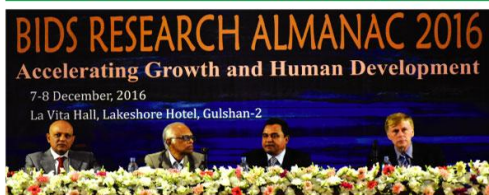


BIDS newsletter



BIDS Research Almanac, 2016



Inaugural Session of BIDS Research Almanac 2016

BIDS Research Almanac, 2016 was held on the 7th and 8th of December in Dhaka. This annual dissemination and stock-taking exercise formally presented some of the more seminal work that BIDS conducted over the past year. The two-day event was divided into five technical sessions: Labour Employment and Skills, Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Business Environment and Exports, and Social Development. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Planning Minister Mr A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP and attended by eminent policy makers, high government officials, economists, civil society representatives and members of international development organisations. The closing session, "Bangladesh and the World: Changing Dynamics," chaired by Dr K A S Murshid, Director General of BIDS, highlighted the impending risks to the world economy in the face of rising protectionist sentiment in the West, and discussed possible implications and strategic options for Bangladesh. Dr Gowher Rizvi, Hon'ble Adviser to the Prime Minister, International Relations Affairs, was the Chief Guest in the session. Dr Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary of the Planning Commission, chaired the session. The distinguished panel consisted of Dr Zahid Hussain, Senior Economist at the World Bank, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow at CPD and Prof S R Osmani from the University of Ulster.

A total of 11 presentations were made over the course of the two days. Details of the presentations at the Research Almanac 2016 have been furnished inside, within the section on BIDS Seminars.



Dr Gowher Rizvi Addressing at BIDS Research Almanac 2016

From the Editor's Desk

This Newsletter is the second issue for the year 2016 and begins with highlights of an extensive study sponsored by the ADB, which examines labour supply and demand, and emerging skill gaps pertaining to ten potentially promising sectors of the Bangladesh economy.

Besides the ten sector studies for ADB, several other research studies were completed, from which five completed ones have been reported in this issue. About a dozen studies are in the pipeline. Out of these, seven studies have been reported here. The research portfolio comprises, firstly, of a study entitled "Capacity Development for Monitoring and Reporting to Increase the Effective Coverage of Basic Social Services for Children and Women in Bangladesh" for improved understanding of interventions that target better outcomes from effective coverage of social services. The second study entitled "Baseline Survey on Fuel Wood Consumption for Household Cooking in Four Districts of Bangladesh" estimates empirically the level of fuel wood consumption for future comparison, after the implementation of the project, which aims to decrease emission and reduce poverty as a result of the use of improved cooking stoves.

The third study on "An Inclusive Approach for Caring for the Elderly in Bangladesh" attempts to review the situation of the elderly, in order to assess the gap between needs and current provisions for the care of the aged. The fourth study is "Skills and Baseline Assessment of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Bangladesh." This is a baseline assessment of skills and employment of indigenous and tribal people of Bangladesh, for developing a plan of action for appropriate interventions.

The fifth study is "Land Market Survey of Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project in its Newly Acquired Land in Seventeen Selected Mouzas." This study is aimed at estimating the replacement value for the newly acquired or proposed to be acquired land under the project. The sixth study is a household-level mid-line survey of the South Asia WASH Result Program. The seventh study is titled "How does Crop Diversification and Livelihoods Affect Nutrition," which attempts to focus on crop diversification as a strategy for improving the nutrition status of people in Bangladesh.

BIDS hosted a large number of seminars and workshops during this time. At the same time, BIDS researchers, along with the DG, participated in numerous seminars at home and abroad as presenters and discussants. The DG was also elected to the steering committee of GREcest, which is the Global Research Consortium on Economic, Structural Transformation, based in Beijing.

The year ahead is expected to be quite active. BIDS Critical Conversations, 2017 is planned for April 2017. We expect to welcome new researchers at the entry level as well as post-doctoral fellows early in 2017. This will expand research capacity and will allow BIDS to undertake many more studies. BIDS is also preparing to launch post-graduate courses in development economics and public finance.

Study Highlights

Skill Gap Analysis in Selected Sectors

Bangladesh's future growth requires that the large pool of unskilled labourers are transformed into more productive, more skilled resources through training and education. Skill shortage is a situation where employers find it difficult to fill vacancies because there are not enough workers with the desired skills or experience.

The Bangladesh government needs a proper assessment of the demand for labour and situation of skills in the labour market in order to take up concrete plans for skill development for the medium to longer term requirements of the economy. This is needed both at the aggregate or macro/sector level and micro/subsector level. The present study focuses on micro/subsector level analysis.

Studies on skill development conducted earlier are based on older data sets, which, therefore, would need to be updated in the light of availability of more recent data. Further, the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh has adopted GDP growth targets different from the path envisaged in the Sixth Five Year Plan, which should also be taken into account in projecting skill requirements.

