



# Policy Studies & Research Activities of BIDS



January 2021 - June 2024

**Edited by**  
Binayak Sen  
Humayra Ahmed



Bangladesh Institute of  
Development Studies

**Policy Studies and Research Activities of  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS):**

**January 2021 to June 2024**

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**Binayak Sen  
Humayra Ahmed**

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## Preface

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) is the premier Research Institute in Bangladesh that predates our independence, as we started our journey in 1957 as the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). From the very beginning, PIDE was served by a significant number of scholars and a distinguished body of foreign academics. After independence, this tradition was carried forward as the Institute continued its journey as an autonomous public multi-disciplinary research organization, which conducts policy-oriented research on development issues facing Bangladesh and other developing countries. From the very beginning, BIDS has been one of the most reputed economic research institutions in the South Asian region.

The strategic objectives of BIDS are crystallised around the theme of generating credible policy-oriented research on development issues along with strengthening research-policy links to promote informed policy making in Bangladesh. The present volume of *Policy Studies and Research Activities of BIDS: January 2021 to June 2024* compiles academic research, policy studies and summarises contributions of BIDS researchers to different Government Committees and Bodies. It also provides a near-total picture of our current publications, seminars, Public Lectures, teaching and training activities and op-eds.

With its multidisciplinary focus on development, the research focus of BIDS covers a wide range of themes, broadly categorised as macroeconomic policy, agriculture and rural development, industry and trade, human resources, population and health, environmental issues, urban development, gender, poverty, inequality and governance. For ease of understanding the volume of our research and involvement in policy making, a summary table has been provided at the beginning of each section (there are eight in this particular volume). We thank our researchers for giving us the needed inputs on their research activities on a very short notice. We would also like to thank the committee (Humayra Ahmed, Papri Das, Mahmudul Hasan, Md. Mohin Uddin Mizan, Ahshan Ullah Bahar, Toufikul Islam, Md. Rayhan Kabir) for bringing out this special publication. Humayra played a crucial role in preparing and updating this report.

We hope to continue our journey by promoting research communication and networking to share research findings and stimulate interaction within the research community, policy makers, civil society, and other stakeholders in future as well.

**Binayak Sen**  
Director General, BIDS



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<sup>1</sup> All the contents in the present report are organised in descending chronological order, i.e., from the most recent to the oldest during the reporting period.





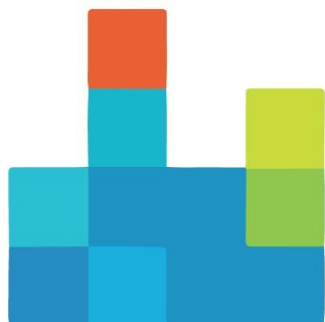


BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# Introduction



## Contribution of BIDS to Economic Policy





## **Introduction: Contribution of BIDS to Economic Policy**

BIDS is mandated to conduct policy-oriented research on short and medium-term development issues of the country as well as other developing countries. Therefore, our role has been centered around contributing towards knowledge production for better policy formulation and providing information to national and international policy makers. In doing so, historically, BIDS researchers have played important roles as experts in various government agencies, committees and bodies enabling them to articulate the desired development strategy through their original research and policy suggestions.

BIDS Researchers have played an important role in the pre-Liberation period and post-Liberation economic recovery of Bangladesh. BIDS researchers contributed to the development of the theory of ‘Two Economy’ that provided material substantiation of the Six-Point programme of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This work was led by Professor Nurul Islam, Professor Rehman Sobhan and Professor Mosharraf Hossain, among others (all three were Chairman/Director General of PIDE/BIDS at different periods).

BIDS also played a consequential role in the preparation of the First Five-year plan. Many of the BIDS researchers were members of the Planning Commission. Professor Nurul Islam (the first Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission), Professor Rehman Sobhan (Member, Planning Commission in charge of Industry) and Professor Mosharraf Hossain (Member, Planning Commission in charge of Agriculture) were the key architects of the Bangladesh Planning Commission.

In the subsequent period, BIDS researchers have played a key role in the formulation of the successive 5-year plans; they wrote background papers for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Five-year plans. This tradition continued in the decades of the 2000s and 2010s. Some of the BIDS researchers have served as members of the Expert Panel of Economists for the 6th, 7th, 8th and ongoing 9th Five-year plans. Their contributions were also reflected in the background papers of these plans.

Apart from contributing through medium-term research, BIDS has contributed to various national committees including the Money and Banking Commission (early 1980s), Agricultural Commission (1996-2001), Public Expenditure Review Commission (2002-2004), Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSP), Pay and Services Commission (2013-2015), and Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) in 2002-2003.

BIDS researchers have played an important role in ensuring improved methods of data collection by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) through their participation in Technical Committees for national surveys. It got reflected in successive Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Labor Force Survey (LFS) and other surveys. The principal method used for poverty calculations in HIES is based on the Cost-of-Basic-Needs (CBN) method which has been derived from the collaborative research of BIDS with international academia. BIDS researchers have actively participated in the technical committees of HIES, LFS and the Economic Census. Besides, BIDS has conducted the Post-Enumeration Check (PEC) of the 2011 and 2022 Population Censuses.

An important role played by BIDS researchers relates to the rebasing of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series from 2005/06 to 2015/16. BIDS has also contributed to the formulation of sectoral policies in different ministries including Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) of the Ministry of Finance, assessment of the Social Protection Programs of the Ministry of Social Welfare, the formulation of the “SME Policy 2019” by the Ministry of Industries, evaluation of the Educational Stipend Schemes as well as assessing learning outcomes of the primary level education, and evaluation of the learning loss during COVID for the Ministry of Education. A recent important addition has been on the issue of the economic contribution of unpaid household service work to GDP by women in Bangladesh. Apart from these, BIDS researchers continue to participate in several committees of the Government including the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which plays an important role in influencing the monetary policy of the country.

In response to any economic crisis or topical policy issues, BIDS immediately responds by undertaking relevant research studies in order to facilitate informed policy making by the government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, BIDS conducted several research studies and organised various seminars on COVID-19 related issues, such as stimulus package, vaccine, mask-wearing, SME recovery and resilience, poverty situation, etc. BIDS conducted several studies on various aspects of digitalisation, its economic impact and other related issues. BIDS also responds to the current macroeconomic instability by analysing various aspects, such as exchange rate issues, inflation, current account balance, monetary policy, etc. and organising seminars on these issues.

As part of our goal to create economic policy awareness among the policy makers, students as well as general populace at large, BIDS publishes academic journals both in Bangla (i.e., Bangladesh Unnayan Samikkhya, the premier peer-reviewed Bangla Journal in the country) and in English (i.e., The Bangladesh Development Studies, one of the most internationally recognised journals from South Asia in the field of Economics and Development Studies that is archived in JSTOR). BIDS also periodically publishes Research Reports, Discussion Papers, books, and edited books, along with contributing chapters to books published from reputed national and foreign publishing houses. It may be mentioned that many of the research papers of BIDS researchers are published regularly in internationally acclaimed academic journals.

We are dedicated to creating the next generation of policy economists for the country through the Master’s in Development Economics (MDE) Programme catering to the needs of young professionals and mid-level development practitioners. This academic programme is supported by the Ministry of Planning and is accredited with the University of Dhaka.

In an attempt to create BIDS as a more durable knowledge platform, it organises the Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) which addresses broader international academic and policy audiences as well as showcases BIDS’ own research. Eminent members of the academia are invited to deliver Public Lectures on this platform. So far BIDS has published 13 Public Lectures in the last 3 years on various topics of development economics.

As is evident from the brief description above, BIDS researchers have been involved in a wide arena of Government Committees and bodies as key resource persons that resulted in useful inputs to the policy process at national and international levels.



# Chapter 1

## Participation in Government Committees & Bodies

## A. Participation in Government Committees and Bodies

The BIDS researchers are currently involved in several government committees and bodies. This is summarized below.

### **Dr. Binayak Sen**

*Director General, BIDS*

#### *Responsibilities in Government Agencies*

1. **Member**, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), Bangladesh Bank, 2023 till date
2. **Member**, Panel of Economists for the preparation of 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan
3. **Member**, Panel of Economists for the preparation of 9<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan
4. **Team Leader**, Post Enumeration Check (PEC) of Population Census 2022 by BBS
5. **Member**, GDP Rebasing Committee for BBS, 2022
6. **Member**, Governing Body, Institute of Public Finance (IPF)
7. **Member**, Governing Body, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)
8. **Member**, National Advisory Council on Statistics (NACS)
9. **Member**, National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)
10. **Member**, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
11. **Member**, Governing Body, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM)

### **Professor M.A. Sattar Mandal**

*Professorial Fellow, BIDS*

#### *Responsibilities in Government Agencies*

1. **Co-chair**, South Asian Policy Leadership for Integrated Nutrition (SAPLING)
2. **Member**, APA expert panel, Ministry of Agriculture, GoB
3. **Member**, BRAC Governing Body
4. **Member**, Syndicate of Sylhet Agricultural University

### **Dr. Monzur Hossain**

*Research Director*

*General Economics Division, BIDS*

#### *Responsibilities in Government Agencies*

1. **Member**, Board of Directors, Social Development Foundation, Ministry of Finance
2. **Member**, Research Committee, National Institute of Local Government (NILG), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives

3. **Member**, Research Committee, National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM), Ministry of Education
4. **Member**, Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) Review Committee, Ministry of Commerce
5. **Member**, Tariff Rationalisation Committee, National Board of Revenue
6. **Member**, Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment, Ministry of Finance
7. **Panelist**, Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Strategy, Ministry of Finance
8. **Member**, Editorial Board, International Journal of SME Development, SME Foundation, Ministry of Industries
9. **Member**, Technical Committee, Institute of Public Finance

## **Dr. Mohammad Yunus**

*Research Director*

*Agriculture and Rural Development Division (ARDD), BIDS*

### **Responsibilities in Government Agencies**

1. **Member**, Expert Group on Tax Reform, National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh 2022-to date
2. **Member**, Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues, Ministry of Industries, Government of Bangladesh, 2021-to date
3. **Member**, National Trade and Transport Facilitation Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, 2020-to date
4. **Member**, Technical Committee, Agriculture Census 2019, BBS, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh
5. **সদস্য**, টেকসই উন্নয়নঃ অভীষ্ট ও রূপকল্প—২০৪১ বাস্তবায়নে মধ্যমেয়াদী উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা (অষ্টম পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনা) প্রণয়ন ও পরিবীক্ষণ প্রকল্প, সাধারণ অর্থনীতি বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়
6. **টীম লিডার**, বার্ষিক কর্মসম্পাদন চুক্তি (এপিএ), বিআইডিএস ও পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়
7. **সদস্য**, জাতীয় শুদ্ধাচার কৌশল বিষয়ক সভা, বিআইডিএস ও পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়

## **Dr. S. M. Zulfiqar Ali**

*Research Director*

*Human Resource Development and Population Studies Division, BIDS*

### **Responsibilities in Government Agencies**

1. **Member**, Selection and Monitoring Committee, Higher Education Research Assistance Programme, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), Ministry of Education
2. **Member**, Project Implementation Committee, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022, BBS, Ministry of Planning
3. **Member**, Technical Committee for the Sampling of HIES 2022, BBS, Ministry of Planning

4. **BIDS Focal Point**, National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) Implementation Support Project, BBS, Ministry of Planning
5. **Member**, Technical Committee of National WASH Accounts, BBS, Ministry of Planning
6. **Member**, Technical Committee, Urban Socio-economic Assessment Survey (USAS), BBS, Ministry of Planning

## **Dr. Kazi Iqbal**

*Research Director*

*Industry and Infrastructure Division, BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Technical Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, General Economics Division, GoB
2. **Member**, Technical Group on Subsidy and LDC Graduation, Prime Minister's Office, GoB
3. **Member**, Technical Group on Tariffs Rationalisation, Prime Minister's Office, GoB
4. **Member**, Technical Committee, Labor Force Survey, BBS
5. **Member**, Technical Committee, Economic Census, BBS
6. **Visiting Senior Fellow**, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), 2023-to date
7. **Panel Adviser**, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh, 2021-to date

## **Dr. S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury**

*Research Fellow*

*Population Studies Division (PSD), BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Social Thematic Working Group, National Guideline for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Planning Division, Ministry of Planning
2. **Member**, Technical Committee, Impact of Climate Change on Human Life (ICCHL) Program, BBS
3. **Focal Point (BIDS)**, Agricultural Research Management and Information System (ARMIS) Program, BARC, Dhaka
4. **Member**, Committee for Collection of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from BBS for Conducting National Survey, BBS
5. **Member**, Committee for the Feasibility Study of the Project "Strengthening Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM)", BIM, Ministry of Industries
6. **Member**, Job Market Assessment and Employment Taskforce, Ministry of Education
7. **Member**, Academic Council, Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development
8. **Member**, Panel for Evaluation of Research Proposal, SSRC, Ministry of Planning
9. **Member**, Technical Sub-Committee, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Statistics (ECDS) Project, BBS
10. **Member**, Technical Sub-committee (Socio-economic), National Data Coordination Committee, BBS
11. **Member**, Proposal Evaluation Committee, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)



12. **Member**, Proposal Evaluation Committee, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) Development Project
13. **Focal Point** (BIDS), Bangladesh National Productivity Master Plan FY 2020-2030, Ministry of Industry
14. **Member**, Tender Evaluation Committee, Grihayan Tahabil, GoB
15. **Member**, Tender Evaluation Committee, Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission

## **Dr. Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan**

*Research Fellow*

*Human Resource Division, BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Research Evaluation Team-Criminal Investigation Department, Bangladesh Police. (From 2017 to 2021)
2. **Member**, Research Evaluation Team- Anti-Corruption Commission (Dudok), Bangladesh. (From 2019 to 2022)
3. **Member**, Research Evaluation Team-IMED, Ministry of Planning. (From 2018 to 2021)
4. **Examiner**, Proposal Selection Committee and Research Report Evaluation Committee- Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Ministry of Planning. (From 2018 to till date)
5. **Member**, Research Evaluation Committee, Tourist Police, Bangladesh. (2021-2022)
6. **Member**, Research Proposal and Report Evaluation Committee-Directorate of Technical Education, Bangladesh. (2021-2023)
7. **Member**, Research Committee, Bangladesh Technical Education Board. (2022 to till date)

## **Dr. Azreen Karim**

*Research Fellow*

*Agriculture and Rural Development Division (ARDD), BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Evaluation Committee, Sector Action Plan, Agriculture, Water Resources and Institutions Division, Local Government and Rural development Division, Ministry of Planning.
2. **Member**, Project Technical Committee, Strengthening Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Statistics (ECDS) Project, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
3. **Member**, Project Steering Committee, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund.
4. **Member**, Selection Committee, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Research Fund)
5. **Member**, (TEC, PEC), Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
6. **Member**, Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework.
7. **Member**, Evaluation Committee, Directorate of Technical Education, Ministry of Education.

## **Dr. Abdur Razzaque Sarker**

*Research Fellow*

*Population Studies Division (PSD), BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Bangladesh Civil Services (BCS) Administrative Academy Research Committee. (From 2021 to present)
2. **Member**, Bangladesh Civil Services (BCS) Administrative Academy Publications Committee. (From 2021 to present)
3. **Member**, Research Evaluation Committee, Directorate of Technical Education. (From 2023 to present)

## **Dr. Badrun Nessa Ahmed**

*Research Fellow*

*Industry and Infrastructure Development Division, BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Evaluation Committee to set-up ‘Bangabandhu National Labour Institute’, Department of Labor, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. **Member**, BANBEIS Research Activities Managing Committee.
3. **Member**, Evaluation committee of ‘Labor structure development project with the aim of improving the skills of workers and improving the quality of health services’, Department of Labor, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
4. **Member**, TEC committee for the project of ‘Transforming the backward youth into industrial workers in increasing industrial productivity’, Department of Labor, Ministry of Labour and Employment.

## **Ms. Mitali Parvin**

*Research Associate*

*Industry and Infrastructure Development Division, BIDS*

### ***Responsibilities in Government Agencies***

1. **Member**, Bangladesh Disaster related Statistics 2020-2021
2. **Member**, Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspective Stakeholder forum from 2016 to 2021



## Chapter 2



# Policy Studies for the Government



## B. Policy Studies for the Government

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has contributed significantly to the government by giving policy inputs and undertaking studies sponsored by different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Our major contributions include:

- Background papers for the 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year plan of the GoB.
- Post Enumeration Check (PEC) for the Population Census done by the BBS
- Several impact assessments for the Ministry of Primary Education
- Skill Gap studies for major industrial sectors for the Ministry of Finance
- The Special Research Program (SRP) for the Ministry of Planning.
- Several Important studies for other ministries.

In the present compilation, we have categorised our research in the following nine thematic sectors followed by a miscellaneous section to cover cross-cutting studies. These are listed below:

1. Macroeconomic Issues
2. Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Industry and Trade
4. Human Resources
5. Population and Health
6. Environmental Issues
7. Gender Issues
8. Poverty and Inequality
9. Governance
10. Miscellaneous

Under each thematic section, we have categorised our completed studies by mentioning the Ministry that has sponsored a particular work. A significant number of the studies have been supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF) of BIDS. Sometimes we also collaborated with external researchers for executing a particular study. The concept notes for these studies are presented in front of a BIDS internal panel of reviewers and go through a rigorous review process before they receive the REF funding.

The following matrix shows the number of our studies undertaken from January 2021 to June 2024 under each theme:

**Table 1: The Number of BIDS Studies Completed from January 2021 to June 2024 for Different Ministries**

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Number of Completed Studies</b>
<b>Ministry of Planning</b>	11
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	12
<b>Ministry of Education</b>	8
<b>Ministry of Industries</b>	1
<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism</b>	1
<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>	3
<b>Ministry of Local Govt. Rural Dev and Cooperatives</b>	3
<b>Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief</b>	1
<b>Ministry of Youth and Sports</b>	9
<b>Policy Studies Supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS</b>	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

**Table 2: The Number of BIDS Studies Completed for Different Ministries under Various Themes from January 2021 to June 2024**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Completed Studies</b>
<b>1. Macroeconomic Issues</b>	3
<b>2. Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	9
<b>3. Industry and Trade</b>	13
<b>4. Human Resources</b>	20
<b>5. Population and Health</b>	12
<b>6. Environmental Issues</b>	1
<b>7. Poverty and Inequality</b>	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

# 1. Macroeconomic Issues

## Ministry of Planning

### 1. A Macroeconomic Modelling Framework for Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): A K Enamul Haque, Mohammad Yunus, Nazneen Ahmed, Rizwana Islam, and Md. Salimullah*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Planning, GoB (SRP)*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

Macroeconomic models provide analytical answers to explain both exogenous and endogenous shocks. It has been used to describe and illustrate operations of an economy or of a region. These models use macroeconomic relationships (equations and identities) to understand how economic agents adjust their activities for any given change or changes. Economists and policymakers often appreciate the results of macroeconomic models as it gives a clear depiction of the impacts of policy changes. As there is no integrated economic model housed within BIDS that can be readily used for this purpose, this research has attempted to develop capacity within BIDS to house a complete macroeconomic model.

This research has developed a mechanism to upgrade the Input-output Table by using current macro-economic data to produce a social accounting matrix. While updating the input-output table, the research team has tried to coordinate and develop uniform codes with the BBS data to automate updating the input-output table using data from various BBS surveys. Furthermore, in the exercise of updating the SAM, this research has been successful in developing STATA codes to integrate EXCEL based input-output tables, export and import data, macro-economic data from the Bangladesh Economic Reviews, HIES results, and also LFS results to understand the impact of changes on the economy. In an attempt to examine if the model can predict various short-term policy implications, the research has tested the macro-economic outlook based on Covid-19 impacts and examined its impacts on economic activities of different sectors within Bangladesh, and household income. More specifically, the analysis focuses on supply-side implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on three major sectors of Bangladesh's economy, i.e., agriculture, industry, and service. The findings indicated that a drop in trade, consumption and service sector activities led to a drop in production or build-up of inventories or drop in imports, and the supply in the market for commodities had a much higher impact in the first three months of COVID-19.

