk factor surveillance in low and middle

income countries. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.1984.

Rana AKMM, Wahlin A, Lundborg CS, Kabir ZN. Impact of health education on health-related quality of life among elderly persons: results from a community-based intervention study in rural Bangladesh. *Health Promotion Int* 2009;24(1):36-45.

Rana AKMM, Wahlin A, Streatfield PK, Kabir ZN. Association of bone and joint diseases with health-related quality of life among older people: a population-based cross-sectional study in rural Bangladesh. *Ageing Soc* 2009;29:727-43.

Razzaque A, Nahar L, van Minh H, Ng N, Juvekar S, Ashraf A, Ahmed SM, Soonthrothada K, Kanungsukkasem U, Bich TH. Social factors and overweight: evidence from nine asian INDEPTH network sites. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.1991.

Roy G, Dutta NC, Nath SR. Competencies achievement at primary level: a comparison of three types of BRAC schools. *Primary Edu J* 2009;3(1):17-30.

Shakur YA, Choudhury N, Hyder SMZ, Zlotkin SH. Unexpectedly high early prevalence of anaemia in 6-month-old breast-fed infants in rural Bangladesh. *Public Health Nutr* 2009; doi:10.1017/S1368980009005886

Van Minh H, Soonthrothada K, Ng N, Juvekar S, Razzaque A, Ashraf A, Ahmed SM, Bich TH, Kanungsukkasem U. Blood pressure in adult rural INDEPTH population in Asia. *J Global Health Action* 2009, Supplement 1. doi: 10.3402/gha.v2i0.2010.

Books and book chapters

Ahmed SM and Rana AKMM. Health, health services and health-seeking behaviour. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:73-94.

Alim MA. Knowledge, perception, attitudes and behaviour of the villagers toward gender. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 161-79.

CFPR Research Team. Introduction. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:1-25.

Choudhury N and Jalal CSB. Maternal nutritional knowledge and child nutritional status. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 117-24.

Das NC and Ahmed S. Profile of the other targeted ultra poor. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:235-54.

Das NC and Seraj KFB. Socio-demographic profile. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:29-40.

Das NC. Employment and income. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:211-31.

Gulesci S. GDBC profile study. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from*

round I survey of CFPR phase II. Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:181-95.

Jalal CSB, Choudhury N, Sulaiman M. Food consumption pattern and dietary diversity. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:199-210.

Parveen M. Food security and nutritional status. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 95-116.

Salam SS. Poverty and empowerment of women. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 143-60.

Seraj KFB and Misha FA. Natural, physical and financial assets. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009:41-56.

Sulaiman M. Education: schooling and literacy. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 57-70.

Sulaiman M. Vulnerability and social network. *In: Pathways out of extreme poverty: findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II.* Dhaka: BRAC, 2009: 125-39.

Newspaper and newsletter articles

Karim F and Qayum N. Abandoned and powerless. *New Age* 06 Oct 2009.

Roy G. Education reforms: three proposals regarding education policy (In Bangla). *Prothom Alo* 23 Apr 2009.

Roy G. National education policy 2009: realities on pre-primary and primary education (In Bangla). *Panjeree Shikkha Sangbad (Special supplement).* 2009:7(11):18-9.

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Research monograph series

Rafi M and Rahman H. Popular theatre and BRAC. Dhaka: BRAC, 2009. vi, 90p
(Research monograph series no. 40)



Nath SR. Education: Hope, reality, renewed hope (In Bangla). Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library. 2009. 144p.