Using up-to-date data from census and labour force surveys, this study quantifies requirements of skilled workforce for each subsector for the next 10 years. It provides estimates of training targets to be considered under SEIP, and potential demand in priority growth sectors and skills categories. The analysis identifies other growth sectors (in addition to the presently planned ten sectors of SEIP) where skill development will be necessary and needs prior planning.

As a background to this analysis, considerations are given to key features of the labour market, such as public and private job markets, formal and informal sectors and the nature of female employment. Underemployment and youth unemployment are critical issues, implying loss of productive resources and its analysis can offer insights into how this can be overcome through training. Attention has also been paid to the operation

of the labour market, including structural changes, barriers to entry and to exit, child labour, female labour, migrant labour and real wage trends. In projecting the requirement of skilled workforce by sector or occupations, overseas migration of semi-skilled and skilled manpower is also considered.

Beginning from the mid-1990s, Bangladesh's GDP growth has accelerated. Success in terms of acceleration of GDP growth has continued despite various adverse circumstances in the international and domestic spheres. Its economic performance has demonstrated resilience of the economy in the face of adverse effects of international financial downturn, price hike of imports and growing price competition in the export markets relevant for the country. The analysis shows average annual real GDP growth accelerated during 2001-2006 and 2006-2011; the average annual rates of GDP growth were respectively 5.7 and 6.2 percent in these periods. After this, real GDP growth per year has gone through a slight deceleration (2013-2014) but a reversal of the pattern has already been observed.

Capacity to generate employment depends not only on growth of aggregate GDP but also on the sectoral structure of growth. Productivity of employment also depends on the structure of the GDP. Among the 10 subsectors, currently, RMG sector has the highest share of GDP (11.3 per cent), followed by construction sector (7.7 per cent). Analysis shows, in the case of employment, the 10 selected sub-sectors accounted for 17 and 16 per cent of total employment respectively in 2013 and 2010. Among these subsectors, the RMG sector has the most share of employment (5.2 per cent), followed by construction (3.7 per cent). Agro-food and HTS come next with 2.5 per cent and 1.6 per cent of employment respectively. Since these are the skill intensive sub-sectors, easing the skill constraint is likely to raise the share of total employment in these sub-sectors. The analysis also shows that the share of food processing, textile and healthcare has risen over this period. Moreover, light engineering, although accounts for a small share, has increased its share as well as the size of employment.

Table 1 : Share of selected sub-sectors in total employed persons

Sectors	2010 (LFS)			2013 (LFS)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agro processing	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.7	4.5	2.5
Healthcare (nursing & health care)	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.5	1.1
Hospitality & Tourism	2.0	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
RMG	5.4	6.4	5.7	3.1	10.1	5.2
Textile	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.3	5.3	3.2
Leather	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
IT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
Construction	6.3	1.4	4.8	5.0	1.0	3.8
Light engineering	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.6
Shipbuilding	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
All Others	82.3	88.1	84.0	85.7	77.1	83.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LFS, Various Years.

Rise in the share of manufacturing sector employment can be regarded as a positive feature if it is accompanied by a rise of productivity. Otherwise, this cannot offer promising route to development. Estimates of productivity (GDP per worker) show growth of labour productivity. Growth of labour productivity was 3.62 percent in 2010 and 3.13 percent in 2013. During this period

the average hours worked was the same. Therefore, the rise of productivity is not merely due to rise of total labour hours. In most sectors, growth of productivity has risen over the period. However, GDP per worker has gone through a decline in the manufacturing sector, which is an alarming feature.

Table 2 : Growth of Labour Productivity in major sectors: 2006-2013 (GDP-Employment Ratio)

Sectors	2006	2010		2013	
	GDP/Emp	GDP/Emp	GR GDP/Emp	GDP/Emp	GR GDP/Emp
Agriculture	38206.48	41400.39	2.09	44838.43	2.77
Manufacturing	141336.14	148077.40	1.19	139641.42	-1.90
Other Services	143619.00	166178.40	3.93	162198.25	5.22
Trade	87720.45	107475.58	5.63	130039.38	7.00
Transport and Communication	116944.66	160697.71	9.35	210064.76	10.24
Others	219547.20	227591.10	0.92	240125.09	1.84
Total	96630.29	107134.32	2.72	120527.00	4.17

Source: Estimated from BER and LFS data.

Productivity of labour can be enhanced through education and skill development. Changes in quality of employed labour force in terms of educational attainment and skill endowment are important since Bangladesh aims at raising competitiveness through education and skill development. Share of labour force without education has gone through a substantial decline. In 2013, it was only 21 per cent of labour force compared to 40 per cent in 2006. Share of labour force with higher secondary or above education has risen from 8.5 to 18.9 per cent during 2006 to 2013 period.