## Policy Studies Supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS

### 2. An Assessment of Exchange Rate Management in the Post-Covid Crisis Period: The Case of Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Monzur Hossain, Jayed Bin Sattar*

*Sponsor: Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2024*

#### *Abstract*

Exchange rate management came to the fore after the Covid-19 pandemic when Bangladesh economy started recovering, which created a huge pressure on foreign currencies to finance external trade. The Ukraine-Russia war jeopardises the situation further by creating supply-side constraints on food and fuels, in particular. As a result, spiraling inflation with the sharp depreciation of the dollar exchange recreated extra pressure on international reserves in Bangladesh. The dollar has depreciated by more than 25% from June 2022 and the international reserves have depleted from about US\$ 48 billion to US\$23 billion as of now. The depletion of reserves led to the depreciation of the Taka and aggravated inflation. Though Bangladesh officially maintains floating exchange rates, its exchange rates have been highly managed and remained stable for the last decade or so (Hossain and Ahmed, 2020; Hossain, 2021). With a sharp depreciation trend in the recent past, the Bangladesh Bank (central bank) adopted various policies such as quantitative restrictions on imports, higher cash incentives for remittances, selling dollars in the market, etc. Though Bangladesh Bank declares a rate (Dollar rate) every day, the market rate was way above that rate indicating the ineffectiveness of Bangladesh Bank's exchange rate policy. Against this backdrop, this study aims to assess the exchange rate management over the last few years or so in order to identify which exchange rate system is better suited to developing countries like Bangladesh in a crisis period.

### 3. Urbanisation and Economic Development in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Ahmad Ahsan, and Wasel Bin Shadat*

*Sponsor: Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS (Cosponsor: UEDB)*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### *Abstract*

One of the most robust findings in economics is urbanisation and economic growth are closely intertwined complementary forces. The development of cities and towns is the engine of long-term growth and its result. Globally, 3% of land in urban areas accounts for 80% of economic activity. Economics has provided robust theoretical and empirical findings on this relationship that highlight the importance of the right pattern of urban development in generating growth. There is a need to balance the gains of economies of scale, externalities, and agglomeration of urban development against the tendency towards excessive centralisation and concentration that leads to diseconomies and negative externalities that lower productivity. The first paper makes an overview of urban development patterns in Bangladesh using population, employment level and composition, and nightlights to look at how the pattern of urban development impacts

development in Bangladesh. It highlights that over the past decade, there have been welcome signs of a centrifugal force that is reducing the costly excessive concentration of population and economic activity in Dhaka. However, it also notes that second-tier cities in Bangladesh are not developing adequately, and as a result, population and economic activity may be sub-optimally spreading in Bangladesh. It highlights the urgent need to strengthen the current highly inadequate urban planning, public services, and governance in urban areas to meet this challenge.

## 2. Agriculture and Rural Development

### Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

#### 1. Choice of Tenancy in Rural Bangladesh: Evidence from BIDS-BARD Micro-survey

*Team member(s): Binayak Sen, Taznoore Samina Khanam, and others*

*Sponsor: BIDS and Bangladesh Agriculture and Rural Development (BARD)*

*Year of Completion: 2024*

#### *Abstract*

This Six-Village study delves into the factors influencing individuals' decisions to participate in agricultural rental markets, encompassing both renting in and renting out practices in rural Bangladesh. This study also assesses the determinants of the choice of land tenure contracts. The outcomes are comprehensively discussed in alignment with existing literature to check the result robustness. The results reveal that education, less availability of family labor for agricultural works, domestic and foreign remittances encourage renting out of the agricultural lands. Conversely, the growth of microfinance, increased domestic remittances, and the rapid development of market for mechanised services make the tenant farming on an increasing scale a feasible proposition. In terms of tenurial choice of contracts, the study notes that although cash rent contracts are becoming increasingly dominant, share tenancy still be the preferred contract in some areas in Bangladesh (e.g. Kurigram). The findings show that foreign and domestic remittances positively influence the choice of share-cropping tenancy, while less availability of family labor for agricultural work, access to micro-credit, and access to digitised financial services (like mobile banking) enhances the likelihood of cash-rent tenancy. Moreover, access to mechanisation service market encourages land-owners to cultivate their land instead of tenant cultivation (i.e. cultivation under share-cropping or cash rent).

Land rental market development have important implications for agricultural production. Therefore, the suggested policy approach is to enhance and support the operation of land rental markets by investing in non-land resources such as education, providing micro-credit, digital financial services, and machinery services. Such investments are expected to contribute to an overall improvement in the well-being of farming households.



## **2. Impact Evaluation of Rural Roads and Waterways under the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Abdur Rahman Forhad, Nazmul Hoque, Taznoore Samina Khanam, Kashfi Rayan, Rizwana Islam, Abdullah Al Mamun, Ishmam Rayan Haq and Md. Shahadat Hossain*

*Sponsor: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

This study was funded by the World Bank through the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) with the goal of reducing rural poverty and stimulating economic development by improving rural accessibility and enhancing road maintenance capacity. Using a mixed method survey approach and a panel dataset, the study assessed the causal impact of the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II) through a quasi-experimental difference-in-difference (DID) method. From the findings of the study, it is evident that, asset ownership for households increased, particularly in treatment areas, with significant gains in land and other physical assets. Improved road connectivity also reduced asset inequality and lowered credit market participation, suggesting enhanced financial stability. Agricultural outcomes improved with increased cropping intensity, land cultivation, and crop diversity, though market participation and net returns remained unchanged. New road infrastructure attracted capital investments and formal manufacturing firms, raising local labor demand and encouraging a shift from agriculture to manufacturing and services. The infrastructure project positively impacted rural enterprises by reducing business-related travel time by 8% and significantly increasing inventory levels by 38% for businesses near the roads. This inventory growth is linked to increased investment (25%) and sales (10%). Wholesale business turnover dropped by 90%, and the number of wholesalers fell by 54%, as improved road connectivity shifted consumer demand towards larger markets. Additionally, local market employment decreased by 39%, with enhanced mobility allowing people to seek better job opportunities elsewhere. Non-farm wage employment for males increased by 16%, providing greater earning opportunities and reducing reliance on agricultural wages. The project also led to lower prices for key food items, improved market integration, and expanded access to non-motorized transport. Overall, the RTIP-II significantly boosted local economies, creating new employment opportunities and improving community welfare through enhanced village connectivity.

## **3. Study on Impact Evaluation of ‘Amar Bari Amar Khamar’ Project**

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali (Study Director), Badrun Nessa Ahmed, and Jayed Bin Satter*

*Sponsor: ‘Amar Bari Amar Khamar’ Project, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### *Abstract*

The main objective of the study is to assess the overall socio-economic impact of Amar Bari Amar Khamar Project. The study tries to explore how and to what extent the economy in general, and the people in particular (more specifically the poor members of the project), have benefited due to the implementation of the project. In order to achieve the above objectives, the study investigates the following areas by comparing the situation before and after the implementation of the project; and where applicable, the study also compares the target groups to that of the comparison groups in order to capture the true impact: savings and credit behavior of project members and fund utilisation; establishing home-based agricultural farm; new economic activities created due to involvement in the project; role of the Bank created to serve the poor members; employment generation, especially in the self-employed activities; health, nutritional and educational status of family members; participation, decision making, and mobility; and contribution to poverty reduction in the country.

Despite several challenges, results show that the project has contributed significantly to the wellbeing of the beneficiary households. While there were some issues related to targeting, a large majority of the poor households were included in the project. The project contributed significantly to the increase in income, asset accumulation, poverty reduction, willingness to save, crisis coping, etc., among the member households. Majority of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the outcome of the project. As observed from the study, the project has contributed to increasing income by 12%, savings by 20% and poverty reduction by 7 percentage points among its beneficiary households.

## **Ministry of Finance**

### **4. Labour Market Study for Skills for Employment Investment Project (SEIP): Agro-Food Processing Sector**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan, Kashfi Rayan, M Asaduzzaman, and Md. Billal Hossain*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### *Abstract*

The agro-processing industry bridges between agriculture and the industrial process, leading to the country's development. This study analyses labour supply and demand over the next 10-year period (2020-2030) to assist the government and the private industry in better planning the capacity and quality of skills training systems according to the evolving skills/trade/market demands from rapidly growing industry sectors. Both quantitative and qualitative primary data have been collected for this study. The survey result shows that the overall output per enterprise in 2019 was BDT 2348.47 million, and the export per enterprise was BDT 59.86 million. The enterprises agreed that the current employees have skill gaps. Enterprises' perception of skill gaps decreases for lower-paid jobs like elementary occupations. Based on the responses, 18 types of training have been listed that agro-processing enterprises can think of for their employees.

## Ministry of Planning

### 5. Agriculture is Not the Main Source of Income of the Rural Economy Anymore: Understanding Structural Changes of Rural Nonfarm Sector from a Developing Country

*Team Members): Kazi Iqbal, Nahid Ferdous Pabon, and Wahid Ferdous Ibon*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Planning, GoB (SRP)*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

This study refutes the notion that rural non-farm (RNF) employment is a low-productive, transient sector, highlighting its critical role in economic growth and poverty reduction. It examines changes in RNF occupations and income in rural Bangladesh from 2000-2016 using data from Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Labour Force Survey (LFS), and Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS). Key focuses include the distribution of farm and non-farm income and employment, and the transition from diversification to specialisation in RNF activities.

Findings indicate that while low-productive service jobs continue to dominate RNF occupations, non-farm income has increased significantly, driven by the non-farm wage income of wealthier households, raising concerns about income inequality. The share of labor income from both farm and non-farm sources in rural households' total income has grown, suggesting decreased reliance on remittances and transfers. Despite a constant share of farm income, non-farm income has risen, with landlessness remaining a significant driver of RNF employment, indicating persistent employment out of necessity. Educated households tend to move away from farming, and neither international nor domestic remittances are associated with higher non-farm income but rather increase farm employment and income.

## Policy Studies Supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS

### 6. Institutions and Rate of Return of Cattle in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal, Kazi Ali Toufique, and Wahid Ferdous Ibon*

*Sponsor: REF, BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2020/2021*

#### *Abstract*

This study extends the recent debate on the rate of return of cattle rearing in India, triggered by Anagol et al. (2017), Gehrke and Grimm (2018), and others to the Bangladesh context and finds that the apparent paradox of widespread cattle rearing, despite negative return, in India is absent. Using a nationally representative two-year panel data of rural Bangladesh, the study finds that

the average and marginal returns of cow and bullock are positive and high for both years. Results also show that appreciation of the value of cattle is the major contributing factor for positive returns. The existence of a cattle market where they can be freely traded for slaughtering or production of milk or for any other purpose, which is constrained to various degrees in India, is the key to high positive returns in Bangladesh.

#### **7. Cattle Population in India: Do Institutions Matter?**

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal, Kazi Ali Toufique, and Wahid Ferdous Ibon*

*Sponsor: REF, BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2020*

##### ***Abstract***

This study uses Indian livestock census data to show that states, where slaughter laws are more stringent, perform better in terms of growth of cattle population as compared to states where slaughter acts are more enabling. The study also shows that the growth in cattle population is caused by an increase in female crossbred cattle and more so in the states where slaughter rules are very restrictive. Despite the complete ban on cow slaughter in some states, they do not show any balance between male and female cows. These results are non-intuitive and have strong political and policy implications but require further investigation.

#### **8. Impact of Migration on Nutrition Condition of Children Under Five Years of Age in the Rural Households of Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Kashfi Rayan and Maruf Ahmed*

*Sponsor: REF, BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

##### ***Abstract***

The study examines the role of migration (both internal and international migration) on the nutritional status of children under five years of age in rural households of Bangladesh. The study contributes to establishing the direct and positive relationship between children living in international migrant households and their Weight-for-age (WAZ) and Height-for-age (HAZ) z-score compared to children living in non-migrant households. Using both OLS and IV regression methods on BIHS Dataset (2015), this study provides to-date empirical evidence on the relationship between migration and nutrition in rural areas of Bangladesh. Five methods were employed to check for the robustness of the findings and examine the variations in the magnitude of nutritional indicators across these different models. Also, two different instruments (District wise sex ratio in 2011 and percentage of international migrant households in districts in 2011) were used to deal with endogeneity problems with migration and international migration.

The study findings show that living in a migrant household increases the children's Weight-for-age z score by 0.9 to 2.5 standard deviations and Height-for-age z score by 1.4 to 2.2 standard deviations, compared to children living in non-migrant households. However, the magnitude of the findings changes and increases when the focus is riveted on 'international migration' exclusively. Living in an international migrant household increases the child z score by 1.7 to 4.5 standard deviations for Weight-for-age and 2.8 to 3.8 standard deviations for Height-for-age z-scores, compared to children living in non-migrant households.

## **9. Impact Evaluation of Domestic Paddy E-procurement Program in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal and Taznoore Samina Khanam*

*Sponsor: REF, BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

The paddy/rice procurement program serves as a price support mechanism for rice producers in Bangladesh and is widely practiced. To prevent irregularities in paddy procurement and ensure that smaller farmers receive a fair price for their products, the government has introduced a mobile phone-based/e-procurement system. In this context, a rigorous evaluation of the program against its objectives is necessary. This study assesses the effects and efficacy of e-procurement program and examines policy options for improving paddy procurement system in Bangladesh. The three major research questions of this study are: 1) Does the paddy e-procurement system improve the program's targeting efficiency? 2) Are farmers benefiting from the new program? and 3) What factors explain non-participation in the program?

## **3. Industry and Trade**

### **Ministry of Finance**

#### **1. Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Construction Sector in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): S M Zulfiqar Ali, Badrun Nessa Ahmed and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

The construction sector in Bangladesh has experienced significant expansion, contributing approximately 8% to the national GDP and employing 5.6% of the total workforce. This study aims to analyze the labour market and skill gaps within this sector, focusing on current and future demands, skill mismatches, and necessary training programs. Key findings include that the

growth rate of the construction sector reached an all-time high of 10.25% in 2019, driven by major infrastructure projects such as the Padma Multi-Purpose Bridge and the Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development, alongside increased housing demand. Employment in the construction sector rose from 1.13 million in 2000 to 2.4 million in 2016-17, underscoring its role as a major generator of non-agricultural employment. Despite this growth, only 37.5% of construction workers are skilled, and a mere 12.6% possess advanced skills. Furthermore, only 7.8% of the workforce comprises female workers, primarily engaged in low-skilled jobs. Significant skill gaps and shortages persist, with only 6.45% of construction workers receiving any form of occupational training, a deficiency that could undermine project efficiency and quality. The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted the sector, leading to substantial financial losses, layoffs, and decreased productivity. Additional challenges include high material costs, project delays, political interference, inadequate safety training, and insufficient knowledge of construction standards and procedures.

The study employed a sample of 108 firms drawn from the Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry (BACI) and the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB). Data were collected through surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews to assess job conditions and future sectoral aspirations.

## **2. Study on Enhancing Industrial Production in the Context of LDC Graduation**

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal, Rizwana Islam, Jayed Bin Satter.*

*Sponsor: ERD, Ministry of Finance, GoB.*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the group of least developed countries (LDCs) on November 24, 2026, around 50 years after it originally joined this cohort of developing nations in December 1975, according to the resolution of the UN General Assembly convened in November 2021. The WTO-MC12, the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, held in Geneva from June 12 to 17, 2022, indicated how willing the international community was to be in supporting these graduating LDCs in order for them to achieve sustainable graduation. Sadly, the ministerial meeting could not live up to its expectation as far as the interest of the LDCs is concerned. While Bangladesh will need to focus on implementing tangible measures to mitigate the effects of LDC graduation both at home (e.g., strict compliance requirements including in areas of trade-related intellectual property rights; more obligations and greater commitments in various areas including tariffs and subsidies) and abroad (e.g., ensuring greater reciprocity in negotiations with partners; losing access to preferential market), the country should develop the necessary industrial capacities particularly in terms of technology, product development, product upgrading and learning.

Given this background, it is essential to take stock of the level of technology of the industrial sector of Bangladesh. This study aims to examine the current status of the productive capacity, productivity, and skill level of the industries prioritised in the Industrial Policy 2016. The objectives also include examining how these industries will be impacted by LDC graduation in 2016, recommending policies, strategies, and technical knowledge requirements of the prioritised industrial sectors to address the challenges posed by LDC graduation and providing a time-bound action plan with measurable indicators in implementing recommendations.

### **3. Labour Market Studies for SEIP on Skill Demand, Supply and Mismatch: A Synthesis of 10 Studies**

*Team Member(s): Dr. Kazi Iqbal*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

#### ***Abstract***

Using data obtained from two standardised questionnaire surveys- one for enterprises and the other for employees and labour force surveys, this study analyses labour supply and demand over the next 10-year period (2020-2030) to assist the government and the private industry in better planning the capacity and quality of skills training systems in line with the evolving skills/trade/market demands from rapidly growing industries sector. Moreover, it determines sector priorities, assesses skills gap by sector, analyses the sector-wise occupational composition of employment (including gender composition of employment), and determines occupation-wise training requirements by sector and trade. The present analysis reveals a significant skill gap in Bangladesh, particularly in technologically sophisticated sectors such as construction, light engineering, electronics, agro-food processing, RMG, ICT, and shipbuilding. This gap is notably high for roles like managers, professionals, technicians, sales clerks, and craftsmen, and it persists in the RMG sector. Female workers in female-dominated industries like RMG demonstrate higher proficiency than their male counterparts. The ICT sector shows higher skill gaps at senior levels than at entry levels.

Studies indicate a prevalent skill shortage in Bangladesh, with collar jobs in agro-processing, light engineering, and construction taking over a month to fill. Under-education is higher for low-level technical jobs in light engineering, agro-food processing, and construction, while over-education is more common in large firms within technologically advanced industries such as electrical and electronics. Skill mismatch discourages prospective workers from training programs. This is expected to improve with higher general education levels and better job availability for trained individuals. To address skill shortages, government and private sectors must take action. Recommendations include adopting a broader skill definition, sector-wide approach for secondary and TVET education, and ensuring social recognition for vocational education. Enhancing capacity utilisation of existing training, making training relevant, expanding industry-specific training, and encouraging private sector involvement are essential measures.

The list of the macro and micro level studies is given below:

**Study 1:** Labour Market and Skill Gap in Bangladesh: Macro Level Analysis;

**Study 2:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for Readymade Garments Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 3:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Construction Sector of Bangladesh;

**Study 4:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Light Engineering Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 5:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the ICT Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 6:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Shipbuilding Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 7:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis for the Leather Goods Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 8:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis of Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Bangladesh;

**Study 9:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis: Health Care (Nursing and Health Technician);

**Study 10:** Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis: Agro-Food Processing Sector in Bangladesh

#### **4. Labour Market Study for Skills for Employment Investment Project (SEIP): IT Sector**

*Team Member(s): Monzur Hossain, Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury, and Nahian Azad Shashi*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

##### ***Abstract***

The development of human capital is an important prerequisite for the development of the ICT sector. With a demographic dividend in place, Bangladesh is in an advantageous position to exploit the potential of the IT industry. The sector employs roughly about 0.22 million IT professionals in 2020, which is expected to be doubled by 2025. To understand the IT labour market, existing skills and skills gap, this study makes an in-depth analysis of the skills gap in the sector to understand the dynamics of the labour market and future demand for skills in this sector that would be key for the growth and development of the ICT sector.

The increased market demand for skilled labour in the ICT sector raises the demand for a skilled workforce with more advanced training rather than semi-skilled labour with basic training. To mitigate the problem, industry stakeholders propose to combine elementary and advanced courses in one particular discipline. It is also proposed to provide training on both elementary and advanced courses of only one particular discipline/subject rather than providing the scope of receiving training on only one course. High importance is placed on an effective industry-academia linkage. It is also recommended that only short-term courses may not be sufficient, instead, SEIP may invest in creating a centre of excellence in the University's respective departments to ensure a sustainable supply of IT human capital. A few specific recommendations are also made to make the existing training programs more effective.



## **5. Labour Market Study for Skills for Employment Investment Project (SEIP): Leather and Footwear Sector**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan and Maruf Ahmed*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

The study analyses labour supply and demand over the next 10-year period (2020-2030) in order to assist the government and the private industry in better planning the capacity and quality of skills training systems according to the evolving skills/trade/market demands from rapidly growing industry sectors. Both quantitative and qualitative primary data have been collected. The survey finds that there are a number of skill gaps in different occupations in this sector. The overall mean value (4.5) of the extent of difficulties in filling-up vacancies suggests a skill shortage in the tannery industry of Bangladesh. Overall, the leather and footwear industry will have a 30 per cent employment growth in 2025 from the current stage, and the exact figure will rise to around 64 per cent in 2030. Survey findings corroborate the idea that hard-to-fill vacancies arise due to the skill shortage. It is suggested to impart training to the existing labour force in the leather industry. Moreover, the purview of training should be extended to such a level that newcomers in the market can also avail of training facilities.