Table 3 : Distribution of labour force by education

Education	% of employed population	
	2013	2010
None	21.3	40.1
Primary	28.7	22.8
Secondary	30.6	29.5
Higher Secondary	12.8	3.7
Tertiary	6.1	3.7
Others	0.4	0.1

Source: LFS, Various Years.

Skill acquisition shows some increase. In 2013, about 5.4 percent of labour force (574 million) was with technical/vocational training. The number and share with vocational/technical education was much smaller in 2010 (respectively .08 million and 0.14%). In 2006, the figures were very close: .06 million received such training which constituted 0.13 percent of labour force. The comparison should be done cautiously because one cannot be sure whether the definition used has been the same in all these rounds of LFS.

The training need projections have been based on an assessment of present distribution of labour force in the sectors and the incidence of training, as of 2013. Data on share of trained workers reveal that healthcare, IT and hospitality are dependent on trained workers, the share ranging from 25 percent to 40 percent. Further details on this aspect have been furnished in the comprehensive reports. Share of trained workers in light engineering and shipbuilding are high, although employment share of these two is small. Shares of female workers with training are high in healthcare and IT and these shares are almost the same for men and women.

Nonetheless, the sectors where women's share of employment is high, namely RMG and textile, the trained workers' share is much lower among women compared to men. Therefore, it is desirable that a predominantly larger share of the projected training needed in these sectors is targeted to women. If such training could be conducted, female workers would experience upward mobility with higher productivity and higher wages which would encourage growth of women's LFPR.

Before moving on with projections of skill gap/training need, a pertinent question is whether there is at all, a shortage of skilled labour. Findings of existing studies indicate the presence of skill shortage in Bangladesh as well as in other Asian countries. The present analysis shows that existing skill gap is the highest in the agro-food sector, followed by the RMG sector. Skill gap for "skilled workers" in the IT sector is also high (40%) as demand there is mainly for skilled labour. Skilled workers and semi-skilled workers are in short supply, virtually in every sector.

According to projected results, percentage increase in future labour demand is the highest in shipbuilding and agro-food. Future labour and skill demand is massive, both in absolute and in percentage terms, in the RMG sector. Existing training situation is grossly inadequate to meet such large needs. Training demand in RMG alone will be 1.5 million in 2021 and 2.1 million in 2026. RMG's share of employment is more than double of all the other 8 sectors combined. Projected total training need for these 9 sectors in 2021 is over 4 million. Projected total training need for these 9 sectors in 2025, is over 5.6 million.

The projections of training target may raise a question about whether sufficient number of prospective workers will be available to opt for skill training. Evidence of skill mismatch often discourage prospective labour force from joining skill training. The situation is expected to change with the dynamic changes in the economy: (a) attainment of general education will rise and a larger share of young persons will have SSC and above level education, which will make them easily trainable; and (b) better job availability for trained persons will encourage young persons to enter training programmes.

Table 4: Projected training targets by sectors in Bangladesh (in millions) 2016-2050

Sector	2016	2018	2020	2025	2030	2040	2050
Agro-food	0.013	0.014	0.015	0.021	0.030	0.055	0.099
Healthcare	0.051	0.045	0.041	0.025	0.031	0.045	0.065
Hospitality & tourism	0.005	0.006	0.009	0.014	0.023	0.066	0.201
RMG	1.235	1.380	1.547	2.117	2.850	5.485	9.902
Textile	0.309	0.344	0.387	0.829	0.626	1.371	2.476
Leather	0.087	0.096	0.108	0.149	0.207	0.385	0.693
IT	0.617	0.690	0.773	1.059	1.482	2.743	4.951
Construction	0.383	0.431	0.488	0.635	0.813	1.202	1.543
Light engineering	0.247	0.276	0.309	0.423	0.592	1.098	1.980
Shipbuilding	0.031	0.035	0.039	0.053	0.074	0.138	0.248
Others	1.437	1.569	1.716	1.881	3.026	4.557	7.317
Domestic (Total)	4.416	4.886	5.433	7.207	9.755	17.143	29.475

Source: Based on training target ratio used in ADB (2015) and Table 4.2

Table 5 : Labour demand projection for 10 chosen sectors (in million), 2016-2050

Sectors	2016	2018	2020	2025	2030	2040	2050
Agro-food	2.00	2.43	2.91	4.46	5.40	7.92	11.61
Healthcare	0.89	1.08	1.29	1.98	2.40	3.52	5.16
Hospitality & tourism	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.12	0.18
RMG	4.10	4.98	5.98	9.16	11.09	16.26	23.84
Textile	2.53	3.07	3.69	5.65	6.85	10.04	14.72
Leather	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.28	0.34	0.49	0.72
IT	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.30	0.37	0.54	0.79
Construction	3.03	3.68	4.42	6.76	8.18	12.00	17.59
Light engineering	0.46	0.56	0.68	1.03	1.25	1.83	2.69
Shipbuilding	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.11	0.14	0.20	0.29
Overseas employment	0.59	0.66	0.74	0.98	1.30	2.30	2.30
Other s	49.61	51.19	52.94	57.87	69.95	102.16	150.85
Total	63.56	68.06	73.15	88.66	107.35	157.38	230.73
Domestic	62.97	67.40	72.41	87.68	106.05	155.08	228.43

Source: Based on LFS 2013 sectoral distribution and assuming structural change (assuming the share of 10 sectors will grow 2 times by 2025 compared to 2013).

Both direct and indirect evidence highlights skill shortage as a constraint to growth. On the supply side, the size of labour force, especially youth labour force, will continue to grow and its share in the labour force will also grow over the next 20-25 years. Therefore, an appropriate road map for skill generation must be worked out.

With the Health Sector in mind, specific policy recognition of the grave situation with respect to skill gap of nurses and medical technicians is most urgent to counter possible adverse consequences. Technical skills facing serious shortages include, among others, radiology and imaging, cathlab technology, blood drawing, laboratory assistants, physiotherapy, Aide to nurse, dialysis technicians and pharmaceutical assistants. Increased supply of nurses and medical technicians is seriously constrained by negative social attitudes towards these professional and skill categories. Thus, greater social acceptance of nursing and medical technicians should be increased on a multi-prong basis social, job mobility, and financial remuneration vis-à-vis complementary occupational groups. Lack of job mobility, particularly for medical technicians, is a serious disincentive to social acceptance of these occupations: people are said to join and also retire, almost from the same job position. Moreover, there

is an imperative need to regulate dual practice (s) of public sector health workers for improved service delivery.

Given the above scenario, the policy makers need to enhance capacity utilisation of existing training capacity, make such training relevant, explore expansion of training for specific industries with tie-ups with technical colleges and universities, encourage the private sector, especially chamber bodies, to come up with ambitious training programmes, as well as undertake capacity expansion in the public sector. Since a large part of training is 'on-the-job', innovative approaches need to be explored to make such training more effective.

List of comprehensive reports

- Labour Market and Skill Gap in Bangladesh: Macro Level Analysis
- Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for Readymade Garment Sector
- Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Construction Sector of Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis for Light Engineering Sector in Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis for the ICT Sector in Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis for the Shipbuilding Sector in Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis for the Leather Goods Sector in Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gaps Analysis of Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Bangladesh
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis: Health Care (Nursing and Health Technician)
- Labour Market and Skills Gap Analysis: Agro-Food Sector in Bangladesh.

Completed Studies

Economic and Social Impacts of Export Processing Zones on the Economy of Bangladesh

According to the existing legislation of Bangladesh, the primary goals of export processing zones (EPZs) are to provide foreign exchange earnings by promoting non-traditional exports, provide jobs to alleviate unemployment and underemployment and assist in income creation, and attract foreign direct investment (FDI) as well as engender technological transfer, knowledge spillover and demonstration effects that would act as catalysts for domestic entrepreneurs to engage in production of non-traditional products. This study calibrates achievements of the EPZs to these goals with two-fold immediate objectives: (i) making a comprehensive assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of the EPZs on the national economy of Bangladesh; and (ii) examining whether there is any policy space for further expansion and replication of EPZs in the new areas of the country. The study is based on both secondary and primary data.

Impact Assessment of Training Program (Institutional and Non-institutional) of Department of Youth Development

This impact assessment (based on a survey of 1,200 DYD training participants) of Training Program (Institutional and Non-institutional) of Department of Youth Development involves assessing the effectiveness and efficiency and quality of various activities being implemented under the training programme and identifying strengths and weaknesses of the programme to draw lessons for further improvement of the training programme. The survey was conducted in 7 divisions of the country covering 10 districts three from Dhaka division, two from Chittagong division, and one from each of the remaining five divisions Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet. From each sample district, two upazilas were selected purposively. The study finds that the training centres do not have adequate capacity (teacher experience, the workplace, the equipment, or resources) to deliver the training effectively. There are several technical, organisational, programming, and institutional problems that limit the potential benefits of training programme. The study

suggests the present system of providing training through YTC and DD office at the district level should be brought under the same umbrella. In order to ensure chain of command and make the system efficient and effective, unification of the two existing systems demands immediate attention of the policy makers at the highest level.

An Evaluation of Primary Education Stipend Project-II

This study assesses the final outcomes of major indicators of educational attainment, economic and social development among the households of the students who received stipends under PESP-II vis-à-vis that among the control households. The study used both quantitative and qualitative data.