## **6. Labour Market and Skill Gap Analysis of Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Mainul Hoque and Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

This study attempts to analyze the HTS of Bangladesh from the following perspectives: (i) the structure and contribution of HTS, (ii) skill gaps, and skill shortages, the mismatch between the actual and desired levels of education and experience, and recruitment difficulties in the HTS, (iii) the future levels of demand for each of the major occupations (iv) the impact of COVID-19 on the enterprises, and the adaptations used to cope with the 'new normal' style of operations. A primary survey was conducted with enterprises and workers from 115 hotels and resorts (categorised from 5-star to 2-star) as well as 50 travel agencies (that are members of the Association of the Travel Agents of Bangladesh) and 28 tour operators (that are members of the Tour Operator Association of Bangladesh) from Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, and Sylhet. A total of 497 employees from these sample hotels and resorts, 46 from travel agencies, and 17 from tour operators were also interviewed.

The positive and significant difference between the level of skills at present and at the time of joining implies that employees actually enhanced their efficiency and skills after joining the respective enterprises. The finding unearths two plausible aspects of labor market in the sector. First, the training provided by the academic institutions is inadequate and ineffective. Second, despite the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of training, the existing labor force can still perform expectedly given that they are receiving training from the employers. This also raises the need for strengthening industry-academia linkages, which is still far from adequacy compared to the requirement. It is evident that even though existing employees have acquired higher level of education compared to the level expected by employers, they cannot meet the expectations of employers in terms of experience. Employers face difficulties in recruiting employees with the required level of experience mostly in food and beverage (both service and production) and housekeeping departments of hotels and resorts. There should be arrangements for continuing professional development for teachers and trainers through which they can maintain connections with the sector and be notified with the existing demand. It was noted that top star-ranked hotels and resorts face a lower level of skill gaps compared to low star-ranked ones in most of the four departments. This calls for special attention to train the potential workforce with adequate culinary and other skills. This needs close cooperation between the training institutions and lead employers in the sector to make arrangement of internship of students in the hotels and resorts to learn practical aspects of the jobs.

## **7. Labour Market Study Under Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP): Electrical and Electronics Sector**

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal and Tanveer Mahmood*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

The electrical and electronics sector is considered as one of the most thriving sectors of the economy. This sector is regarded as the path to industrialisation beyond RMG. According to Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the size of the market for both industrial and consumer electronics was about USD 5.29 billion in 2019. The expected growth rate is about 15 percent per annum and consumer electronics sector (TV, refrigerator, AC, household appliances) is expected to grow faster than that of industrial capital goods (accumulators, transformers, etc.). We categorised the occupations in five major categories for better conceptualisation – managers, professionals, sales and other service workers, technicians and associate professionals and craftsmen and plant workers, following Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations (BSCO). Since, electrical and electronics sector is also a male dominated sector – only 2 percent of the workers are female. Most of the workers are permanent workers – about 99 percent. This sector is moderately formal in the sense that about 57 percent of the workers have formal contract. This figure is 100 percent for the professionals. About one-third of the craftsmen have formal contracts.

Horizontal mismatch captures the discrepancy between the desired field of study by the employers and the actual field of study of the current workers. Overwhelmingly, there is no strong preference for field of study by the employers in the electrical and electronics sector, particularly for the craftsmen. The average desired level of education by the enterprises is only 6 years with about 3 years of education for the craftsmen. On the contrary actual level of education for all workers is 5.4 years on average. Hard to fill vacancies are regarded as the skill shortage – enterprises have vacancies but cannot fill it them up due to lack of suitable candidates. At the time of the interview, about 10 posts per enterprise were vacant, largely driven by vacancies for crafts and plant workers. This indicates that skill shortage is large in this sector. About one-third enterprises opined that it took a month or more to fill up the vacancies. The managers/owners were asked to scale the level of proficiency of the workers on a 1-10 scale with higher number signifying higher proficiency. The average level of proficiency is 6.75 for all workers and the craft workers and machine operators have the lowest score – 6.36, compared to other occupations.

## **8. Labour Market Study under Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP): Light Engineering Sector**

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal, Md. Nahid Ferdous Pabon and Tanveer Mahmood*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Light engineering sector in Bangladesh has developed largely as backward linkages to supply industrial machineries and spare-parts to agriculture, printing and packaging, construction, transport, apparel, cement, paper, jute, textile, sugar, food processing, railway, and shipping sectors. While this sector is growing, skill shortage is argued to stymie its potential. This report studies the level of skill of the workers in this sector, different types of skill mismatch, extent of training received by the workers, impact of skill gap and shortage on the enterprises, automation and job displacement, soft skill of the workers and the projection of workers demand by occupations and the impact of Covid-19 on the enterprises and the workers separately. We survey 121 light engineering enterprises and 1522 workers. The novelty of the survey is that it is a worker linked enterprise survey – workers are drawn from the enterprises surveyed in a systematic way. We followed the sampling method of World Bank-Bangladesh Enterprise Survey (WBES) for representativeness.

The major findings from the enterprise survey suggest that the floor workers (craftsmen and plant workers) dominate the distribution of occupations as out of 3159 workers in our sample enterprises, 2614 of them are craft and plant workers, which is about 83 percent of total employees. While there are 26 workers per enterprise on average, about 22 of them belong to

this category. This industry is craftsmen heavy (with small number of managers and professionals), male dominated (only 1 percent female workers), with very high degree of informality of various dimensions. Most of the workers are permanent (about 98 percent). The craft and plant works (about 83 percent of the total workers) receive about 12 thousand taka per month, which is a very subsistence level salary. Horizontal mismatch (about 28 percent) captures the discrepancy between the desired field of study by the employers and the actual field of study of the current workers. While average desired level of education by the enterprises is about 11 years with about 10 years (SSC passed) of education for the craftsmen, the actual level of education is 7.5 years on average. The desired and actual level of experiences at the time of entry are 4.27 and 4.84 respectively on average. Hard to fill vacancies are regarded as the skill shortage. In the case of craft and plant workers, about 80 percent of the firms opined that they could hire workers in less than a month. The managers/owners were asked to scale the level of proficiency of the workers on a 1-10 scale with higher number signifying higher proficiency. The average level of proficiency is 6.94 for all workers. Interestingly, craft workers and machine operators have the lowest score – 6.64, compared to other occupations. Hence the extent of gap is about 3.36 in 1 to 10 scale which can be interpreted as 33.6 percent skill gap. Overall impact of skill gap and skill shortage has been reported to be moderate. Skill shortage in sales related workers is largely held responsible for the moderate impact of delay in developing quality products.

## **9. Labour Market Study for Skills for Employment Investment Project (SEIP): Ship Building**

*Team Member(s): S M Zahedul Islam Chowdhury and Maruf Ahmed*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Bangladesh has the potential to revolve itself into a hub of shipbuilding in the global context for small and medium-sized vessels within a short time if the current trend of generating revenues continues. This study assesses the skills gap by sector, analyses the sector-wise occupational composition of employment (including gender composition of employment), and assesses occupation-wise training requirements by sector and trade. A total of 60 enterprises survey (from different locations) and 867 employee surveys from different categories and skills have been conducted along with 10 KIIs. The study finds that there is a lack of proper skills for doing the job due to proper educational background/degree, lack of proper skills due to lack of specialised training, and the curriculum of educational institutions is not job oriented. Moreover, some graduates of marine engineering/related subjects leave the country every year, which creates skill gaps in this sector; proper training institutes for the employee are required, and standardised quality training should be developed. Supports for backward linkages of the industry are needed, and connections between TVET and enterprises should be improved. Steps to encourage technological advancement for sustainable development of the shipbuilding industry are needed.

## **10. Labour Market Study for Skills for Employment Investment Project (SEIP): Readymade Garment Industry**

*Study Team: Nazneen Ahmed, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Skill shortage refers to not having the required number of employees in the firms or having vacancies (meaning that the firm can employ more people but is unable to do so due to a shortage in supply of the right quality job seekers), and skill gap refers to the lacking on part of the qualifications of the employees in effectively fulfilling their job responsibilities. The survey data reveal that skill shortages are minimum in the RMG factories. Enterprises reported not having many difficulties in finding people for the vacancies in various occupational categories of knit and woven firms. Interestingly, while woven firms reported that they do not face any difficulties at all in filling up vacancies for printing machine operators and embroidery machine operators, for employers in knit industries, filling up vacancies for these two posts seems to be the highest and most daunting. For most posts in both the knit and woven industries, most enterprises reported filling up the vacancies in less than a week (78 per cent in knit industry and 73 per cent in woven industry). The study reveals that 53.74 per cent of the surveyed RMG enterprises face skill gaps in general. In the broad category, most of the surveyed firms' responses indicated the highest prevalence of skill gap in the sewing machine operator category along with the quality category (both inspector and controller) and printing machine operator and embroidery machine operator categories.

## **Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism**

### **11. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Mainul Haque, Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury*

*Sponsor: Bangladesh Tourism Board, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

This study analyzes the current status of the HTS and identifies the probable impacts in terms of loss of sales and revenues, consequent retrenchment of workers, and/or reduced work hours/day of workers based on a comparison between the pre-COVID-19 and the-COVID-19-pandemic periods. The study was carried out by reviewing existing literature and conducting primary surveys with enterprises and workers drawn from 201 hotels and resorts, 148 travel agencies and tour operators, 200 restaurants, and 63 tourism SMEs across the eight administrative divisional cities and Cox's Bazar. Also, case studies involving 21 transport owners and operators, and owners and employees of 7 tourist attractions and recreational centers (amusement parks) were also conducted.

A sizeable drop in sales revenue was reported during the months from April to the end of the pandemic year. For illustration, travel agencies & tour operators, and amusement parks report a drop of 98 per cent in sales revenue during the second quarter of the pandemic compared to pre-pandemic time. Most of the sub-sectors started to show improvement in sales revenue from the third quarter. By the fourth quarter, restaurants, tourism-SMEs, and transport sectors reported reaching at least two-thirds of the sales revenue generated during the pre-COVID-19 period. However, the revenue recovery path for the hotels and resorts is relatively slower. The expenses of hotels and resorts, restaurants, and amusement parks appear to follow an inverted V-shaped trend in 2020, although a secular flat trend across quarters was exhibited in 2019. In contrast, the seasonal pattern for expenses observed in the cases of travel agencies & tour operators and tourism SMEs in 2019 was disrupted during the COVID-19 periods, most of the sub-sectors, except hotels and resorts, travel agents, and tour operators, started to gain positive surpluses from the third quarter. The upward trend continues till the fourth quarter of the pandemic year. The net employment dropped during the pandemic consistently in all the sub-sectors. The average reduction in wages and salaries is quite substantial among the hotels and resorts (34 per cent) and travel agents and tour operators (27 per cent). The percentage of employees reporting a fall in earnings is sizeable among the travel agents and tour operators (71 per cent) and hotels and resorts (51 per cent) during the second quarter of the year when the strict lockdown was in effect. The situation remained almost the same during the third quarter but it improved during the last quarter.

## Ministry of Planning

### 12. Shelter Strategy: Urban and Rural Housing in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Anwara Begum*

*Sponsor: GED, Ministry of Planning*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

Shelter is a basic requirement that enhances human capital to the extent that it can be an asset not merely for the individual and the household but also for the nation. Housing provides shelter, security, social inclusion, and citizens' rights. It is pointed out that housing should necessarily be provided with safe water, sanitation, and electricity through GO and NGO collaboration. In addition, there must be the implementation of programs for the resettlement of slum dwellers, the disadvantaged, the destitute, and the shelter less poor. Enhancing economic opportunities, appropriate technology, affordability of house-building materials, infrastructure for rural people, and nexus between NGOs, CBOs and Government creates ample scope for NHA to foster participation. Basically, housing comprises an intrinsic component of a comprehensive Urban Plan and is integral to a Regional Plan, which requires all-inclusive involvement. Planning towards vertical space utilisation so as to ease off on a horizontal expansion of housing through "Compact Townships".

Current metro area population of Dhaka is 22,478,000 (2021). In a hypothetical context of a moderate population growth scenario in Dhaka, we assume that by 2025, the population will be 25 crores and land availability remain the same, but households will be approximately 5.2 crores, and housing will be increased by 50 lac units each year.

Given the same hypothetical situation where housing units are increased to meet requirements, then theoretically all the people will have more dwellings by 2025. But we need to meet demands according to our needs. So, the vision for 2025 will have to set up a system whereby housing for 25 crore families is made available annually. We see that the bar for dwellings at 50 lac units per year clearly outstrips needs by more than double the number of households in 2025 in Dhaka.

## Ministry of Industries

### 13. A Comparative Study on Clusters and non-Clusters Based SME Development in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal, Kazi Ali Toufique, Zabid Iqbal. and Nahid Ferdous Pabon*

*Sponsor: Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation, Ministry of Industries, GoB*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

There are nearly 7.9 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh, including micro-enterprises contributing to gross domestic product (GDP) at an estimated 25 per cent. SMEs account for 11 per cent of the country's industrial establishments, 30 per cent of industrial employment and 40 per cent of the manufacturing output. While SMEs have been considered one of the few sectors that will drive the economy to a higher growth trajectory without compromising the perverse distributional impact, these sectors are still not competitive domestically and globally in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has put forward several strategies for the development of the SME sector. Along with the GoB, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is also working for cluster development in Bangladesh. The cluster/network development programme is one of the SME programmes managed within the Private Sector Development Branch of UNIDO. Following the spirit of the 7FYP of the government and UNIDO's effort to develop an efficient and productive SME sector, the SME Foundation, the apex body for the development of the SME sector in Bangladesh, conducted a study on the comparative performance of the cluster-based SMEs vis-a-vis non-clustered SMEs. This study provides important insight into how clustered SMEs are different from non-clustered ones and the rationale for differential treatments highlighted in 7FYP.

## 4. Human Resources

### Ministry of Education

#### 1. Results Verification and Assessment of Performances of IDG Recipient Colleges: An Analysis Based on Disbursement Linked Indicators-4 (DLI-4) (Phase-2)

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali (Study Director), Siban Shahana, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: College Education Development Project (CEDP), Ministry of Education.*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### *Abstract*

The primary objective of the study is to verify the results in selected government and non-government tertiary level colleges that have received Institutional Development Grant (IDG) from CEDP to improve teaching-learning environment in the colleges. The sample consisted of 36 grant recipient colleges selected using stratified random sampling technique. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the utilisation of IDG funds allocated to various colleges. While the overall utilisation rate is satisfactory, there are variations between specific categories. For instance, girls-only colleges and Category C colleges have higher utilisation rates, suggesting either more efficient fund utilisation or greater need, or combination of both. According to the perception of IDG Managers/Principals, the IDG sub-projects have substantially helped modernise their colleges. An impressive average of 79.06% of teachers across 36 colleges have adopted digital teaching materials, with 63.06% of lectures being delivered using these resources. On average, about 65% teachers and officials have undergone training sessions, highlighting the IDG's emphasis on capacity building.

The IDG has also catalyzed improvements in college libraries and labs. A majority (58.3%) of colleges have updated their library resources, with 75% undergoing renovations. In terms of digital infrastructure, 94.4% of colleges have either established or renovated computer labs. Furthermore, 52.8% of colleges have renovated their science labs, with a significant 64.7% reporting increased student usage, indicating a successful enhancement of practical science education. A promising 80.6% are in the process of establishing Internet/Wi-Fi/ICT facilities demonstrating a widespread commitment to enhancing digital capabilities, even though there is room for acceleration in implementation.



## 2. Follow-up Tracer Study on Graduates of Tertiary Colleges

*Team Member(s):* Badrun Nessa Ahmed, Binayak Sen, S. M. Zulfiqar Ali and Rizwana Islam

*Sponsor:* College Education Development Project (CEDP), Ministry of Education.

*Year of Completion:* 2024

### *Abstract*

Education has a major role to play in human resource development. To fulfill the human development needs of the country, a baseline study on tertiary-level colleges was conducted in 2017 to provide a snapshot of the current situation of tertiary college education. BIDS conducted the Follow-up Tracer Study in May-June 2023 with a new cohort of graduates, students, teachers, and employers to assess how college graduate job market outcomes have changed. The results show that the average unemployment rate turns to be 28.24 percent including 19.96 percent male and 34.31 female. This result shows that employment outcomes differ significantly across genders. A much higher share of male graduates is employed compared to their female counterparts. Among the employed graduates, wage employment is the main form of employment. Only 16.2 percent of graduates are currently being engaged in self-employment. What is most striking is that more than one-fourth of the graduates (28.24 percent) are still unemployed and looking for jobs, even after spending three to four years since first graduating from their colleges.

This study highlights some issues for improvement in the overall teaching and learning environment of NU-affiliated colleges. (i) Increase the use of ICT in teaching, provide ICT skills training, and upgrade ICT facilities. (ii) Training for the NU teachers is highly recommended (iii) Conduct periodic institution-level graduate tracking. (iv) Set up job placement support services and carrier counseling within colleges. (v) Job fairs should be organised every year, preferably at the district level, to facilitate industry collaboration. (vi) Encourage greater student enrollment in more market-demanded courses such as economics, accounting, mathematics, management, and statistics in the NU-affiliated colleges. (vii) Introducing short course facilities can increase the job market opportunities of the NU-affiliated colleges. (ix) As the graduate reported to have a lack of English language and communication skills, by improving those college graduates may position themselves in a better position in the job market. (x) The value of alumni associations emerged as a powerful resource in enhancing employability. (xi) Most tertiary education academic programs do not provide students with the opportunities to gain practical exposure to their field of study. Therefore, practical assessments through presentations, teamwork, research, and internships should be included in academia to evaluate students' performance.

### **3. The Study on Project Effectiveness Including Endline Satisfaction of the College Education Development Project (CEDP)**

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Binayak Sen, Badrun Nessa Ahmed, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: College Education Development Project (CEDP), Ministry of Education.*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### ***Abstract***

Main objective of the present study is to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of overall project intervention, including measuring the end line satisfaction level of project beneficiaries (students, teachers and employers), in terms of the quality and relevance of teaching. The overall scenario regarding the project is encouraging; over time the number of students admitted into NU is increasing. At the same time, it is also encouraging that over time the available facilities in the IDG colleges have increased. Number of classrooms, multimedia, laboratories, computer lab have shown a positive increase from baseline satisfaction survey to endline satisfaction survey. The overall satisfaction for IDG colleges over time shows that in case of teaching and learning environment and quality of academic infrastructure we find positive impact of IDG grant on IDG awarded colleges. However, the impact of IDG grant is weaker for increasing the quality of soft-skill development and increasing collaboration of the colleges with industries.

The survey results show that students are found satisfied about the teaching skills of the teachers, and teaching-learning facilities provided by the colleges. However, students are found least satisfied about the current state of College-Industry collaboration. These findings are similar to the level of satisfaction of teachers in this respect also. The overall satisfaction level of the employers remains same over the time during the three-satisfaction surveys starting from 2021 to 2023, However, a good proportion of employers are now satisfied with quality and skills of employed NU graduates. Majority of them believe that the NU graduates are hardworking and willing to learn new things, it is easy to train them up, and they do not switch jobs frequently. However, they need to improve their English language proficiency, computer/ICT skill, communication skills, and presentation skills to make them more competent with the current employment situation.

### **4. Learning Levels Among Primary School Students in Bangladesh after Covid-19 Pandemic: An Assessment**

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Sibana Shahana, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: Directorate of Primary Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### ***Abstract***

Aimed at understanding the current competencies of students to inform sector strategies for recovery and future resilience, the study evaluated over 62,000 students across 1,661 government

primary schools (GPSs), revealing profound insights into the pandemic's impact on primary education. The methodology, inspired by ASERs and NSAs, entailed a multi-faceted analysis including individual question-based performance, content domain-based analysis, and composite score assessment to provide a nuanced understanding of third and fourth-grader student abilities across various cognitive levels, from basic literacy and numeracy to more complex skills like reading comprehension and arithmetic operations. It scrutinises educational achievement's, socio-economic and geographical determinants, insights into the systemic challenges and pinpointing opportunities for targeted interventions.