Qualitative analysis reveals that the head teachers and SMCs are free to devise their own criteria and procedures for student selection because the PESP-II has not yet developed an operations manual. No ground level checking or scrutinizing takes place while preparing the list of beneficiaries. However, due to geographic targeting, exclusion and inclusion errors have lessened over time. Both implementer and recipients have complained about the transaction burdens of the programme.

Quantitative findings imply that household size, number of primary school going students, demographic ratio, and economic dependency ratio of the PESP students are significantly lower than that of the non-PESP students. The PESP households are also lagging behind the control households in most of the economic well-being indicators. Significant difference is found between participants and control households with regard to subjective assessment of food security and poverty.

Considering the nature of data, propensity score matching (PSM) technique was applied to accurately capture and predict outcomes of PESP interventions. The PSM impacts of PESP on women empowerment reveal that in all indicators considered, women in households enjoy equal levels of empowerment irrespective of the PESP status. In the case of school level impact indicators (attendance rate, promotion rate, repetition rate and dropout rate), estimates exhibit that there is statistically significant difference in favour of PESP recipient students.

Baseline Data Collection for the Impact Evaluation of Second Rural Transport Improvement Project

This baseline survey report provides the estimates of various parameters at the baseline for the Impact Evaluation Study of the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II) in Bangladesh. The baseline survey collected primary data from 800 households, 433 communities, 4,000 businesses/shops, 204 markets/growth centres, 1,000 transport owners, and 1,000 transport users. Besides the above quantitative data, qualitative data were collected through 433 key respondent interviews and 428 focus group discussions. Both the quantitative and qualitative data were collected along 200 treatment and control roads and 26 km of treatment and control segments of waterways. This report will be used to measure changes in the income, employment, livelihood, mobility, of the households, increased frequency of passengers and freight traffics, and growth of individual business and markets over time in the same sample villages and roads and waterways to measure the impact. As such, the survey was not designed to allow for conclusions about attribution or causality.

Impact of Natural Barrier on Competitiveness of Selected Bangladeshi Exportable Agricultural Products in the International Market

The research estimates export potential of selected agricultural exportable products (fruits/vegetables) by estimating protection and competitiveness of these products in the international market. While doing so it will differ from the existing literature by estimating and incorporating widely defined natural barrier in the estimation. Natural barrier can be defined as transaction cost incorporating both implicit and explicit cost. Real life transaction cost is estimated through collecting information from different market actors and exporters. By incorporating this cost in the estimating protection (nominal and effective) and in Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM), the research has shown relative importance and effect of both natural and policy barrier in export. Through PAM analysis it has shown different policy options available for the exporters.

Ongoing Studies

Capacity Development for Monitoring and Reporting to Increase the Effective Coverage of Basic Social Services for Children and Women in Bangladesh

Public sector leaders are seeking new approaches and models for service delivery due to a growing realisation of the interconnectedness of social services and economic growth. Against this backdrop, the study, sponsored by the UNICEF and implemented by the IMED, involves monitoring and reporting of the effective coverage of basic social services to children, pregnant and lactating mothers in order to address inequality in access to basic social services. The overall objective of the study is to collate, analyse and to report about nine tracer interventions that will bring about better targeting of scarce resources for inclusive development through effective coverage of social services.

Baseline Survey on Fuel Wood Consumption for Household Cooking in Four Districts of Bangladesh

The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) is currently implementing a project titled "Emission Reduction and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh through Capacity Development of CCDB and Preparation of Countrywide Improved Cook Stove (ICS) Carbon Program" with financial support from Bread for the World (BfW), a development organisation based in Germany. One of the important components of the programme is to determine empirically the fuel wood saving potential of a newly developed Improved Cook Stove (ICS) in the project area by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) championed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Gold Standard (GS) rules and guidelines. A Baseline Survey of fuel wood consumption by the households for cooking in four districts mentioned above is a prerequisite for determining the current level of use of fuel wood and its corresponding energy equivalents at the household level. The specific objective of the baseline survey is to determine the average fuel wood consumption for household cooking in Satkhira, Barguna, Bagerhat, and Barisal

Districts of Bangladesh. Kitchen Performance Test (KPT) will be conducted at two time periods (summer and winter) in each household on four consecutive days (i.e. capturing 3 days of fuel wood consumption).

An Inclusive Approach for Caring for the Elderly in Bangladesh

Unlike most developed countries, old age support programme is a newer concept in most developing countries like Bangladesh. There is no comprehensive policy for systematically developing old age care system. In fact, care for the elderly is something that builds a civilized society with due respect and care for its elderly.

This study will assess the gap between needs and current provisions of care of the aged. The prime objective is to suggest measures to develop a policy framework for an inclusive approach for care of the elderly. The study will use both qualitative and quantitative data.

The first phase of the study will be conducted over the six month time frame of REF of BIDS. On successful completion of the first phase, the second phase will be conducted, consisting of a sample survey, with a view to collecting in-depth information on the profile of the elderly, their disadvantages and needs and policy issues and make recommendations.

Skill and Employment Baseline Assessment of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Bangladesh

The indigenous and tribal peoples (ITPs) constitute a minority of the marginalised population in Bangladesh. Their livelihoods are characterised by subsistence farming, insecurity of land tenure, high incidence of informality, irrespective of whether employed in rural or urban areas, seasonal work and precarious working conditions and vulnerability to violations of fundamental principles and rights at work. The ILO is aiming to enhance the skills and employment situation of indigenous and tribal peoples in Bangladesh. The present study will undertake a skill and employment baseline assessment of the indigenous and tribal peoples in Bangladesh. The objectives of the baseline assessment

are collection of socio-economic information on ITP households (as far as possible compared to national averages) related to the life and livelihood of communities including educational/ vocational/skills status, income and wages, and related discrimination; assessment of current levels of enrolment and completion of TVET by ITP women and men and demand in growing sectors in ITP areas; and review of relevant national laws and policies to assess coverage and/or exclusions of ITPs in law or practice, taking into account relevant international ILO instruments.

Land Market Survey of Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project in Its Newly Acquired Land in Seventeen Selected Mouzas

The objective of this survey is to determine the replacement value of land for the newly acquired land for PMBP in 11 Mouzas of Shibchar Upazila under Madaripur district, 3 Mouzas of Janjira Upazila under Shariatpur district and 3 Mouzas of Louhajang Upazila under Munshiganj district.

In order to figure out the replacement value of the newly acquired land, current market price of land (CMP) will be collected from three different sources: (i) government price of land (Mouza rate) as recorded in the local Upazila Sub-Registrar's Office for the period from July 2015 to June 2016; (ii) transacted price of land bought and sold during the same period, to be reported by the actual buyers and sellers; and (iii) reported price of land to be reported by the key informants (e.g. deed writers, land traders and brokers, school/college teachers, former and current Union Parishad chairmen/members, community leaders and other knowledgeable persons) of the respective mouza/locality. For (ii) and (iii), the survey will be conducted using a pre-designed questionnaire approved by the PMBP authority.

South Asia WASH Results Programme: Household Midline Survey

The objective of the South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP) is to promote and enable sustained use of hygienic household toilets and the practice of hand washing with soap in poor rural communities within 12 districts of Bangladesh. The interventions are provided by Plan International Bangladesh and Water Aid. The programme has a number of targets against which progress needs to be measured. The midline survey will be carried out to assess the progress of indicators since the baseline survey (completed in October 2014). Ten (10) interviews will be conducted per village and a total of 120 villages will be covered.

Establishments Survey on Workplace Injuries in Bangladesh

Workplace injury in Bangladesh is perceived to be high, but the issue has received inadequate attention. It is necessary to create a broad consensus among government, employers and workers organisations on the need for a National Employment Injury Protection and Rehabilitation (NEIPR) scheme. An effective design of NEIPR requires a comprehensive 'establishment survey' for developing a clear idea on the type and extent of workplace injury in key manufacturing and service sectors of Bangladesh. The proposed study aims at conducting such establishment survey. The survey will generate data on the accident and injury rates in the manufacturing sector including apparel, textile, cement, ship building, ship breaking, leather, pharmaceuticals, and services such as construction, real estate and transport. The study is also expected to provide a base for future assessment of workplace injuries in other sectors.

Impact of Migration on Nutritional Condition of the Rural Households in Bangladesh

This study attempts to determine the impact of migration on nutritional status of children and women on migrant households of rural Bangladesh based on Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) data for the year 2011-2012.

Impact Analysis of the Project Construction of Small Bridges/Culverts on the Rural Roads (3rd phase)

The main purpose of this impact study is to review and evaluate the achievements, effectiveness, relevance and efficiency of the project "Construction of Small Bridges/Culverts on the Rural Roads (3rd phase)" being implemented by the Department of Disaster Management, under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). In particular, the evaluation will assess the extent to which the stated objectives of the project were achieved, the efficiency in the implementation of the project, the outcome and impact of the project, and the sustainability of the outcome and impact of the project and the evaluation report is expected to draw lessons from the experience and will result in the formulation of recommendations to guide future GoB interventions in the sector with regard to construction of bridges/culverts in Bangladesh.

How does Crop Diversification and Livelihoods Affect Nutrition?

Bangladesh has achieved a lot in improving nutritional status of people, but still there exists a huge proportion of nutrition-deficient people. So nutrition deficiencies should get a special priority in government policies. Crop diversification may be a good solution to reduce these nutrition deficiencies. This study attempts to focus on crop diversification as a possible option in improving nutritional status.