Key findings indicate a notable 8.7% enrollment decline from 2019 to 2022, accentuated in char and coastal regions (18%) with contrasted urban areas experience (3.3%). Amidst adversity, over half of the surveyed students (56%) continued their education, leveraging support from family and technology, and a concerning 7% did not engage in any study. The analysis revealed distinct gender disparities in subject mastery, with girls surpassing boys in Bangla and boys leading in Mathematics. Moreover, urban learners consistently outperformed their rural counterparts, underscoring significant geographical disparities. The data underscore widespread basic or below-basic competency levels, highlighting the severe learning deficits exacerbated by pandemic-induced educational disruptions. The analysis emphasises the profound influence of parental education and socio-economic status on academic success, advocating for equity-focused educational strategies. It also stresses the importance of school infrastructure and access to learning resources in enhancing student performance. The enduring effects of the pandemic call for immediate and concerted action among government agencies, educators, and communities to remediate educational gaps and foster equitable, quality education, thus mitigating the long-term adverse effects on Bangladesh's young learners. This study illuminates the resilience of students and families, suggesting the potential of community-based support systems.

## **5. Tracking and Assessment of the Remote Learning System**

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Siban Shahana, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: Directorate of Primary Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

COVID-19 has significantly disrupted education globally, including in Bangladesh, where schools were closed for nearly two years. The Bangladeshi government initiated a distance learning program via SANGSAD TV starting April 30, 2020, initially for primary and then secondary students. This shift from traditional classroom teaching to remote learning posed challenges, particularly for young students and those from low-income households, impacting them differently based on various factors like household income, gender, electricity, and internet

access. To assess the effectiveness of the Remote Learning System (RLS), a comprehensive survey was conducted involving 1,050 Government Primary Schools (GPS) and 554 Junior and Secondary Schools (JSS) across 70 Upazilas in 63 districts. The survey included 50,871 students from grades 3-10, 4,481 teachers, and 1,598 headteachers.

Key findings revealed that remote learning was minimally accessed, with only 9-11% of primary students and 16.2% of secondary students engaging with televised educational programs during school closures. Access to necessary devices varied, with 87% of families owning basic mobile phones, 69% having smartphones, and 58% possessing televisions. Despite the availability of remote learning resources, a significant portion of students did not utilise them, with non-usage rates increasing after schools reopened. Headteachers and teachers largely agreed that remote learning was less effective than in-person education, with most preferring a blended approach for future learning. The study underscored the need for improved communication, better content delivery tailored to diverse contexts, and a dedicated budget for remote learning initiatives. Enhanced access to technology and consistent monitoring are crucial for the success of remote learning systems, which, while beneficial, are however, not a complete substitute for classroom learning.

## **6. Mid-term Satisfaction Survey of College Education Development Project (CEDP)**

*Team Member(s): Badrunnesa Ahmed, S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Rizwana Islam, Md. Nahid Ferdous Pabon*

*Sponsor: CEDP, Ministry of Education.*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Main objective of the present study is to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of the overall project intervention, including measuring the end line satisfaction level of project beneficiaries (students, teachers and employers), in terms of the quality and relevance of teaching. The overall scenario regarding the project is encouraging; over time the number of students admitted into NU is increasing. At the same time, it is also encouraging that over time the available facilities in the IDG colleges have increased. Number of classrooms, multimedia, laboratories, computer lab have shown a positive increase from baseline satisfaction survey to endline satisfaction survey. The overall satisfaction for IDG colleges over time shows that in case of teaching and learning environment and quality of academic infrastructure we find positive impact of IDG grand on IDG awarded colleges. However, the impact of IDG grant is weaker for increasing the quality of soft-skill development and increasing collaboration of the colleges with industries.

The survey results show that students are found satisfied about the teaching skills of the teachers, and teaching-learning facilities provided by the colleges. However, students are found least satisfied about the current state of College-Industry collaboration. These findings are similar to the level of satisfaction of teachers in this respect also. The overall satisfaction level of the

employers remains same over the time during the three-satisfaction survey starting from 2021 to 2023, However, a good proportion of employers are now satisfied with quality and skills of employed NU graduates. Majority of them believe that the NU graduates are hardworking and willing to learn new things, it is easy to train them up and they do not switch jobs frequently. However, they need to improve their English language proficiency, computer/ICT skill, communication skills, and presentation skills to make them more competent with the current employment situation.

## 7. Tracer Study on Graduates of Tertiary-Level Colleges

**Study Team:** Minhaj Mahmud, Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury, Ahmed Adib, Ziauddin M. Nasrullah, Md. Taimoor Ibn Bashar, and Raisul Akram

**Sponsor:** World Bank through National University Bangladesh, Ministry of Education

**Year of Completion:** 2021

### ***Abstract***

Efficient and productive human resources are vital for Bangladesh's economic growth and social development, especially amid global technological advancements. The National University (NU) affiliated college sub-sector, enrolling about two-thirds of the country's tertiary-level students, plays a crucial role in developing a skilled workforce. The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), contracted by the College Education Development Project (CEDP), conducted a Tracer Study of NU graduates to evaluate labor market outcomes and the relevance of tertiary education, also considering the impact of COVID-19. Using structured and semi-structured questionnaires, surveys were conducted on graduates, current students, institution heads, and employers. Findings reveal that only 5% of graduates are not in the labor force. Employment rates are significantly higher for males (30.74%) compared to females (11.64%), with females facing more job market challenges and often pursuing further education. An undergraduate degree alone is insufficient for securing desired jobs. Higher household income correlates with better employment prospects.

COVID-19 negatively impacted graduates and current students, with 88% of current students' households experiencing income declines. Teachers reported inadequate lab facilities and equipment, with half of the colleges providing job placement support. About 80% of teachers offer individual job support to students, and 47% reported career counseling availability. Online classes were deemed "somewhat interactive" but of lower quality than regular classes. Employers largely reported no partnerships with colleges or training institutes for recruitment, though most see a moderate likelihood of hiring NU graduates in the next three years. Essential skills identified for training include ICT, communication, problem-solving, English, and teamwork. The study suggests policies to enhance digital education and learning post-pandemic, focusing on faculty capacity building, financial and logistic support for effective technology use in teaching, and incentivising faculty research. These measures are crucial for leveraging tertiary education to foster a skilled workforce in Bangladesh.

## **8. Evaluation of Reaching Out of School Children Project Phase-II (ROSC-II)**

*Team Member(s): S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Binayak Sen, Badrun Nessa Ahmed and Abdul Hye Mondal  
(Consultant)*

*Sponsor: ROSC-II Unit, Directorate of Primary Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

The study explored the evolution of the Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) project and its implementation efficiency; to what extent it has been successful in bringing the out of school children to school; and additional benefits the project resulted in for the communities.

The following methods were used for the evaluation: (i) Analysis of secondary data: the study has extensively used the data obtained from the ROSC MIS Cell, which includes data on students, teachers, learning centers, and students' performances. And, (ii) Quasi-experimental Design with Before and After Comparisons of Project and Comparison Groups: Following this approach, a comparison group that is similar to the beneficiary groups was identified, and then the impact of the project was calculated as the difference in outcomes between the project and the control groups after the intervention.

Results suggest that the project has been quite successful in achieving its target. Out of a total of the targeted 7,20,000 children in rural areas, the project was able to reach out to 6,87,556 children. Of the children the project had reached out to, an overwhelming majority of them came from the poor and extreme poor households. This indicates that the project has not only fulfilled its objectives in terms of numbers, but it has also well targeted the households that need this kind of support the most. Of those who have completed PECE (primary cycle), the rate of transition to secondary is encouraging given the age group and background they came from. About 61% of the children who graduated from ROSC Learning Centre (Ananda school) are currently studying at secondary, and some of them are even at the higher secondary level.

## **Ministry of Youth and Sports**

### **9. Feasibility Study for New Projects of Department of Youth Development (DYD) (FS4NPDYD)**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Binayak Sen, et. al.*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development, GoB*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

The labour market for the youth had drawn immense interest among the policy makers in recent years. This was mainly because of the growing cross-country literature towards the contribution of human capital dividends on economic growth. Defining the age group 18-35 years as “Youth”; the Government of Bangladesh created the Ministry of Youth Development in 1978 which subsequently renamed as the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and the Department of Youth Development (DYD) in 1981. Through the Department of Youth Development, the MoYS provides more than a dozen services including self-employment and entrepreneurship development training on different trades, ICT training, micro-credit scheme and so on. Using quantitative techniques and appropriate frameworks for analysis, the study identified the existing issues with youth, their strength and weaknesses in order to identify and assess their requirements for labour market for designing proper intervention from the Government to aid them in the process.

#### **10. Feasibility Study for Economic Acceleration and Resilience for not in Education, Employment or Training (EARN)**

*Team Member (s): Azreen Karim, Abdul Aahad, Asif Ali Joarder, Raihan Habib*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

The Youth NEET, an acronym for Not in Education, Employment, or Training, refers to an age classified youth person who is unemployed and not receiving an education or vocational training. Intriguingly, developing countries like Bangladesh which has been observing a sharp rise in working age population (with prospective dividends) seem to target this classified youth group i.e., the NEETs for two (2) possible reasons: i) increasing productivity through generating employable skills of female and male youths and building compatible capacities to deal with the challenges of the 4th IR and ii) engaging the youth in employment, education or training is critical to achieve the SDG 8 i.e., promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. In this line of the government’s commitment and vision to implement its development plans, in accordance with the National Youth Policy, 2017; the proposed project ‘Economic Acceleration and Resilience for Not in Education, Employment or Training (EARN)’ has redefined the age structure of the NEET population as 15-35 years towards broader inclusion of the targeted beneficiaries and achieve its stated goals and objectives.

The broad objective of this project is to reduce the share of NEET youth, especially for women, in selected rural areas through increasing access to employable skills and enhancing their employability. This project would be implemented in 250 Upazilas of Bangladesh possessing

some probability of environmental risk in the during implementation phase particularly in the coastal regions. Most of the project locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 16.7249%. We predict a BCR of 1.834 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

## **11. Feasibility Study for Creation of Employment at Village for Youth and Poverty Reduction**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

Bangladesh had observed economic prosperity and growth in the last couple of decades primarily based upon its comparative advantage of cheap and low-skilled labour leading to industrial development. However, the key challenge still remains the same: diversification and skill-based labour productivity. One of the main drivers of the phenomenal growth of the ready-made garments sector has been the usage of an under-utilized segment of the labour force i.e. women. This is an important trajectory to understand and revisit particularly to explore the underlying context of skills development which would perhaps show us the pathway to integrate the demographic dividend by injecting diversified skills in the industrial development process to increase labour productivity and hence diversification. The dynamic challenges in articulating the revisit strategies would further necessitate to take note of the technological adaptation out of the 4th IR, growth challenges out of LDC graduation, labour market expansion through employability, and inclusive and sustainable growth through institutionalization of shock management framework to address climate change issues and COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

Despite Bangladesh had achieved immense successes in poverty alleviation and participation in primary and secondary education; youth unemployment and underemployment still remains pervasive with inconsistency in labour force participation of the various youth age groups. Therefore, it has become imperative to emphasize on understanding the skill gaps in the labour markets and thereby develop a relevant, well-functioning and sustainable skills system. In this line of argument, the Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Creation of Employment at Village for Youth and Poverty Reduction” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of this project are creation of employment and self-employment opportunities for youth at village, to provide micro-credit for establishment of self-employment projects and to reduce poverty at the village level. This project would be implemented in 492 Upazilas of Bangladesh possessing some



probability of environmental risk in the during implementation phase particularly in the coastal regions. The majority of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 19.175%. We predict a BCR of 2.150 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

## **12. Feasibility Study for the Establishment of Sheikh Jamal Youth Training and Recreation Centre at Upazila Level**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Rizwana Islam, Tanveer Mahmood, Mahir A Rahman*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Establishment of Sheikh Jamal Youth Training and Recreation Centre at Upazila level” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of this project are to create productive employment/self-employment for youth entrepreneurs through providing skill development training, to create opportunities for vocational and technical training for youths, to create opportunities for recreation and standard training and to motivate youth for making them disciplined, organized, productive and free from terrorism, extremism and drug addiction. This project would be implemented in 180 Upazilas of Bangladesh in its first phase possessing extremely low probability of environmental risk. The majority of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 19.183%. We predict a BCR of 1.855 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

## **13. Feasibility Study for Creation of Youth Entrepreneurs Through Capacity Building Training**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Rizwana Islam, Tanveer Mahmood, Mahir A Rahman*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Creation of Youth Entrepreneurs through Capacity Building Training” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth

Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of this project are to develop trained youths into entrepreneurs, to involve the trained youths in economic activities through loan support based small investment, to encourage the youths into creating agricultural farms in their own localities and to facilitate marketing of farm products produced by the entrepreneurs. This project would be implemented in 497 Upazilas of Bangladesh possessing some probability of environmental risk in the during implementation phase particularly in the coastal regions. Most of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 12.777%. We predict a BCR of 1.992 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

#### **14. Feasibility Study for Transforming Youths into Human Resources Through Technical Training**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Rizwana Islam, Tanveer Mahmood, Mahir A Rahman*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

##### ***Abstract***

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Transforming Youths into Human Resources through Technical Training” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of this project are to make skilled human resource through providing training in different technical trades, to create employment and self-employment opportunity both at home and abroad for skilled manpower and to reduce poverty in the country through involving unemployed youths in income generating activities. This project would be implemented in 64 districts of Bangladesh possessing some probability of environmental risk in the during implementation phase particularly in the coastal regions. Most of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 11.641%. We predict a BCR of 2.122 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

#### **15. Feasibility Study for Strengthening Training Programmes at Upazila Level for Creation of Employment and Self-Employment (2nd Phase)**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Rizwana Islam, Tanveer Mahmood, Mahir A Rahman*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Strengthening Training Programmes at Upazila Level for Creation of Employment and Self-employment- 2nd phase” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The objectives of this project are to provide need-based skill development training to the youths at their doorsteps, to create employment and self-employment opportunities for trained youths and to encourage the trained youths to engage in the community development activities. This project would be implemented in 499 Upazilas of Bangladesh (including 10 Metropolitan Thanas) in its second (2nd) phase possessing extremely low probability of environmental risk. Most of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 13.725%. We predict a BCR of 2.162 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

## **16. Feasibility Study for Skills Based Digital Learning Platform**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Rizwana Islam, Tanveer Mahmood, Mahir A Rahman*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

Education in the labour force increases productivity in two ways: a) enhances skills to labour, increasing the aptitude of labour to produce more production; and b) it raises the worker’s capacity to upgrade in ways that increase his or her own productivity as well as others. Participation in the labour market is closely related to education. Education system of Bangladesh has been broadly divided into three major phases, which are a) primary education, b) secondary education and c) tertiary education. The secondary education system is further classified into four types: general education, madrasah education, technical-vocational education and professional education. To take the vocational learning industry to new heights, a Digital Learning Platform offers new potentials for education and learning by introducing new forms of technology-based learning. Furthermore, as the local employment is limited in Bangladesh, and there are limitless potential opportunities for skilled workers internationally, a Digital Learning Platform can play a vital role in producing high quality workforce & also providing manpower for the overseas labour market. In this line of argument, the Department of Youth Development (DYD) had proposed the project titled “Skill Based Digital Learning Platform” to achieve the goals and objectives of the government’s election manifesto, 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan, National Youth Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The objectives of this project are to develop online virtual training platform to provide effective training in the COVID-19 pandemic situation, to support the conduction of all types of vocational online learning/training which will run effectively and efficiently without any major interruption,

to expand the frontier of vocational learning/training in the country by integrating everyone into a single learning platform and to create Virtual Youth Training Centre (VYTC) considering the ongoing-pandemic and post pandemic scenarios. This project would be implemented in 64 Zilas of Bangladesh possessing extremely low probability of environmental risk. The majority of the locations falls in the non-coastal zones. The project is not categorized as red. The internal rate of return is 45.809%. We predict a BCR of 2.199 for this proposed project under the assumption that the inflation rate would be consistent and stable over time which essentially depends upon the growth rate and balancing of other macroeconomic indicators as well.

## **17. Evaluation of National Service Program (2nd ,3rd& 4th phase) of Department of Youth Development**

*Team Member(s): S M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury, Golam Nabi Mozumder and M. A. Mannan*

*Sponsor: Department of Youth Development (DYD)*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

Under National Service Programme (NSP), the government is trying to provide the unemployed youths with jobs as they can gain some experience and look for jobs themselves. They are getting training and experience at the same time. Important aspects of NSP are to impart skill development training on various vocational trades; to encourage the youth for self-employment through motivation; to provide microcredit and other necessary input support; to ensure participation of youth in decision making process; to ensure equal participation of women. The present evaluation has been designed to permit an assessment of the impact of the NSP on the trained beneficiaries. Both quantitative and qualitative data has been utilized for evaluation process. According to the present study, NSP has made remarkable successes and contributed in increasing social, economic and familial awareness among beneficiaries: encouraging youth men and women to move out from their homes and engage themselves in income generating activities; improving financial condition and bringing positive changes in the lifestyle of beneficiaries and increasing their savings; increasing financial transaction and capital flow in the project area; encouraging beneficiaries to invest their forced savings and thus create self-employment.

The NSP came as a blessing for many unemployed youths in the rural areas, especially for the unemployed educated men and women. All beneficiaries of the program were able to contribute to the mandatory saving scheme. Despite these successes, the programme suffers from a number of weaknesses in programme planning and implementation. The recommendations made for effective implementation and efficiency of the NSP are: training course/modules need to match the local demand; immediate steps should be taken to fill-up the existing vacant positions at the district and upazila level; DYD must be committed to providing adequate resources and training materials/ instruments for proper functioning of the NSP; the programme should be gradually expanded to each and every upazila of the country; the number of trainees in the selected upazilas also needs to be increased. Number of trainees per upazila should be at least 1,000 and efforts should be made by the government to allocate more resources for extended coverage of NSP.

## Ministry of Planning

### 1. Background Papers of the 8th Five Year Plan (Managing the Skill Gap through Better Education, TVET and Training Strategies)

*Team Member(s): Kazi Iqbal*

*Sponsor: General Economic Division*

*Year of Completion: 2020/2021*

#### *Abstract*

Bangladesh has made a remarkable success in achieving steady and persistent acceleration of growth over the last few decades, with about one percentage point increase in every decade since the 1980s. Average real GDP growth over the last five years has been above 7 per cent, which is much higher than the average growth rate of the comparators. Bangladesh is now a lower middle-income country, has been growing at 7.9 percent, with per capita income of USD 1827 in 2018-19. In this backdrop, the fundamental question is: to what extent the economy of Bangladesh can sustain this high growth. The aspiration of becoming a higher middle-income country by 2030 and a developed country by 2041 critically hinges on the answer to this question. The risk of growth relying solely on factor accumulation is that at one stage the diminishing marginal return of factors set in, which ultimately leads to a stagnation of growth. This means that similar increase in capital and labor will result in less and less output overtime. The only solution to break this shackle is to increase total factor productivity. Education and skill of the labor force is the key to enhance the total factor productivity of the economy. The challenge lies to what extent we can produce new programmers and skill up the current typists.

The success of skill development of the labour market hinges on the holistic approach as all tiers of education and vocational training are interlinked. The discussions have started to adopt sector wide approach for secondary and TVET education. The lessons learnt from the SWAp of the primary education and health sector can be applied to the secondary education and TVET to enhance the efficiency of the use of resources and to avoid duplications through better coordination. The upcoming skill development policy should be very specific about it. There are a number of success cases of NGO initiatives in providing skills, particularly to the disadvantaged people (e.g., UCEP). The government (e.g., NSDC) should partner with them to scale up the already tested cases. The private sector is the ultimate users of the skilled labour; they know the best what kind of skill is required in present and in future. Therefore, involvement of the private sector in policy making, implementation (e.g., curricula development) and financing are critical for developing a holistic approach for skilling the labour force. Conventional indicators such as average years of schooling, net enrolment, student-teacher ratio, etc. cannot capture the quality of education and training. We have to go beyond these indicators and come up with a set of indicators that truly reflect the quality of education and skill level of the labour force.

## 2. Destination Dhaka, Urban Migration: Expectations and Reality

*Team Member(s): Anwara Begum*

*Sponsor: GED, Ministry of Planning*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

Destination Dhaka has been revised with new evidence from a 2022 survey of poor migrants to the pavements of Dhaka city. Data has been analyzed to compare information assessed in 1993 so that the state of the impoverished, who continue to exhibit vulnerability, despite three decades of policy efforts in rural and urban areas, could be reassessed. Pavement Dwellers' requirements have been less documented and inadvertently left unaddressed. Popular hypotheses put forth to elucidate migration are inadequate. Migrants tend to be unskilled and ill equipped for the city. Yet they migrate with expectations of a better life in the metropolis.

Over the last 30 years, landless migrants have increased by 14 per cent and 14 per cent more migrants have migrated to Dhaka with no belonging or money compared to 1993. Their expectation versus reality situation remains almost the same over the span of three decades. The number of pavement dwellers committed to returning to their rural origins has risen by 39 per cent in the last 30 years. Majority of the migrants, 78.13 per cent of the pavement dwellers, believe that migration is a commitment to a way of life in another region, based upon expectations arising from a cognition of the existence of benefits in the area of destination. The survey of 2022 shows that, equated to 1993, more economic reasons have propelled rural poor to the city, but alternatively their commitment to return demonstrates an appreciable increase—though all other indicators did not change considerably. It has underscored the need for renewed efforts: by devising a strategy for management to formulate dynamic, customised, specific, monitored and enabling policies focused on pavement dwellers, designed to meet varied poor's group-wise requirements and improve accessibility to benefit through the fair implementation of distribution with justice.

## 5. Population and Health

### Ministry of Planning

#### 1. Name of the Study: Post Enumeration Check of Population and Housing Census, 2022

*Team Members: Binayak Sen, Mohammad Yunus, and S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury*

*Sponsor: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, GOB*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

The national net coverage error rate of Population and Housing Census 2022, weighted by population share, is estimated at 2.75%. The net coverage error rate is lower in rural areas (2.55%) than in urban areas (3.19%). Within urban areas, the net coverage error rates increase with the level and sophistication of urbanisation. It is also noted that the standard errors in urban areas are higher than in rural areas. The rural coverage error rate is subject to a 16% relative error rate in contrast to 34% in the upazila sadar and growth center. Together with the higher standard error, the higher coverage error leads to a higher coefficient of variation. The gender-specific coverage error rate analysis shows that the net undercount rate is higher at 2.81% for males compared to 2.69% for females. Besides, both the standard error and the coefficient of variation of the coverage error are lower for females. The coverage error rates by religion show that the extent of undercount appears to be higher for Muslims at 2.76% compared to the non-Muslims at 2.67%. However, the coverage error rate estimate for the non-Muslim population appears to be imprecise.

The analysis of demographic coverage error rates shows that the net undercount rates for age groups follow a U-shaped pattern. The successive rates secularly decrease until the minimum is reached at the 40-44 age group, and then, the trend is secularly upward. Both the lower and the higher age groups have higher rates; while the coverage error rate for the highest age group (75+ years) is estimated at 4.82%, the same is estimated at 4.23% for the 0-4 age group. In contrast, persons from the 30-34 age group to the 55-59 have coverage error rates of less than 2%. Despite the wide variations in the coverage error rates across age groups, many of the standard errors are 'high,' which tend to make the estimates imprecise.

## **2. National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN): An Introduction**

***Team Member (s):*** M. Asaduzzaman

***Sponsor:*** European Union (EU), implemented by the Helen Keller International (HKI), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)/BBS, Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) and GED of Planning Commission.

***Year of Completion:*** 2021

### ***Abstract***

NIPN Bangladesh officially started its activities in the beginning of 2018 and is expected to run through the end of 2021. NIPN's primary objective is to support governmental and civil society nutrition policy planners to strengthen capacity to monitor progress towards reduction of undernutrition and to help direct attention to more cost-effective and evidence-based policies to strengthen nutritional well-being of all citizens of this country. NIPN is trying to set up a

functional and effective information and analysis platform through two major components: to formulate policy questions for analysis and undertaking analysis of already available data to feed the policy-making process. Its achievements include strengthening institutional and human capacity for nutritional analysis. NIPN has conducted short term trainings, sent officials abroad for formal university degrees. And NIPN has prepared several reports and policy briefs which have examined the gaps in policy and knowledge and tried to fill those up in modest ways.

NIPN has also started processes for sustainability of its action when the project ends. In brief, some of the achievements of NIPN over the last 4 years or so are: Systematic Review of Impact of Nutritional Interventions, Household Food Production and Nutrition, Impact of VGD/ICVGD on Nutrition, Role of Family Farming on Nutrition, Analysis of Nutritional Issues in Urban Bangladesh and publishing a One one-pager and 4 issues of a web-based Newsletter. BBS is a major partner in daily activities of NIPN. For this a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Helen Keller Intl. and BBS in January 2019 which set the working modalities for BBS collaboration with NIPN. Another MoU is for data repository between Helen Keller Intl. with BBS in 21 June, 2021

## **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

### **3. Catastrophic Health Expenditure and its Determinants in Bangladesh**

*Team member(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### ***Abstract***

This is a collaborative project with the Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh. Despite improved health indicators throughout the last few decades globally, providing access to affordable healthcare remains a considerable challenge in many low- and middle-income countries, including Bangladesh. The study estimates the catastrophic healthcare expenditure and assesses the potential factors associated with CHE among Bangladeshi households. The high out-of-pocket expenditure, poor quality of care in the public sector, risk of catastrophic health expenditure, lack of prepayment mechanism, limited human resources, imbalance of skill mixing between physicians and nurses, heavy reliance on clinical-centric approach, lack of preventive activities was identified as the main challenges to access the healthcare.



#### **4. Economic Burden of Covid-19 in Bangladesh: A Health Perspective**

*Team member(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

##### ***Abstract***

This is a collaborative project with the Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh. The pandemic situation of Covid-19 imposes an enormous economic burden on both the households and healthcare systems of developing countries like Bangladesh. In this context, this study aims to estimate the economic burden of Covid-19 in Bangladesh from a societal perspective. It also seeks to find out the factors (e.g., sanitation measures, knowledge of information, population density) liable for spreading Covid-19 in Bangladesh. The findings of this study recognised the substantial economic burden of Covid-19, which underscores the urgent need for an effective national strategy targeted to mitigate out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses and catastrophic healthcare expenditures. The policymakers and the concerned authorities should focus on the higher treatment costs in private facilities and upgrade the healthcare financing strategy of the government for monitoring the progress towards universal health coverage in Bangladesh.

#### **5. Epidemiological and Economic Burden of Dengue in Dhaka in 2019, Bangladesh**

*Study Team: Abdur Razzaque Sarker, S M Zahedul Islam Chowdhury, and Maruf Ahmed*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

##### ***Abstract***

Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral disease, poses a significant public health and economic burden in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka. This study aims to estimate the epidemiological and economic impact of dengue in Dhaka in 2019 from a societal perspective, using a cross-sectional design with three surveys: a community-based household survey, a hospital-based patient survey, and a hospital provider cost survey. A total of 1,176 households from Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) were surveyed. Key findings include a dengue prevalence of 1.87%, higher in DSCC (2.27%) than DNCC (1.37%). The highest prevalence was among adults aged 19-50 (2.01%), females (2.19%), and small households (4.07%). Risk factors included not using mosquito nets (3.85% prevalence) and regularly visiting parks (3.38%).

The economic burden analysis, based on 302 hospitalised dengue patients, revealed an average household treatment cost of BDT 33,817 (US\$ 406.06). Treatment costs differed by facility type: BDT 22,379 (US\$ 268.72) in public hospitals and BDT 47,230 (US\$ 567.12) in private hospitals. Public hospitals spent BDT 6,076 (US\$ 73) per patient per episode. The societal cost per dengue episode was BDT 39,893 (US\$ 479), with average costs of BDT 28,455 (US\$ 341.67) in public and BDT 47,230 (US\$ 567.12) in private facilities. Poorest households spent 139% of their total income on treatment, often relying on savings, borrowing, or asset sales. These findings highlight the substantial health and economic burden of dengue in Dhaka, underscoring the need for an effective national dengue prevention strategy. Community-based awareness programs should be initiated to eliminate *Aedes* mosquitoes, and social protection schemes, like 'Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuchi' (SSK), should be introduced to support poor and vulnerable households against the economic impacts of dengue infections.

## Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

### 6. Impact Analysis of Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme (VGF) in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Mitali Parvin*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), GoB*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### *Abstract*

In Bangladesh, safety nets are formal and informal ways of protecting people from poverty where formal safety nets include various transfer programmes designed to play both a redistributive and risk reduction role, and the traditional role of safety nets is to redistribute income and resources to the needy in society so that the impact of poverty is reduced. This study examines the process of targeting, selection, and benefit distribution, including the extent of leakage associated with selected safety net programmes. The study employed a range of research methods (questionnaire survey, FGD, Key Informant Interview, and case studies) to collect data. The findings suggest that lobbying with chairman/member or local influential persons is crucial for getting the VGF card for safety net programs. The beneficiaries were asked whether they had to make any payment to be selected under the specific programme (i.e. for getting a card). No incidence of bribe/graft was reported in the situation of VGF. Many problems associated with targeting and leakage can be minimised if greater emphasis is placed on monitoring and evaluation. Programme monitoring should be supplemented by developing the capacity of line ministries to monitor programmes on a day-to-day basis.

## Ministry of Finance

### 7. Labour Market and Skills Gap Analyses, Healthcare: Nursing and Care

*Team Member(s): Anwara Begum and Raisul Awal Mahmood*

*Sponsor: Ministry of Finance*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

This study analyses the projected demand for and supply of nursing professionals in Bangladesh in the next 10-year period, 2020 to 2030, to help the country better plan the capacity and quality of nursing training systems. Its major focus is on two major areas of the nursing profession in Bangladesh: demand for and supply of nurses in the country, and policy conclusions towards harnessing supply-demand imbalances.

Major conclusions of the study include: (i) the nursing profession in Bangladesh experiences severe skills shortage with far-reaching consequences; (ii) supply side factors constitute a major contributor to the perceived skills shortage; (iii) quality of nurse training demands much improvement and upgradation; (iv) lack of specialised nurses is an important aspect of nurses shortages in the country; (v) inadequate infrastructure is a serious stumbling block to increasing supply of quality nurses; (vi) concentration of nursing training facilities in major metropolis may negatively impact interest in nursing education; (vii) inadequate compensation packages are important reasons for fewer nurses in this profession, and (viii) recognition of the role played by nursing profession should be the cornerstone of mitigating skills shortage.

## Policy Studies Supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS

### 1. Urban Poverty Dynamics during the Time of Corona: Insights from a Panel Study on the Dhaka City

*Team Members: Binayak Sen, S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, and S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury*

*Sponsor: UNDP and REF (BIDS), Ministry of Planning*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### *Abstract*

During the time of Covid--contrary to the claims of a section of academia and media-- poverty declined in the urban megacity of Dhaka. The overall poverty headcount has *decreased* between 2019 and 2022 by 4.3 percentage points. The proportion of extreme poor households has also gone down by 3.2 percentage points during the same period. This is a considerable progress in poverty reduction under the duress of Covid-19. Measures of “subjective wellbeing” also tell the

same story. After the first lockdown, which was much more severe than the subsequent lockdowns/ episodes of Corona, subjective poverty rose sharply to 40.9 percent (April-June 2020) from a pre-Covid level of 26.7 percent (January-March 2020), i.e., within a very short interval. In the subsequent months when the lockdown was lifted and economic activities started coming back to normalcy, economic hardship eased. As a result, when the Omicron variant attacked in January-March 2022, subjective poverty further came down to 32.4 percent. Finally, when the present survey was conducted in May 2022, subjective poverty declined further to 30.3 percent, and possibly went down a bit more till the adverse effects of the Ukraine war started to be felt globally, including in Bangladesh.

Considerable changes have occurred in income and occupational profile of the urban households. The share of self-employment income has gone up, while that of salaried and casual wages have gone down. Results of the multivariate analysis shows that the factors that contribute to household income for the poor categories (poor and the extreme poor) include number of earners in the household (both male and female), education, asset ownership, and self-employment. Regular jobs, and remittances from abroad did not appear as significant explainer of income for this group. However, for the lower-middle income group (vulnerable non-poor), education, earning members, regular job, self-employed activities, and remittances also appeared as significant contributors to income. To the extent that Corona was mainly concentrated in urban areas of Bangladesh with greater spread recorded in the megacity of Dhaka, our research findings on urban poverty dynamics merit closer policy attention to understand the wellbeing effects of Covid-19.

## **2. Social Conditions of the Innovative of Smartphones; A Qualitative Investigation among Young Users in Dhaka**

*Team member(s): MGN Mozumder*

*Sponsor: REF (BIDS), Ministry of Planning*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

Concerns about the adverse impacts of using smartphones are common in the literature. However, there is insufficient research on whether users make innovative use of the device. If they do, what is the nature of the creative use of smartphones? What are the social conditions that facilitate the innovative use of the smart device? This study seeks to answer these questions by investigating the use of smartphones among teenagers in Dhaka. The respondents of this research are purposively selected from the secondary schools located in five different areas of Dhaka city. Snowballing technique was used to identify the 44 avid users. The study finds that respondents employ innovative strategies of escaping supervision: installing software, e.g., AppsLock, Gallery Lock, and CM on social media "totally black-listed." They also read using

Gutenberg Apps and go online to learn how to wear hijab "smartly." Advance users heavily use smartphones to learn software programming, prepare science projects, and do photography for art exhibitions. The study identified three facilitating conditions of the creative use of smartphones: friends, events, and parents. These social conditions constitute an ecosystem that facilitates the innovative dispositions of the young users of smartphones.

### **3. Economic Burden of Cancer in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Sponsor: Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### ***Abstract***

Cancer is an overwhelming global public health issue due to its considerable impact on mortality and morbidity. Cancer is a large group of diseases that can affect any part of the body, characterised by the rapid creation of abnormal cells that can invade other parts of the body and spread to other organs. Risk factors for cancer include tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and air pollution. Approximately 50% of cancers can be prevented through the avoidance of risk factors and the implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies. The burden of cancer is high in Bangladesh, where 156,775 people were newly diagnosed with cancer in 2020, and 108,990 people died from it. Cancer accounts for 12% of all deaths in Bangladesh and may increase to 13% by 2030. The most common cancers in Bangladesh are esophagus, lip, oral cavity, breast, lung, and cervix uteri. The economic burden of cancer is significant, with rising costs of cancer diagnosis and treatment, imposing significant direct medical and indirect costs on patients, the healthcare system, and the government. Cancer and its treatment also result in the loss of economic resources and opportunities for patients, families, employers, and the society overall.

### **4. Healthcare for Persons with Disability in the Time of Corona**

*Study Director: Anwara Begum*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

#### ***Abstract***

About 1.5 crore people live with disabilities in Bangladesh. The country has suffered tremendously while trying to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The healthcare system faced unprecedented challenges in adjusting to the increased demand for medical care of COVID-19 patients. For persons with disabilities, accessing and availing healthcare became exceedingly

difficult during the pandemic, placing them at a higher risk than the general populace. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic came as a difficult hurdle to these individuals who are often heavily reliant on caregivers, sighted guides, interpreters, and additional resources for their survival and manoeuvring. They are faced with limitations when availing healthcare from health centres. Most hospitals lack accessible structural designs like large enabling toilets and washbasins for wheelchair occupants. These hospitals are not equipped with trained doctors and healthcare providers who are efficient and sympathetic in treating persons with disabilities.

The primary objective of this study is to understand the severity of constraints, inequality in access to healthcare of persons with disability who coped with Covid-19 during this pandemic. The predicament of persons with disability is two-fold: the labour market is almost inaccessible for them and sharp barriers to accessing basic essential services. This qualitative research delineated a case, one out of the total persons with disabilities responded positively to receiving the announced disability allowance. It underscores the financial hardship that many persons with disability experience. With the outbreak novel corona virus, their burden has increased and it is almost a double blow for them.

## **5. Bridging the Gap in Healthcare for Poor Patients with Evidence from Skills' Gap of Nurses and Health Providers**

*Team member(s): Anwara Begum*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

This study found poor patients to be disadvantaged and declined treatment. Costs of treatment during the Corona Pandemic have been prohibitive for many, and the death toll and morbidity have been high. Numerous patients have been denied admission and treatment in hospitals all over the country. Even during the spread of this deadly disease, for some, social distancing is not possible. Triangulation of information from 350 structured responses using quantitative and qualitative methods was collated. Hospital stakeholders, nurses' skills and preparedness, and the experiences of patients, through 75 Key Informant Interviews, are delineated. Thereby strategising more sensitive policy formulation and tactical action conducive for all patients who are suffering from some form of limitation, including those without disability, albeit involuntarily bereft of our limited healthcare, amidst COVID-19.

## 6. Environmental Issues

### Policy Studies Supported by the Research Endowment Fund (REF), BIDS

#### 14. The Determinants of Household Disaster Preparedness Behaviour in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim*

*Sponsor: REF, BIDS*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

#### *Abstract*

This study examines the possible determinants of household disaster preparedness behaviour, focusing on knowledge and perception and prior damage and employment channels of disaster experience. Using ICCHL Survey of 143,980 households and 12 natural disasters covering 64 disaster-affected districts in Bangladesh, the study finds that disaster and climate knowledge and perception are strong predictors of preparedness adoption, explaining around 1.46-1.51 per cent of formal education and nearly 7.39-7.68 per cent of female education compared to the mean. This finding strongly rejects the possibility of endogeneity of income and wages as well. Evidence strongly suggests that disaster preparedness is almost 76 per cent effective in mitigating per capita net income loss via the unemployment channel. This provides a strong signal towards loss mitigation through the employment effect. However, demand-side interventions provide mixed signaling through per capita income and wealth via production channels emphasising the government's various support package interventions. Policy effectiveness in terms of the uptake of preparedness measures might also depend on the households' behavioural responses. The efficacy of household responses could deliberately depend on the complementarities of demand-side policy responsiveness and supply-side government actions and other public interventions. The study suggests that integration of development and disaster risk reduction policies could further reduce the number of climate losses, implying integrated impacts across various SDG targets.

## 7. Poverty and Inequality

### Ministry of Planning

#### 1. Trends and Dynamics of Rural Poverty 2000-2019: Changing Economic Contexts, Poverty Profiles and Proximate Determinants

*Team member(s): Binayak Sen, Monzur Hossain, SR Osmani, and others*

*Sponsor: Special Research Project, Ministry of Planning*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### *Abstract*

Bangladesh has been undergoing rapid social and economic transformation over time. The country has achieved a reasonably impressive economic growth of over 6% in the last two decades and has been able to halve poverty during the last two decades. It also achieved near food self-sufficiency in the last few decades, thanks to agricultural mechanisation and government support measures. It is to be noted that there is a lack of panel data and the current data available, for example data generated by BBS through its HIES are not well equipped to evaluate the potential sources of these changes over historical time. A new nationally representative panel study would fill that gap. The objective of the research is to study the dynamics of poverty, economic transformation and living standards in rural Bangladesh.

The study finds that there has been a rapid decline in rural poverty in the 2010s. It is evident from the successive rounds of HIES, but also borne out by the InM-BIDS panel surveys. The proportion of rural poor has dropped from 36% to 23% between the two panel rounds of 2010 and 2019. The share of rural extreme poor has also declined from 22% to 13% over the same interval. The trend for HIES is strikingly similar: overall rural poverty headcount index decreased from 35% in 2010 to 20% in 2022, while the figures for extreme poverty correspondingly declined from 21% in 2010 to 6% in 2022. In short, rural HIES and rural panel surveys of InM-BIDS tell the same story and convey the similar extent of progress against poverty. The rural growth process of the 2010s has been truly broad-based, inclusive, and pro-poor growth judged by the criterion of consumption poverty. What has been even more remarkable is the faster rise of rural poorest (however defined) during this period. The female headed households are no longer among the most vulnerable categories—at least in terms of average consumption poverty—in contemporary rural Bangladesh. The incidence of rural poverty in case of the latter is lower than their male counterparts.