BIDS Seminar

Early Marriage, Social Networks and the Transmission of Norms

A seminar on "Early Marriage, Social Networks and the Transmission of Norms" was organised by BIDS on Sunday 16 October 2016 at 3:00 pm in the BIDS Conference Room. Dr Niaz Asadullah, Professor of Development Economics at Malaya University, Malaysia and Dr Zaki Wahhaj, Senior Lecturer in Economics at University of Kent, UK jointly presented the paper. They argued that early marriage increases agreement with statements supportive of gender bias in the allocation of resources and traditional gender roles. The woman's own schooling, her husband's schooling, and her social network together account for, at most, one-third of the estimated effect, suggesting that the major pathway for norm transmission is the experience of early marriage itself.

Dr K A S Murshid, Director General, BIDS chaired the session while Dr Kazi Iqbal, Research Fellow, BIDS and Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka were present as Designated Discussants. An interactive QnA session was held with scholars and researchers present.



Presentation of Dr Niaz Asadullah and Dr Zaki Wahhaj at the BIDS Seminar

Consultation Meeting on Skills and Employment Baseline Assessment of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITP)

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a consultation meeting on "Skills and Employment Baseline Assessment of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITP) in Bangladesh" at the BIDS conference room on 10 August 2016. Mr Gagan Rajbhandari, Deputy Director, ILO Country Office for Bangladesh, delivered the welcome speech. He emphasized that the outcome of the study is to design productive employment opportunities for the indigenous and tribal population. He mentioned that the ITP's are falling behind because most of them are engaged in low productive informal and agricultural work. He reaffirmed ILO's commitment for ensuring access of ITPs to decent work.



DG, BIDS Addressing at the Consultation Meeting

Dr Kazi Ali Toufique, Research Director, BIDS presented the key findings of the baseline survey. Dr M Yunus, Dr AH Mondol and Sinora Chakma made separate presentations highlighting specific aspects of the study. Mr Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, NDC, Secretary, Hill Tracts Affairs, was present as the Chief Guest while Mr Siroco Messerli, Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Switzerland, Mr Khondaker Mostan Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of

Labour and Employment, Mr Mohammad Rezaul Karim, Director, Bangladesh National Skills Development Council and Mr Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar, Chairperson, NCCWE were present as the Special Guests.

Paper Presentation at BIDS' Research Almanac, 2016

BIDS Research Almanac, 2016 was held on the 7th and 8th of December, in Dhaka. A total of 11 presentations were made in the two days' event at Lake Shore Hotel, thematically arranged within five technical sessions:

- Session 1: Labour Market, Human Resource Development and Skill Gap in Bangladesh: Macro Level Issues by Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman; Analysis of Skills Gap: Findings from Ten Sectors by Dr K A S Murshid.
- Session 2: Subsidy in Solar Home Systems in Bangladesh by Dr Monzur Hossain and Dr Mohammad Yunus; Petroleum Import: Experience of Bangladesh by Dr Nazneen Ahmed.
- Session 3: Rice Prices and Growth and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh by Dr K A S Murshid and Dr Mohammad Yunus; Inclusive Market Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Fisheries, Vegetable, Seed and Fertilizer Sectors in Bangladesh by Dr Nazneen Ahmed and Dr Harunur Rashid Bhuyan.
- Session 4: How Do Exporters Cope with Violence? Evidence from Political Strikes in Bangladesh by Dr Kazi Iqbal and Mr Reshad Ahsan; Impact of Natural Barriers on Export Competitiveness of Fruits and Vegetables by Dr S M Zahedul Islam Chowdhury.
- Session 5: Disadvantaged Women and Access to Healthcare by Dr Anwara Begum; Health, Education and Labour Market Outcomes in Bangladesh by Dr Mainul Hoque; Impact of Primary Education Stipend on Household and School Level Outcomes in Bangladesh by Dr Mohammad Yunus and Ms Sibana Shahana.



A View of the Inaugural Session, High Powered Panel and BIDS Researchers at the BIDS Almanac 2016

Sunday Talk Series

Mr Akhter M Chaudhury Visits BIDS

Mr Akhter M Chaudhury, FCA, Chairman of Nuvista Pharmaceuticals, visited BIDS on 7 August 2016. During the visit, Mr Chaudhury shared his thoughts and insights on key constraints, export challenges and competitive edge of pharmaceuticals industry of Bangladesh with BIDS researchers. He said pharmaceuticals industry is technologically one of the most developed sectors in Bangladesh with a highly competitive domestic market with over 200 firms where, however, market concentration is high. According to the Agreement on TRIPS, currently, a total of 48 LDCs, including Bangladesh, are not obliged to enact legislation on product patent rights till 2032. But a major challenge to the current scenario would be the expiry of the agreement, he added. It was noted that while some manufacturers are already able to produce world class quality drugs, others would

require considerable assistance to be able to reach that target. In order to maximise growth, the pharmaceutical players need to set their sight on the global market where penetration is small and the challenges are formidable.