However, what is worthy of reflection is that the abandoned female headed sub-group has also made impressive progress over time: their poverty declining from 37% to 22% between 2010 and 2019. In fact, their current poverty headcount is even slightly lower than that for the male-headed category (they also exhibit similar extreme poverty incidence). It is a testimony to their extreme hard work and aspiration to climb out of poverty against all odds. We have also carried out a preliminary analysis of correlates of household poverty using the “rural livelihoods framework”. Our multivariate analysis using the binary probit model for overall as well as extreme poverty reveals the importance of (initial) asset endowments and access to economic opportunities to attain favourable welfare outcomes. Asset endowments such as demographic capital, physical capital (land and non-land assets), and human capital make a difference to household poverty.



## **2. Inclusive Growth and Extreme Poverty Eradication: Theory, Evidence, Drivers, and Policy Options for Bangladesh**

*Team member(s): Binayak Sen, S. M. Zulfiqar Ali and Badrun Nessa Ahmed*

*Sponsor: Special Research Project (SRP), Planning Commission*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

There are five main messages of this report. First, the rural Bangladesh is rising. The rural growth process of the 2010s has lifted almost all the boats. Second, one of the fastest rising groups is the groups of extreme poor. This is especially evident in the 2010s. For instance, households headed by persons with "no formal education" have experienced greater reduction of poverty (and extreme poverty) during this period compared to other educational categories led by persons with higher education. The same is true for landless and functionally landless farmers witnessing a faster pace of poverty reduction compared to marginal and small farmers. Third, the proportion of extreme poor in rural areas is declining rapidly. This improvement is not only recorded in consumption or income dimensions, but also in respect of non-income indicators. Our multidimensional poverty measures confirm this. Fourth, there is still considerable spatial variation in extreme poverty. There is a sign that new spatial pockets of extreme distress due to climate change threats having implications for urban extreme poverty--are emerging that merit policy attention. Fifth, there are multiple factors that led to faster extreme poverty reduction. The story of movers out of extreme poverty confirms the general findings in the literature about the importance of multiple routes for poverty reduction based on human capital, physical asset accumulation, occupational diversification, and outward orientation (remittance).

What explains the rise of the poorest? Factors include agriculture labour market tightening leading to higher farm wages; expanded scope for year-round jobs in diversified and mechanised agriculture and off-farm activities; rise of landless as new class of cultivators in the land tenancy market accounting for about 50% of the total rented-in land in agriculture and that too in increasingly favourable (cash) rental terms; greater access to financial markets (including MFIs and mobile financial services); improved rural connectivity and greater access to capital fostering job creation in the rural non-farm sector, and, last but not the least, increased access to domestic and international migration. To these one needs to add better access to primary and secondary education leading to improved occupational choice as well as greater access to public social protection programmes.

## **3. Rural Livelihood Dynamics in the Haor Region of Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus (Team leader), Binayak Sen, Mohammad Mainul Hoque, Md. Zabid Iqbal, Mohammad Riaz Uddin, Mitali Parvin, Kashfi Rayan, Md. Shahadat Hossain, Ishmam Rayan Haq and Abdullah Al Mamun*

*Sponsor: Special Research Project (SRP), Planning Commission*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### *Abstract*

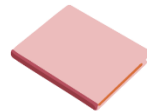
Policymakers define backward areas for different administrative reasons, such as geographic allocation safety net benefits, etc. Generally, backward areas cover 3 distinct types: (i) haors, baors, beels, (ii) chars and coastal area, and (iii) hilly areas of the country. These areas are backward on multiple counts: adverse geo-climatic conditions, poor or no physical infrastructures and human capital, and vulnerability to shocks, etc. For the purpose of this study, backward area would be limited to the haor region in northeastern Bangladesh.

The haor region in north-eastern Bangladesh forms part of the Meghna basin. It covers about 43% of areas in the 7 haor dominant districts and 6% of the country's total area. Crop Agriculture (mainly Boro rice) and fisheries are the main economic activities in haor areas. Crop (rice) production accounts for 27% of the country's total Boro production and 15% of the country's total rice production. Over the last couple of years, the haor region contributed to national GDP at around 6-8%. Despite this contribution to total national GDP, the poverty rate is relatively higher in some haor districts compared to national average (national average: 24.3% vis-à-vis Kishoreganj: 53.5% and Netrokona: 34.0%, Source: BBS 2017). Food insecurity in haor area is higher compared to other areas. For example, in Sunamganj food insecurity status is at the highest level due to the poor status of nutrition (FAO and GoB IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Situation, 2016). Pre-monsoon (end of March and beginning of April) flash flood negatively affects harvesting of Boro and thereby is the main cause of income and/or employment loss that leads to poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, and short-term out-migration. Estimates of poverty and other socio-economic welfare indicators are mainly based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and data is generated every 4-5 years. It would have been easier to design effective policies to improve the poorer socio-economic conditions of haor population if their conditions are known at a shorter period of time. Thus, there is a need for the estimates of short-term or seasonal changes in the socio-economic conditions of haor populations.



# Chapter 3

# Publications



## C. Publications

The researchers of BIDS publish their research findings on a regular basis in national and international journals. There are all peer-reviewed journals, including The Bangladesh Development Studies (BDS) and বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা (Bangladesh Unnayan Samikkhya or BUS). Besides these, BIDS has several publication routes for disseminating its own research:

- (a) Research Reports,
- (b) Research Monographs,
- (c) Working Papers,
- (d) Book Chapters,
- (e) Books, and
- (f) Discussion Papers

We also publish Public Lectures given by eminent national and foreign scholars.

The extensive list of our publications during the stipulated time is categorised under ten thematic sections. Note that this list doesn't include the numerous Op-Eds contributed by BIDS researchers during this reporting period. The following tables and matrix summarise our academic publications from January 2021 to June 2024:

<b>Journal Articles</b>	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Publications</b>
1. Macroeconomic Issues	4
2. Agriculture and Rural Development	10
3. Industry and Trade	10
4. Human Resources	12
5. Population and Health	36
6. Environmental Issues	7
7. Gender Issues	4
8. Poverty and Inequality	10
9. Governance	1
10. Miscellaneous	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Research Reports</b>	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Publications</b>
1. Macroeconomic Issues	1
2. Industry and Trade	3
3. Human Resources	3
4. Population and Health	2
5. Poverty and Inequality	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Book Chapters</b>	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Publications</b>
1. Macroeconomic Issues	16
2. Industry and Trade	6
3. Human Resources	2
4. Population and Health	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>Books</b>	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Publications</b>
1. Macroeconomic Issues	2
2. Agriculture and Rural Development	1
3. Poverty and Inequality	2
4. Miscellaneous	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

## I. Journal Articles

### 1. Macroeconomic Issues

#### 1. Stylized Facts of the Statistical Properties of Risk and Return of the Dhaka Stock Exchange: 1991-2015

*Author(s):* Kazi Iqbal and Sibana Shahana

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Iqbal, K., & Shahana, S. (2019). Stylized facts of the statistical properties of risk and return of the Dhaka Stock Exchange: 1991-2015. *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 83-109. <https://doi.org/10.57138/RQWJ2951>

#### *Abstract*

While the role of financial market, particularly the stock market, in promoting economic growth through efficient allocation of capital is well recognised, the investors of the developing economies have little knowledge about the return and risk of the markets they operate in. To this end, we compile a security level historical data for the period 1991-2015 for Dhaka Stock Exchange and identify some important stylised facts about the return and risk. Descriptive statistics of disaggregated stock data suggest that while the daily rate of returns swing up and down over decades, the volatility tends to increase over time. Manufacturing stocks outperform other sectors both in return and volatility. Similarly, older stocks earn better return with lesser risks than the newer stocks. Several standard tests confirm that the distribution of daily returns is not normal; it does not follow random walk and the market is not efficient. Overall, there is a risk return trade-off and this trade-off varies significantly with sectors, age and quality of the stocks.

#### 2. Aggregation, Asymmetry and Common Factors for Bangladesh's Exchange Rate-Trade Balance Relation

*Author(s):* Rabeya Khatoon, Md Emran Hasan, Md Wahid Ferdous Ibon, Shahidul Islam, Jeenat Mehareen, Rubaiya Murshed, Md Nahid Ferdous Pabon, Md. Jillur Rahman, Musharrat Shabnam Shuchi

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Khatoon, R., Hasan, M.E., Ibon, M.W.F. et al. (2022). Aggregation, asymmetry, and common factors for Bangladesh's exchange rate-trade balance relation. *Empirical Economics*, 62, 2739-2770. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00181-021-02127-y>

### *Abstract*

We present an application of the recent CS-ARDL methodology in the context of a country's trade balance–exchange rate relationship. The trade balance is expected to deteriorate first before improving in response to currency depreciation and vice versa, widely known as the J-curve effect satisfying the Marshall–Lerner condition in the long run. Combining bilateral and aggregate analysis in one setting by constructing specific panel data with one reference country, we find that aggregate analysis is sensitive to our allowance for heterogeneity. Estimates using the aggregate time series data show evidence favoring the J-curve relation, whereas the aggregate analysis resulting from the panel time series data shows that currency appreciation improves trade balance in Bangladesh in the long run, which goes against the Marshall–Lerner condition. With the reference of the existing commodity-level literature, we argue that this atypical scenario lines with the realities of a 'small' economy like Bangladesh, where her exporters attempt to maintain their market share with some government support. The study provides essential policy suggestions by identifying the significant.

### **3. Impacts of the Russia-Ukraine War Price Shocks on the Bangladesh Economy: A General Equilibrium Analysis**

*Author(s): Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury, Paul A. Dorosh, Rizwana Islam and Angga Pradesha*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Chowdhury, Tahreen Tahrima; Dorosh, Paul A.; Islam, Rizwana; and Pradesha, Angga. 2023. **Impacts of the Russia-Ukraine War price shocks on the Bangladesh economy: A general equilibrium analysis. *IFPRI Discussion Paper* 2182.** Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.136691>

### *Abstract*

The spike in global commodity prices caused by the Russia-Ukraine war has had major adverse impacts on many developing countries, including Bangladesh, that still depend heavily on energy and food imports. Although the Bangladesh economy has rebounded after the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest global trade shock has threatened to increase food insecurity and poverty. This study utilises the Bangladesh RIAPA economy wide model to assess the impact of increases in global commodity prices and explores potential policy interventions to reduce negative impacts. Simulation results show that increases in international commodity prices create a GDP loss of 0.36 percent and an increase of three million in the number of poor (mainly rural poor). Energy price shocks account for most of this decline in real GDP (0.28 percent). The fertiliser subsidy helps spur agriculture production which leads to an increase in crop GDP by 0.78 percent and total agricultural GDP by 0.43 percent.

Changes in policy could help mitigate the effects of these price shocks. In particular, petroleum subsidies would help increase production in both agriculture and services, leading to a 0.3 percent increase in household consumption, considerably more than the gain under a targeted cash transfer policy of equal cost. However, given that the petroleum subsidy does not specifically target the poor, it only reduces poverty by a fraction of what a targeted cash transfer would. Moreover, as illustrated by the experiences of other countries, increases in a fuel subsidy, once introduced, are likely to be very difficult to reverse. This suggests that if the major policy goal is to reduce poverty, a direct cash transfer would be more effective than the other policy options considered here. Combining these policies, however, would be even more effective than any single intervention, reducing poverty incidence by around 2.5 million people, and thereby preventing nearly all of the potential increase in poverty resulting from global price shocks.

#### **4. Does Fuel Pricing Affect Males and Females Differently? Evidence from Kerosene Using Households in Rural Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury and K.A.S. Murshid*

*Year of Publication: February 2022*

*Citation: Chowdhury, T. T., & Murshid, K. A. S. (2020). Does fuel pricing affect males and females differently? Evidence from kerosene using households in rural Bangladesh. *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 43(3&4), 37-75. <https://doi.org/10.57138/PUIP5094>*

#### ***Abstract***

Energy sector reform, particularly the pricing of fuel and its gender-differentiated impacts, is rarely studied in the literature on energy and gender. This empirical study examines whether energy pricing has differential consequences for men and women with regard to kerosene oil use in rural Bangladesh. Specifically, the variables under focus are the duration of the study, duration of night-time leisure and time spent on income-generating activities. A household survey with 630 kerosene using rural households has been conducted in eight districts of Bangladesh. Apart from OLS estimation, we also use IV to address the endogeneity embedded in the model. The study finds that higher kerosene prices have a gender-differentiated effect on study duration, night-time leisure duration and time spent on income-generating activities in the context of household use of lighting fuel. Females are more adversely affected by higher kerosene prices in terms of study duration and night-time leisure hours. The effort to offset these losses by increasing effort on income-generating activities is less successful for women than men.



## 2. Agriculture and Rural Development

### 5. Farm-Nonfarm Labour Mobility in Rural Bangladesh: Intersectoral Shift or Intergenerational Occupational Choice?

*Author:* Paul Dorosh, Binayak Sen, Joanna van Asselt and Mansur Ahmed

*Year of Publication:* 2024

*Citation:* Dorosh, P., Sen, B., Asselt, J. V., & Ahmed, M. (2024). **Farm-Nonfarm labour mobility in rural Bangladesh: Intersectoral shift of intergenerational occupational choice?** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 45(1&2), 27-53. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57138/XBD P9262>

#### *Abstract*

The paper argues that much of the farm-nonfarm labour mobility in rural Bangladesh is, in nature, an intergenerational occupational choice-induced change rather than a sectoral shift within the current generation. Bangladesh has a large share of youth (aged 15-29 years) in the labour force, and it experienced a major structural shift in employment between 1995 and 2010 as agricultural employment fell from 51.4 per cent to 42.3 per cent. Much of this shift has been due to changes in youth employment, as youth employment in agriculture fell from 49.8 per cent to 33.1 per cent. The cohort analysis (pseudo-panel) shows that the reduction in the share of the male youth population working in agriculture is due mainly to a sharp reduction in the percentage of youth who start out in agriculture rather than a shift by individuals from agricultural to non-agricultural employment during their lifetime. Analysis of correlates of the nonfarm orientation of rural youth indicates the importance of gender, human capital, access to electricity, proximity to cities, and migration opportunities. The results suggest the importance of supporting rural industry and service activities to meet the future demand for jobs for the rural youth.

### 6. Moving out of Agriculture in Bangladesh: The Role of Farm, Non-farm and Mixed Households

*Author:* Binayak Sen, Paul Dorosh and Mansur Ahmed

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Sen, B., Dorosh, P., & Ahmed, M. (2021). **Moving out of agriculture in Bangladesh: The role of farm, non-farm and mixed households.** *World Development*, 144, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105479>

#### *Abstract*

This paper explores patterns of exit from agriculture in rural Bangladesh by utilising nationally representative repeat cross-section and pseudo-panel survey data. Our analysis focuses at the rural household level where we focus on three types of households: (a) “pure” agriculture households in which all workers are employed only in agriculture; (b) “mixed” households in

which some members remain in the farm sector and others pursue nonfarm activities, and (c) rural “nonfarm” households who are exclusively dependent on non-agricultural employment.

We find that non-farm orientation has increased over the 2000 to 2013 period, and that nonfarm households rely more on salaried employment and less on unpaid work. Pseudo-panel data based on age-cohort of household heads from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) of 2000 and 2013 also shows a notable increase in mixed households formed by diversification of activities of formerly farm-only households. Employment patterns of younger households are changing especially rapidly: the share of mixed households among households with heads age 15–30 years increased from 17% to 30% in this period. Proximity to urban areas also is associated with a rapid shift in household employment patterns over time. In areas less than 2.5 kms from cities, the share of pure farm households fell from 46.5 to 30.3 percent of households, while the share of mixed households rose from 14.8 to 33.7 percent.

Overall, our findings confirm a process of transformation involving a shift from predominantly agriculture employment to increased non-farm employment. We find that the structural transformation considered does not necessarily involve large-scale permanent migration to cities. Rather, much of the shift out of agriculture occurs within rural areas with especially rapid change happening in areas of close proximity to cities.

## **7. Graduation from Subsistence to Commercial Aquaculture: Evidence on Household Welfare**

*Author:* Badrun Nessa Ahmed

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Ahmed, B. N. (2022). **Does Graduation from subsistence to commercialization aquaculture affect households’ Welfare? A counterfactual analysis.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(3&4), 1-32.

### *Abstract*

This paper investigates the possibilities of subsistence homestead aquaculture producers to commercialise using a two-wave panel data of 518 households in Bangladesh. A binary endogenous switching regression model is applied to explore opportunities and constraints of commercialisation and a counterfactual analysis to estimate the effects of commercialisation on income and poverty. The study finds that while there is good potential for commercialisation, only a few households do that. Households who engage in commercial aquaculture achieve higher per capita income and are less likely to be poor. The study also finds that subsistence fish farmers who transform towards commercialised producers tend to receive support from non-government organisations, are members of fish farmers’ associations, and have better access to local fish markets. A major constraint to aquaculture transformation is the lack of government attention to the subsistence-oriented homestead fish producers, thus forgoing a huge potential for reducing poverty and increasing welfare. The paper suggests that fisheries extension services should develop and implement a specifically-targeted aquaculture commercialisation program in cooperation with the agricultural extension.

## 8. Agricultural Information through Mobile Phone: Evidence on Farm Household Welfare in Bangladesh

*Author (s):* Taznoore Samina Khanam

*Year of Publication:* 2022

*Citation:* Khanam, T. S. **Agricultural information through mobile phone: Evidence on farm Household Welfare in Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(1&2). 59-76. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57138/BPFN6420>

### *Abstract*

This paper assesses the determinants of access to agricultural information through mobile phones and examines its impact on welfare using two rounds of household panel data. A control function approach with correlated random effects has been used in this analysis to control possible endogeneity of access to agricultural information. The empirical results show that access to agricultural information through mobile phones is positively correlated with yield, asset holdings, and own rice consumption. We disaggregate results by climate-risk vulnerable groups to explore whether the impact of access to information has heterogeneous effects. The results reveal that access to agricultural information through mobile phones strongly impacts climate-risk vulnerable households. Overall, increasing access to agricultural information through mobile phones is critical for food security, especially for smallholder farmers who live in climatically stress-prone areas.

## 9. Factors Affecting the Adoption of Stress-Tolerant Rice Varieties: Evidence from Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Taznoore Samina Khanam

*Year of Publication:* May 2023

*Citation:* Khanam, T. S. (2021). **Factors affecting the adoption of stress-tolerant rice varieties.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(3&4), 33-56. <https://doi.org/10.57138/VQFL9457>

### *Abstract*

Climate change, through exposure to submergence, salinity, and droughts, affects crop production and leads to food insecurity, particularly in developing countries. Various climate-stress-tolerant rice varieties have been developed in many countries in the world to mitigate climate-related production losses. Despite the benefits of stress-tolerant rice varieties (STRVs), adoption rates are still low. This paper uses panel data from Bangladesh to analyse the factors influencing the adoption of STRVs. A random-effects probit model with the Mundlak approach is used to control for the farmer- and plot-level heterogeneities and to avoid the incidental parameters problem. The study finds that smallholder farmers are more inclined to adopt STRVs,

proving that this technology is related to a type of adaptation in the form of adoption. The main drivers for adopting STRVs are information and knowledge transferred by extension workers, sharing knowledge by membership in an organisation, and learning from peers. Policy measures such as providing capacity enhancement activities, strengthening social capacity and local institutions, and implementing a site-specific policy are suggested to encourage the adoption of STRVs in climate-stress-prone areas.

## **10. Crop Diversification, Dietary Diversity and Nutrition: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh**

*Author(s):* Mohammad Riaz Uddin

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Uddin, M. R. (2019). **Crop diversification, dietary diversity and nutrition: Evidence from rural Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 111-133. <https://doi.org/10.57138/WPEC5736>

### ***Abstract***

Using two rounds of nationally representative Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS 2011-12 and 2015) data and Fixed Effects model, this study explores the linkages among household crop diversification, household dietary diversity and per capita nutrients intake of households. This study finds that households with higher crop diversification are more likely to diversify their consumption. In addition, there is a significant association between dietary diversity and per capita intake of calorie, protein, iron, zinc and vitamin A among farm households. Therefore, increasing crop diversification helps increase dietary diversity and dietary diversity, in turn, would decrease macro and micro nutrient deficiencies in Bangladesh.

## **11. Cattle Population in India: Do Institutions Matter?**

*Author:* Kazi Iqbal, Kazi Ali Toufique and Md. Wahid Ferdous Ibon

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Iqbal, K., Toufique, K. A., & Ibon, M. W. F. (2020). **Cattle population in India.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 43(1&2), 63-78. <https://doi.org/10.57138/SHZE1475>

### ***Abstract***

We use Indian livestock census data to show that states with more stringent slaughter laws perform better in terms of cattle population growth than states where slaughter acts are more enabling. We also show that the growth in cattle population is caused by an increase in female crossbred cattle and more so in the states where slaughter rules are very restrictive. Despite a complete ban on cow slaughter in some states, they do not show any balance between male and female cows. These results are non-intuitive and have strong political and policy implications but require further investigation.

## 12. Institutions and Rate of Returns of Cattle: Evidence from Bangladesh

*Author(s): Kazi Iqbal, Kazi Ali Toufique and Md Wahid Ferdous Ibon*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

*Citation:* Iqbal, K., Toufique, K. A., & Ibon, M. W. F. (2022). **Institutions and the rate of return on cattle: Evidence from Bangladesh.** *Asian Development Review*, 39(01), 281-313.

### *Abstract*

This study extends the recent debate on the rate of return on cattle rearing in India, triggered by Anagol, Etang, and Karlan (2017) and followed by others, to the Bangladeshi context and finds that the apparent paradox of widespread cattle rearing despite negative returns in India is absent in Bangladesh. We use a nationally representative two-year panel data for rural Bangladesh and find that the average and marginal returns on raising cows and bullocks are positive and high in both 2011 and 2015. We show that appreciation of the value of cattle is the major contributing factor to positive returns. The existence of cattle markets where cattle can be freely traded for slaughter, milk production, or for any other purpose—which is constrained to various degrees in India—is the key to high and positive returns in Bangladesh.

## 13. বাংলাদেশে ক্ষুদ্র কৃষকদের টিকে থাকার সম্ভাবনা কতটুকু?

*লেখক: এম এ সাত্তার মন্ডল*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০*

### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

বাংলাদেশে কৃষক পরিবারের প্রায় পুরোটাই ক্ষুদ্র ও প্রান্তিক চাষি। এরা আবাদ করে মোট জমির ষাট শতাংশের ওপর। খামারের গড় আয়তন হ্রাস, ক্রমবর্ধমান খণ্ডায়ন ও কৃষিকাজে নগদ অর্থের প্রয়োজন বেড়ে যাওয়ায় ক্ষুদ্র কৃষকদের অনেকেই টিকে থাকতে পারবেনা। যারা টিকে থাকবে তাদের উৎপাদন হবে অবদক্ষ। ফলে বাণিজ্যিক কৃষির রূপান্তর প্রক্রিয়া বিলম্বিত হবে। এর পাশাপাশি একটি ক্ষুদ্র কর্পোরেট কৃষি ব্যবস্থা উদীয়মান, যদিও তার ঝোঁক অখান্য ফসল আবাদের দিকেই বেশি। এতে ধান্য শস্যভিত্তিক খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার বিষয়টি প্রশ্নের সম্মুখীন হতে পারে।

## 14. রঞ্জিন মাছে সম্ভাবনাময় বাংলাদেশ: ক্রেতা ও বিক্রেতার অভিজ্ঞতা

*লেখক: বদরুন নেছা আহমেদ*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০*

### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

আমাদের দেশে রঞ্জিন মাছের চাহিদা দিন দিন খুবই জনপ্রিয় হয়ে উঠেছে। বেশিরভাগ রঞ্জিন মাছের ক্রেতার সাধারণত তাদের বাড়িতে এবং অফিসে এসকল মাছ রাখে যাতে করে সেখানে একটি ভিন্ন পরিবেশ সৃষ্টি হয়। রঞ্জিন মাছ বিশ্বব্যাপী একুরিয়াম মাছ নামেও পরিচিত। রঞ্জিন মাছের ব্যবসায় দ্রুত মুনাফা অর্জন করা যায়। যদিও প্রাথমিকভাবে এই ব্যবসায়টি

শখের বসে শুরু করা হয়, পরবর্তীতে এটি ক্ষুদ্র আকারের মাছচাষের প্রচেষ্টা হিসাবে পরিবর্তিত রূপ লাভ করে। বাংলাদেশে রঞ্জিন মাছের চাষ শুরু হয় ১৯৮০ সালের দিকে। ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার কারণে ঢাকার কাটাবনে আশির দশকের মাঝামাঝি কোন একটা সময়ে রঞ্জিন মাছের বিক্রি শুরু হয়। বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন শহরগুলিতেও রঞ্জিন মাছের ব্যবসার একটি ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদা রয়েছে। কিন্তু এই খাত এবং এর অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক সুযোগ-সুবিধা সমন্বিত গবেষণা এখন পর্যন্ত খুব কমই হয়েছে। আমাদের দেশে রঞ্জিন মাছ চাষ এবং এর বিপণন একটি উদীয়মান খাত। তথাপিও অসচেতনতা, জ্ঞানের অভাব, সরকারি-বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের পৃষ্ঠপোষকতার অভাবের কারণে এই খাতটি এখনো অবহেলিত অবস্থায় রয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ ইতিমধ্যে মাছ উৎপাদনে স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণতা অর্জন করেছে। বর্তমানে রঞ্জিন মাছ ও জলজ পন্য ব্যবসার ভবিষ্যৎ সম্ভাবনা খুবই উজ্জ্বল। সম্ভাবনাময় এই মৎস্য খাতকে উন্নত করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা উচিত। প্রতি বছর অপরিচিত ও অবহেলিত দেশীয় রঞ্জিন মাছ রপ্তানি করে আমাদের দেশ প্রচুর পরিমাণ বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জন করতে পারে বলে বাড়তি যত্ন সহকারে এই খাতটিকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া উচিত বলে এইখাতের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলে মনে করেন। বাংলাদেশ সরকারের উচিত রঞ্জিন মাছের সম্ভাবনাময় এই খাতের বিকাশের জন্য একটি সুগঠিত মহাপরিকল্পনা তৈরি করা এবং তার যথাযথ বাস্তবায়ন নিশ্চিত করা।

### 3. Industry and Trade

#### 15. Is the Public Sector Wage Premium Real? Findings from Bangladesh

*Author: Shahidul Islam. Md. Emran Hasan*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Islam, S., & Hasan, E. (2020). **Is the public sector wage premium real? Findings from Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Development Studies**, 43(1&2), 35-62. <https://doi.org/10.57138/LUQL3836>

#### *Abstract*

This paper argues that the study of wage gaps between public and private sector employees is sensitive to the selection of the sample. In the context of Bangladesh, Labour Force Surveys is a dominant source of employment-related data, which is disproportionately inflated with large pool of informal sector employees. Since government jobs are highly formal, the studies on wage differentials should select the groups that are as much comparable as possible on the question of formality. However, employing Oaxaca-Blinder mean decomposition method and Melly quantile counterfactual decomposition method, we find a decreasing trend in public sector wage premium as we impose more restrictions to make the sectors fitting formal. The wage differential even disappears in the entire restriction sample, and it is slightly biased towards private in the top quantile only. Therefore, we can conclude that the superiority of the public sector job does not come from wage compensation but non-monetary issues, with a strong implication for labour markets in Bangladesh.

## 16. COVID-19 and SMEs: Early Evidence on Impact and Coping Strategies

*Author(s): Kazi Iqbal, Md. Nahid Ferdous Pabon and Tanveer Mahmood*

*Year of Publication: Forthcoming*

*Citation: Bangladesh Development Studies*

### *Abstract*

In this initial stage of the COVID-19 induced pandemic, most governments in the world, particularly in developing countries, are faced with the challenges of informed policy making because the evidence is short in supply. Early evidence on the pandemic helps inform the policymakers set priorities and respond quickly and efficiently. To this end, we generate early micro-evidence of the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and their workers, given the importance of the SME sector in Bangladesh. Using a pre-COVID survey of BIDS as a benchmark, we interviewed 375 enterprises and 360 workers during the lockdown in April-May 2020. Our results show that the owners predicted a two-third reduction in revenue in 2020 compared to 2019. This predicted reduction is lower for the larger sectors. The immediate loss of the SMEs stemmed from a number of sources: i) loss of sales due to shut-down of production, ii) unsold products in inventory, iii) unpaid payments, iv) running operating costs (wages, utilities, etc.), and v) perishable and un-storable raw materials. Due to disruptions in the supply chain, owners worry that they will not be able to resume full production even a month after the shutdown is lifted. Almost 90 percent of the owners fear that if the shutdown continues for three months at a stretch, they might have to either wind up their business or survive with huge losses. About 98 percent of the workers got paid in March 2020, either partially or fully. A large proportion of workers – about two-thirds – do not think they will be paid in May 2020. About three-fourths of the SMEs were aware of the incentive package announced by the government. The survival of this sector critically hinges on how effectively the government's incentive packages reach the most affected SMEs.

## 17. MSMEs Distress in COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: An Analysis of the Stimulus Package Design and Implementation Options

*Author: Monzur Hossain*

*Year of publication: 2022*

*Citation: Hossain, M. (2022). MSMEs Distress in COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: An Analysis of the Stimulus Package Design and Implementation Options. International Journal of SME Development, Issue 15, 2022, SME Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

### *Abstract*

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) faced the worst hurdles during the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. To support the recovery of losses, the Bangladesh

government declared a credit-based stimulus package of Tk. 200000 million in the middle of 2020 to support employment and working capital of MSMEs. The government incurred a 5% interest subsidy out of a 9% interest. Given the poor access of MSMEs to bank finance due to stringent rules and the lack of a database of MSMEs, the bank-dependent stimulus would not likely be successful. To this end, this paper provides an estimate of the projected number of MSMEs in 2020 using the inter-census and available survey data that could help outline a reasonable stimulus package for this sector. Furthermore, it highlights two financing strategies that could help reach out to the most distressing MSMEs involving banks and micro-finance institutions.

## 18. বাংলাদেশের ওষুধ শিল্প: সমস্যা, সম্ভাবনা ও চ্যালেঞ্জ

*লেখকবৃন্দ: নাজনীন আহমেদ, রিজওয়ানা ইসলাম ও নাহিদ ফেরদৌস পাবন*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২১*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৮ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৭*

### সারসংক্ষেপ

বাংলাদেশের ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল শিল্প রপ্তানি সম্ভাবনাপূর্ণ একটি শিল্প যা দেশের অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি, কর্মসংস্থান এবং অভ্যন্তরীণ ওষুধের চাহিদার ৯৮% সরবরাহের জন্য অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। ২০১৮ সালে এই বাজারের মূল্যায়ন ছিল ২৩৬.৪ বিলিয়ন টাকা (USD ২.৮ বিলিয়ন) যার মধ্যে স্থানীয় কোম্পানিগুলির প্রাধান্য রয়েছে। এই গবেষণায় ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম এবং বরিশালের ২৬টি ওষুধ কোম্পানির পরিমাণগত ও গুণগত তথ্য অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে এবং মেডিকেল প্রতিনিধিদের ও মূল তথ্যদাতাদের সাক্ষাৎকারের মাধ্যমে এই খাতের সুযোগ ও চ্যালেঞ্জ বিশ্লেষণ করা হয়েছে। এই খাতটি বাহ্যিক প্রতিযোগিতা থেকে সুরক্ষিত এবং এর রপ্তানি বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে FY2018-19 সালে \$১২৯.৯৫ মিলিয়নে পৌঁছেছে। বেশিরভাগ কাঁচামাল ভারত এবং চীন থেকে আমদানি করা হয়। স্ফায়ার, ইনসেপ্টা এবং বেক্সিমকো-এর মতো শীর্ষস্থানীয় কোম্পানিগুলি ব্র্যান্ডেড জেনেরিক ওষুধ উৎপাদন করে। এই গবেষণার ফলাফল লক্ষ্য করতে গিয়ে দেখা গেছে যে, এই সেক্টরটি একটি বৈচিত্র্যময় কর্মী নিয়োগ করে যারা প্রধানত চিকিৎসা এবং বিক্রয় প্রতিনিধি। এছাড়াও, বেশিরভাগ ওষুধ কোম্পানি, বিশেষ করে বড় কোম্পানিগুলি উৎপাদন প্রক্রিয়া উন্নত করতে যন্ত্রপাতি আপগ্রেড করেছে; প্রয়োজনীয় ওষুধের মূল্যের তারতম্য আরও ভালভাবে পর্যবেক্ষণ করার প্রয়োজন; কোম্পানিগুলি বিপণনে উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিমাণ ব্যয় করে এবং প্রায়ই, তারা ডাক্তার এবং ফার্মেসির জন্য প্রণোদনা প্রদান করে, যা ভোক্তাদের প্রদত্ত দামের উপর প্রভাব ফেলে। বাংলাদেশ ২০৩২ সাল পর্যন্ত TRIPS ওষুধের সুবিধা উপভোগ করছে, যা পেটেন্টকৃত ওষুধের বিপরীত প্রকৌশল করতে সহায়ক ভূমিকা পালন করে। এই শিল্পের চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং সুযোগসমূহ বিশ্লেষণ করতে গিয়ে দেখা যায়, বেশিরভাগ কোম্পানি এলডিসি থেকে উত্তরণ হওয়ায় এই শিল্পের জন্য সম্ভাব্য ঝুঁকি হিসেবে দেখছে। স্বাস্থ্যসেবা ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি, জনসংখ্যার পরিবর্তন, রপ্তানি বৃদ্ধি এবং প্রযুক্তিগত অগ্রগতি এই শিল্পের সুযোগ ও সম্ভাবনার দ্বারকে উন্মোচন করে এবং শক্তিশালী ব্যাকওয়ার্ড লিঙ্কেজের অভাব, বিপণন এবং রপ্তানি সমস্যা এবং এলডিসি গ্র্যাজুয়েশনের সম্ভাব্য প্রভাব এই শিল্পের জন্য সম্ভাব্য ঝুঁকি হিসেবে গণ্য হয়। এই শিল্পের প্রবৃদ্ধির সম্ভাবনাকে কাজে লাগাতে, খাতটিকে মূল্য সংযোজন, দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন এবং সরকার সমর্থিত গবেষণা ও উন্নয়নের প্রয়োজন। এক্ষেত্রে, স্বচ্ছ বিপণন কৌশল এবং উদ্ভাবনী পণ্য প্রচার উৎসাহিত করার পাশাপাশি সমর্থনকারী সরকারী নীতি গ্রহণ করা উচিত।



## 19. বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি ও এসএমই খাতের উন্নয়নঃ একটি পর্যালোচনা

লেখকবৃন্দ: মনজুর হোসেন

প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২১

তথ্যসূত্র: বঙ্গবন্ধু ও বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক দর্শন - মুজিববর্ষ উপলক্ষ্যে বিশেষ সংখ্যা, *International Journal of SME Development*

### সারসংক্ষেপ

ক্ষুদ্র, কুটির ও মাঝারি শিল্প দেশের কর্মসংস্থান, দারিদ্র দূরীকরণ এবং সর্বোপরি গ্রামীণ অর্থনীতির উন্নয়নে একটি বিশেষ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রেখে চলেছে। তারই ধারাবাহিকতায় ক্ষুদ্র, কুটির ও মাঝারি শিল্প আজ বাংলাদেশের উচ্চ অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। গত এক দশকে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি বার্ষিক প্রায় ৭ শতাংশ হারে প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জন করেছে। ২০১৫ সালে বাংলাদেশ নিম্ন মধ্যম আয়ের দেশের মর্যাদা লাভ করেছে। সপ্তম পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনার শেষ বছর ২০১৯ সালে ৮.২ শতাংশ হারে জিডিপি প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জিত হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ ২০২৪ সাল নাগাদ স্বল্পোন্নত দেশের কাতার থেকে বেরিয়ে আসার জন্য সব ধরনের মান অর্জন করেছে। মধ্যম আয়ের দেশে উন্নীত হওয়ার জন্য ২০৩০ সালের একটি লক্ষ্যমাত্রা নির্ধারণ করেছে। আর তাই অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক, টেকসই ও অভিযোজনসক্ষম প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনে সক্ষম অর্থনৈতিক পরিবেশ প্রয়োজন। উচ্চ অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জন ও কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টির মূল হাতিয়ার শিল্পায়ন। অনেকের মতে বাংলাদেশের এ চমকপ্রদ প্রবৃদ্ধি অর্জনের মূলে রয়েছে ক্রমবর্ধমান কৃষিবহির্ভূত অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ড। বাংলাদেশে গত দুই দশকে অভূতপূর্ব অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতি সাধিত হয়েছে। তা সত্ত্বেও দেশের শিল্প ভিত্তি এখনো শক্ত কাঠামোর উপর দাঁড়াতে পারেনি দুর্বল অবকাঠামো ও সহায়ক ব্যবসা পরিবেশের অনুপস্থিতির কারণে। এসব প্রতিবন্ধকতাকে বিবেচনায় নিয়ে এসএমই খাতের উন্নয়নে সহায়ক পরিবেশ সৃষ্টির জন্য যথাযথ কৌশল গ্রহণ করা প্রয়োজন। আর তা বৃহৎ শিল্পের জন্য উৎপাদন নেটওয়ার্ক সৃষ্টিতে সহায়তা করবে। দেশের সামগ্রিক অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে এসএমই খাতের গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে দ্বিমত না থাকলেও এসএমই কর্মকাণ্ড বিষয়ে রিপোর্টিং ও পরিবীক্ষণের (মনিটরিং) জন্য যথাযথ প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ব্যবস্থা না থাকার কারণে অর্থনীতিতে এসএমই খাতের অবদান ও গুরুত্ব (জিডিপি, রপ্তানি ও অন্যান্য অর্থনৈতিক সূচকে) সঠিকভাবে দৃশ্যমান হচ্ছে না।

## 20. Sustainable Financing Strategies for the SMEs: Two Alternative Models

*Author(s): Monzur Hossain, Naoyuki Yoshino and Kenmei Tsubota*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

*Citation: Hossain, M., Yoshino, N., & Tsubota, K. (2023). Sustainable financing strategies for the SMEs: Two alternative Models. Sustainability, MDPI 15(11), 1-16.*

### Abstract

A sustainable financing strategy for SMEs should aim to enhance a low-cost collateral-free supply of loans to SMEs with good track records of repayments to banks. In this paper, we suggest two alternative financing models for SMEs that address certain borrowing constraints of SMEs. First, the model incorporates institutional mechanisms involving the government, banks, and SMEs. The strategy employs a two-pronged approach: (i) the government enhances the supply of loanable funds to banks, and (ii) identifies good SME borrowers through skills development programs and introduces them to banks. This model will reduce default risk and allow banks to offer lower-interest and collateral-free credit to SMEs, thereby improving their access to finance and performance. Second, the model could be extended to accommodate digital finance using a data-driven credit risk score of the borrowers to reduce banks' default risks and

transaction costs with or without government funds. The proposed model could resolve the moral hazard and selection bias problems. Our proposed models are based on a public-private partnership approach and therefore could solve certain borrowing constraints of SMEs. Our empirical results support the model outcomes and therefore are consistent with the predictions of our theoretical models.

## 21. Optimal Branching Strategy, Local Financial Development, and SMEs Performance

*Author(s): Monzur Hossain, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary and Naoyuki Yoshino*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Hossain, M., Taghizadeh-Hesary, F., & Yoshino, N., (2021). **Optimal branching strategy, local financial development, and SMEs' performance.** *Economic Modelling*, 96, 421-432.

### *Abstract*

This paper examines whether and to what extent development of the local-level financial sector improves SMEs' performances. While only a handful of studies examines the relationship between local financial development and firm growth, no theoretical basis has been provided in those studies to understand transmission channels and instruments through which local financial development works in favor of firm growth. This paper attempts to fill that gap. In a theoretical framework, this paper shows that an optimal number of bank branches in an area works as an instrument of the transmission channel from financial development to growth, which helps reduce excess liquidity and increase SMEs' access to bank credit by creating links between the demand and supply of liquidity. Banks default credit risk and cost of branch expansion determine the optimal number of branches in an area: a higher number of branches will reduce asymmetry of information about borrowers and monitoring costs, leading to lower default risks. Using new firm-level survey data of 1084 SME manufacturing firms from Bangladesh, our empirical analysis suggests that there is a threshold level of bank branches that can improve SME performance at the sub-district level. Our findings highlight the importance of potential returns to an optimal branching strategy of banks at the sub-national level that will lead to inclusive finance and growth within a country.