Mr Akhter M Chaudhury and the DG with the BIDS Researchers

Mr Anis Chowdhury Visits BIDS

Mr Anis Chowdhury, former UN-ESCAP Director and former Professor of Economics of University of Western Sydney, visited BIDS on 21 August 2016 at 3:00 pm and gave a presentation which provided critical overview of the key elements of the macroeconomic development policies pursued since the early 1980s and also offered some thoughts on how macroeconomic policies should look like in the post-2015 development era. The presentation prompted a lively and extremely productive discussion with the young researchers of BIDS. The discussion session ended with an interactive QnA where Mr Chowdhury responded to the different questions from the researchers. Dr K A S Murshid, Director General, BIDS and many of the senior researchers of BIDS participated in the discussion.



Mr Anis Chowdhury Delivering his Lecture at the BIDS Seminar

Professional Staff of BIDS Studying and Training Abroad

Dr Binayak Sen, Research Director

Left BIDS to serve as "Senior Research Fellow" in the Development Strategy and Governance Division (SDGD) of IFPRI, Washington, DC for a period of one year (06 September 2016 to 05 September 2017).

Mr Atiqur Rahman, Research Associate

Left BIDS on study leave on 31 July 2016 to pursue his PhD degree at the University of New Mexico, USA.

BIDS Researchers at International Meetings

Dr K A S Murshid, Director General

- Attended the "Global Research Consortium on Economic Structural Transformation (GRCEST)" held in China during 13-14 December 2016, sponsored by GRCEST Secretariat, Center for New Structural Economic (CNSE), Peking University, China.
- Attended the "ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum 2016" held in New Delhi, India on 27-28 October 2016, sponsored by ADB. There were three major sessions for this forum: Economic Outlook (session 2); Financing for Sustainable Urbanisation (session 3); and Dialogue between Think Tanks and Their Government Clients (session 4). Dr Murshid was a discussant in the session titled Financing for Sustainable Urbanisation.
- Attended the "Global Think Tank Summit 2016" held in Montreal, Canada on 28 September 2016, sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

Dr Binayak Sen, Research Director

- Participated in an international workshop titled "Poverty and Inclusive Growth" held in China on June 22-24, 2016.

Dr K A Toufique, Research Director

- Attended the "14th Annual SANEI Conference" held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 07 to 08 November 2016, sponsored by South Asian Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI).
- Participated in an International Seminar titled "The One-Belt and One-Road Initiative in the Global Context" held in Beijing, China on 10-11 October 2016, sponsored by National Institute of Global Strategy (NIGS).

Dr Anwara Begum, Senior Research Fellow

- Attended and presented a paper at the International Workshop on "Deltas Vulnerability and Climate Change: Migration and Adaptation" held in Kolkata, India from 27 August 2016 to 2 September 2016, sponsored by International Development Research Council (IDRC), Canada and UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Dr Mohammad Yunus, Senior Research Fellow

- Attended the "Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and Macroeconomic Prospects, Policy Challenges and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific" held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 November 2016 to 1 December 2016, sponsored by UNESCAP.
- Participated in an International Roundtable Conference on "Trade and Transit Cooperation on Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN)" held in India on 04-05 October 2016, sponsored by Delhi Policy Group (DPG).
- Attended the programme on "Asia-Pacific Social Protection Week" held in Manila, Philippines from 2 to 5 August 2016, sponsored by ADB.

Dr Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow

- Attended the "Third North East Asia Development Cooperation Forum 2016" held in Jiangsu, China on 28 -29 October 2016.

Dr S M Zahedul Islam Chowdhury, Research Fellow

- Attended and presented a paper at the "14th Annual SANEI Conference" held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 7-8 November 2016, sponsored by South Asian Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI). He has presented a paper on "Impact of Natural Barrier on Competitiveness of Selected Bangladeshi Exportable Agricultural Products in the International Market" highlighting policy and natural barrier on fruits/vegetables export of Bangladesh.

Dr M Harunur Rashid Bhuyan, Research Fellow

- Attended the High Level Conference on Cities and Middle Income Countries" held in Singapore on 12 July 2016, sponsored by ADB.

Ms Tahreen Tahrira Chowdhury, Research Associate

- Attended the "International Workshop on Gender and Energy" held in New Delhi, India from 12 to 26 December 2016, sponsored by Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), India.

Call for Journal Articles

Articles are invited for the "Bangladesh Development Studies" (quarterly journal published in English) and the "Bangladesh Unnayan Samiksha" (annual journal published in Bangla) from researchers and academics who are interested in development issues of Bangladesh. The topics could cover a wide range of socio-economic development issues such as agriculture, rural development, industry, population, energy, environment, education, international relations, gender and macroeconomic issues. For details on submission procedure and authors' guidelines, please visit the BIDS website (www.bids.org.bd/publications).

Editor

Anwara Begum

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