## 22. Local Nonfarm Opportunities and Migration Decisions: Evidence from Bangladesh

*Author(s): Kazi Iqbal, Md. Nahid Ferdous Pabon, Mohammad Rezoanul Hoque and Nahian Azad Shashi*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

**Citation:** Iqbal, K., Pabon, M. N. F., Hoque, M. R., & Shashi, N. A. (2022). **Local nonfarm opportunities and migration decisions: Evidence from Bangladesh.** *Available at SSRN at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4165708> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4165708>*

### *Abstract*

Anecdotal evidence indicates that local nonfarm opportunities slow down rural-urban migration. However, there is no robust empirical evidence on the relationship between the household nonfarm income and migration decisions. The understanding of this relationship is pivotal for rural development strategies, sustainable urban development, and policies influencing domestic migrations. In this study we provide the first robust evidence of this relationship, combining two sets of secondary data - Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016 and Economic Census 2013 of Bangladesh. Using Union (lowest administrative) level proxies of nonfarm economic activities as an instrument for household's share of nonfarm income, we show that the greater share of nonfarm household income reduces the probability that the members of the household will migrate to other districts. This effect is more pronounced for semi-rural areas such as municipalities. There is a substantial heterogeneity of impact – a higher share of nonfarm income deters migration more for income rich, land poor, and educated households.

### **23. Examining Rural Income and Employment in Bangladesh: A Case of Structural Changes in The Rural Nonfarm Sector in A Developing Country**

*Author(s): Kazi Iqbal, Md Nahid Ferdous Pabon, Md Wahid Ferdous Ibon*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Iqbal, K., Pabon, M. N. F., Hoque, M. R., & Shashi, N. A. (2024). **Non-farm activity reduces migration: Evidence from Bangladesh.** *Development Policy Review*, 42(3), 10.1111/dpr.12762.

### *Abstract*

This study uncovers some important stylised facts about the structural changes in the rural nonfarm (RNF) economy in Bangladesh for the period 2000–2016 and identifies some broad determinants. Our work uses household-level, secondary sources such as Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Labour Force Survey and Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey. We find that the positive relationship between landownership and rural income has become weaker in recent years, indicating the increasing role of nonland inputs in generating rural income. The share of RNF income in total rural income has increased substantially over the years. The increase in nonfarm income is largely driven by the nonfarm wage income of the richer households, indicating adverse distributional consequences. There are also indications for specialisation in nonfarm activities—the share of income from the ‘mixed’ sources of farm and nonfarm has decreased, and the ‘only nonfarm’ source has increased. Households tend to move away from agriculture and specialise in RNF occupations as the education level increases. Our results offer important insights into rural development strategies and contribute to the broader questions of the development discourse on the structural changes in developing countries.

## 24. Default Risk, Moral Hazard and Market-based Solution: Evidence from Renewable Energy Market in Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Monzur Hossain, Naoyuki Yoshino and Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary

*Year of Publication:* 2021

**Citation:** Hossain, M., N. Yoshino & F. Taghizadeh-Hesary, (2021). **Default risk, moral hazard and market-based solution: Evidence from renewable energy market in Bangladesh.** *Economic Modelling*, 95.

### *Abstract*

This paper analyzes a unique case of default risks and associated factors of a solar home system (SHS) program in Bangladesh, and within that context proposes a theoretical market-based solution to finance renewable energy (RE) program. The paper first develops a theoretical framework that highlights the problem of moral hazard in a subsidised government-sponsored program and then empirically assesses the default risks under the program. Using a primary survey data of 1300 households, by applying probit and cox's proportional hazard model, we find that financial constraints, higher prices, natural disaster and poor after-sales service are the factors that increase the probability of default, but in a different magnitude depending on the nature of customers. The factors that increase the probability of default for the group who are not willing to pay back (about 35% of total defaulters) are linked to adverse selection, perhaps due to moral hazard problem. The proposed market-based solution predicts that if the government uses a spillover revenue-based financing approach, it will increase rate of return for the private investors as well as efficiency of RE programs.

## 4. Human Resources

## 25. Global Participation for Shelter Strategies in Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Anwara Begum

*Year of Publication:* 2024

**Citation:** Begum, A. (2024). **Global Participation for Shelter Strategies in Bangladesh.** *Journal of Global Economy, Trade and International Business (JGETIB)*. 4(1), University of Houston, USA.

### *Abstract*

Shelter enhances human capital, assets, not merely for the individual and the household, but also for the nation. For disaster prone countries like Bangladesh, durable shelter provides security, social inclusion and citizen's rights. "Housing for All" was adopted by the Ministry of Housing in 2008, as it is indispensable for developing resilience of family units. According to the Constitutional right, article 15, Part II; the provision of the basic necessities of life, including

food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care is guaranteed. This paper attempts to bring to the fore, the need for global participation in terms of technology, financial cover for resilient, resistant and solid multi-storied housing structures for people who are beset by disaster in Bangladesh. Resilient affordable, accessible, safe housing, is now imperative. In addition, there must be implementation of programs for the resettlement of slum dwellers, the disadvantaged, the destitute and the shelter-less poor. Enhancing economic opportunities, appropriate technology, house building materials, infrastructure for rural people, nexus between NGOs, CBOs and Government creates scope for NHA to foster participation. Housing comprises an intrinsic component of a comprehensive Urban Plan and is integral to a Regional Plan, embedded-inclusive involvement. Vertical space utilization, to ease off on horizontal expansion through “Compact Settlements”, (PRSP II: 2012), and strategies of shelter in rural Bangladesh to harness development gains, is urgently needed.

## **26. Social Conditions of the Innovative Use of Smartphone: A Qualitative Investigation among Young Users in Dhaka**

*Author(s): Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Mozumder, M. G. N. (2019). **Social conditions of the innovative use of smartphone.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 136-156.

### ***Abstract***

Concerns about the adverse impacts of using smartphones are common in the literature. However, there is insufficient research on whether users make innovative use of the device. If they do, what is the nature of the creative use of smartphone? What are the social conditions that facilitate the innovative use of the smart device? This study seeks to answer these questions by investigating the use of smartphone among teenagers in Dhaka. The respondents of this research are purposively selected from the secondary schools located in five different areas of Dhaka city. Snowballing technique was used to identify the forty-four avid users. Findings of the study show that respondents employ innovative strategies of escaping supervision: Installing software, e.g., AppsLock, Gallery Lock, and CM Security; using password; and blocking parents and relatives on social media—“totally black-listed.” They also read books using Gutenberg Apps and go online to learn how to wear hijab “smartly.” Advance users heavily use smartphone to learn software programming, prepare science projects, and do photography for presenting at art exhibitions. Most importantly, the study identified three facilitating conditions of the creative use of smartphone: Friends, events, and parents. These social conditions constitute an ecosystem that facilitates the innovative dispositions of the young users of smartphones.

## **27. Employment and Unemployment amongst Educated Youth in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Analysis**

*Author(s): K A S Murshid, Tanveer Mahmood and Nahian Azad Shashi*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Murshid, K. A. S., Mahmood, T., & Shashi, N. A. (2019). **Employment and unemployment amongst educated youth in Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 1-49.

### *Abstract*

This is an exploratory exercise that attempts to identify the potential for carrying out online socio-economic surveys in Bangladesh, taking the question of “educated unemployment” as a test case. The topic is of great interest not just in Bangladesh but also throughout South Asia and beyond, where the issue is of particular concern in the context of rapid growth and rising aspirations amongst young people. Most studies depend either on own data generation or periodic national level surveys like the Labour Force Surveys (LFS). The former consists of small datasets, while the latter have a limited number of relevant variables available for analysis. Thus, easier access to larger datasets with better coverage of variables would be a highly welcome additional resource for researchers and policymakers. It was, in fact, possible to rapidly generate a large volume of data using an online platform (Facebook) for this exercise. The data validation approach used here is to compare findings with those reported in the wider literature. In general, the results obtained from the online survey appear both reasonable and defensible. The estimates of educated unemployment are consistent with other available estimates. The relationship of unemployment to education, gender and location is similar to those reported in the literature. The effect of “control” variables like family size, age and family income was as expected. In particular, family income (reflecting family influence) emerged as a powerful predictor. The study was also able to throw light on two other aspects of the labour market, including duration of unemployment and salary levels.

## **28. Age and Education Effects in the First Demographic Dividend of Bangladesh: A Decomposition Analysis**

*Author: Shahidul Islam*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Islam, S. (2019). **Age and education effects in the first demographic dividend of Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 51-81. <https://doi.org/10.57138/JVBY4225>

### *Abstract*

The paper attempts to examine the economic effect of changing age structure in Bangladesh in the demographic dividend while being cautious of aggregation bias. One of the major contributions of this paper to the estimation of the demographic dividend literature is its use of

a disaggregated dataset to produce a representative estimation of demographic dividend and compare among different education groups. The findings of the paper shed light on the debate on the sources of the first demographic dividend—whether this dividend comes from a pure age structure factor or represents an education dividend. When the economic profiles are disaggregated by levels of education, the Economic Support Ratio (ESR) decreases compared to the estimates when it only classified by ages. After estimating the first demographic dividend, the paper disaggregates the dividend into education effect and age effect using the Das Gupta decomposition technique. Results show that the size of the dividend is driven largely by age effects, while the education effect has been negative in Bangladesh for the past decades. The negative education effect indicates the aggregation bias in the estimates of support ratio if data is not disaggregated at that level.

## **29. Graduation from Subsistence to Commercial Aquaculture: Evidence on Household Welfare**

*Author(s): Badrun Nessa Ahmed*

*Year of Publication: May 2023*

**Citation:** Ahmed, B. N. (2021). **Graduation from subsistence to commercial aquaculture.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(3/4), 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.57138/FCTX5528>

### *Abstract*

This paper investigates the possibilities of subsistence homestead aquaculture producers to commercialise using a two-wave panel data of 518 households in Bangladesh. A binary endogenous switching regression model is applied to explore opportunities and constraints of commercialisation and a counterfactual analysis to estimate the effects of commercialisation on income and poverty. The study finds that while there is good potential for commercialisation, only a few households do that. Households who engage in commercial aquaculture achieve higher per capita income and are less likely to be poor. The study also finds that subsistence fish farmers who transform towards commercialised producers tend to receive support from non-government organisations, are members of fish farmers' associations, and have better access to local fish markets. A major constraint to aquaculture transformation is the lack of government attention to the subsistence-oriented homestead fish producers, thus forgoing a huge potential for reducing poverty and increasing welfare. The paper suggests that fisheries extension services should develop and implement a specifically-targeted aquaculture commercialisation program in cooperation with the agricultural extension.

### 30. Impact of Migration on Time Use Pattern of Left-Behind Male and Female in Rural Bangladesh

*Author(s): Md. Nadim Uddin*

*Year of Publication: 2024*

**Citation:** Uddin, M. N. (2024). **Impact of Migration on Time Use Pattern of Left-Behind Male and Female in Rural Bangladesh. *Migration and Development*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/21632324241251536>**

#### *Abstract*

This study uses neoclassical labour theory to examine the association between migration and the time-spending behaviour of left behind family members by gender and the female relationship with migrated members. Using two-year panel data, this study controls the individual-level time-invariant factors to correct potential self-selection. The study finds that migration of a family member is associated with decreasing off-farm labour of both working-age females and males. Additionally, it is observed that the leisure time of working-age females increases while their work burden on domestic labour decreases. Migration also increases off-farm labour of left-behind wives when only the husbands migrate and decreases off-farm and domestic labour, and increases the leisure of left-behind mothers when only sons/daughters migrate. Thus, migration reshapes the left behind family members' time allocation between labour and leisure with a heterogeneous impact on the wives and mothers.

### 31. উচ্চশিক্ষার অকুল পাথার: জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

*লেখক: গোলাম নবী মজুমদার*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৩*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৯/৪০ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৮/১৪২৯*

#### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

সংখ্যায় বেশি হলে প্রায়শই অনেক সুবিধা মেলে: দলে ভারী হয়, ভোটে জেতা যায়, শক্তিতে বলীয়ান হওয়া যায়। কিন্তু সংখ্যায় বড় হলেই যে তা গুণে-মানে বাড়বে, তার নিশ্চয়তা নেই। গুণগত মান সব সময় সংখ্যায় মাপা যায় না। গুণগত মান যাচাইয়ের জন্য তাই প্রয়োজন হয় শক্তির বিচার, নিক্তি নয়। জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আকারে দেশের সবচেয়ে বড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়; দেশের সর্বত্র বিস্তৃত এর অবস্থান। আকারের মতো, মানেও কি সেরা এই প্রতিষ্ঠান? জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হাল আমলের শিক্ষার গুণ ও মানের শক্তির বিচার করা এই নিবন্ধের মূল উদ্দেশ্য।

### 32. শ্রমবাজারে দক্ষতার চাহিদা ও স্নাতকদের প্রস্তুতি: বাংলাদেশের বর্তমান প্রেক্ষিতের পর্যালোচনা

*লেখক: সিবান শাহানা*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২১*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৮ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৭*



### সারসংক্ষেপ

বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর তথ্য অনুযায়ী উচ্চশিক্ষা সমাপ্ত করা শিক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে বেকারত্বের হার প্রায় ১১.২ শতাংশ যেখানে সার্বিক বেকারত্বের হার ৪.৩ শতাংশ। সরকারি বা বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীন কলেজসমূহ বা পলিটেকনিক যেখান থেকেই উচ্চশিক্ষা সমাপ্ত করুক না কেন, দেখা যায় যে প্রায় এক তৃতীয়াংশ (≥৩৩%) স্নাতক শিক্ষা সমাপ্ত করার এক থেকে দুই বছর পরও পূর্ণকালীন কাজে নিয়োজিত হতে পারে না। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে পাশ করা নারী-স্নাতকদের ক্ষেত্রে এই পরিসংখ্যানটি আরও হতাশাজনক: ৩৭ জন পুরুষ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়- স্নাতক এর বিপরীতে ৪৩ জন নারী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় – স্নাতক শিক্ষাজীবন সমাপ্ত করার এক থেকে দুই বছর পরও যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী মানানসই চাকুরি পায় না। স্নাতকদের মধ্যে বিরাজমান বেকারত্বের এই পরিসংখ্যান - স্নাতকদের নিয়োগযোগ্যতা ও দক্ষতা বিষয়ে আমাদের উদ্ভিগ্ন করে তোলে। একদিকে চাকুরি বাজারে দক্ষ কর্মীর ঘাটতি এবং অপরদিকে-স্নাতক বেকারের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি ভাবে বাধ্য করে যে, শিক্ষার সর্বোচ্চ পাঠস্থান হিসেবে পরিচিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলো প্রকৃতপক্ষে স্নাতকদের নিয়োগযোগ্য করে তোলার ক্ষেত্রে কতটা অবদান রাখছে।

বিভিন্ন শ্রম জরিপ থেকে জানা যায় যে, উচ্চতর দক্ষতার প্রয়োজন এমন পদের (প্রফেশনাল, টেকনিশিয়ান, ব্যবস্থাপক) জন্য উপযুক্ত দক্ষ কর্মী খুঁজে পাওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে প্রায় ৬৯ শতাংশ চাকুরিদাতা যোগ্য আবেদনকারী স্বল্পতার সম্মুখীন হন। চাকুরিদাতারা স্নাতক কর্মীর কাছে তাদের শিক্ষা ও কারিগরি দক্ষতার পাশাপাশি অন্যান্য কিছু ব্যক্তিগত দক্ষতাও (সফট স্কিল) প্রত্যাশা করেন। তারা মনে করেন যে, একজন সদ্য স্নাতক সম্পন্ন করা চাকুরিজীবী তার পঠিত বিষয়ের তান্ত্রিক জ্ঞানের পাশাপাশি মৌলিক ও কিছু ক্ষেত্রে উচ্চতর কম্পিউটার ব্যবহার, যোগাযোগ দক্ষতা, দলগতভাবে কাজ করার দক্ষতার অধিকারী হবে এবং নেতৃত্ব প্রদানে সক্ষম, সং ও সুক্ষভাবে চিন্তা করতে পার্জাম হবে। স্নাতক চাকুরিপ্রার্থীর চাকুরির জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় দক্ষতার অভাব এবং তার থেকে চাকুরিদাতাদের প্রত্যাশার বিষয়কে আরও বিশদভাবে অনুসন্ধানের জন্য এই প্রবন্ধে নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়গুলো বিশ্লেষণের প্রয়াস করা হয়েছে। ১. চাকুরিদাতার দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে স্নাতক কর্মীর বিভিন্ন দক্ষতার গুরুত্ব এবং এ সম্পর্কে তাদের সন্তুষ্টির মূল্যায়ন। ২. শিক্ষার্থীদের দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বিরাজমান শিক্ষার পরিবেশ এবং এ সম্পর্কিত বিভিন্ন সুবিধাদীর গুরুত্ব ও সন্তুষ্টির মূল্যায়ন। ৩. বিভিন্ন দক্ষতার বিষয়ে চাকুরিদাতা ও শিক্ষার্থীদের সন্তুষ্টির তুলনা।

### 33. Dreams of Adolescents for Future

*Author(s): Nazneen Ahmed and Ayesha Banu*

**Citation:** Ahmed, N., & B. Ayesha. "Dreams of Adolescents for Future." In Selim Jahan (Eds), *Advancing Human Development in Bangladesh: Looking Ahead, National Human Development Report 2021*.

#### *Abstract*

To get an understanding of the adolescents' minds regarding their dreams about future, we conducted brief explorative research among the adolescents of different parts of Bangladesh. All 8 divisions of Bangladesh and different types of educational systems were covered in this quick and short questionnaire-based survey on 145 adolescents. This is not a representative survey, instead, this was conducted to get some first-hand information to complement the secondary data on which the analysis of this chapter is based. The survey population includes students from Bangla medium, English medium, and Madrasa (Qawmi and Alia). Out of the 145 respondents, 74 were girls and 71 were boys. Again, there were 45 young adolescents (age 10-14), and 100

late adolescents (age 15-19). The survey covered adolescents from both rural (41) and urban (104) areas. The quick survey was conducted during August-September 2020 when the COVID-19 (including the deteriorating flood condition) situation was at its peak. The sample was chosen randomly, sometimes purposively, based on availability, access and willingness to talk and share (by the adolescents). In addition, we conducted 6 in-depth case studies of adolescents (3 young adolescents and 3 late adolescents). The survey and case studies were conducted online or over the phone to avoid COVID-19 induced health risks.

A total of 259 dreams were mentioned by 145 adolescents. This indicates that almost all of them have more than one dream. A wide range of diversity is noticed in the dreams of the adolescents. The survey revealed ranges of dreams draped with many colours, expressed in multifaceted layers, all distinctive from each other. It is immensely difficult to arrange them in a neat pile or a box and can only be visualized under a large spectrum of ideas. It ranges from dreaming of being a happy person to just completing his/her studies. The dreams differed across the medium of instruction and types of schools, urban/rural and geographical locations. It was also intertwined with the economic and social status and education level of their parents. Although it is a big challenge to grasp the entire scenario, some thought-provoking findings came out from the survey when categorized under some common threads across groups according to their gender (boys/girls) and age cohort (early/late).

#### **34. Social Policy Imperatives: Addressing Gaps in Skills and Education to Ameliorate Child Labour in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Anwara Begum*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

*Citation:* B. Anwara. (2023). **Social Policy Imperatives: Addressing Gaps in Skills and Education to Ameliorate Child Labour in Bangladesh. International Journal of Trade and Commerce-IIARTC**; July-December 2023, Volume 12, No. 2, pp. 282-293; ISSN-2277-5811 (Print), 2278-9065 (Online) © SGSR. (www.sgsrjournals.co.in) All rights reserved. COSMOS (Germany)

##### ***Abstract***

The paper highlights significant concerns regarding child labor in Bangladesh, emphasising its detrimental effects on social equality and children's future. It notes a recent increase in child labor, particularly among 12–13-year-olds, and a disturbing rise in hazardous work among children. The context of poverty is critical, with half of Bangladeshi children living in poverty, which exacerbates their vulnerability. Children often work in informal and hazardous conditions, foregoing education and facing long-term consequences such as low income, illiteracy, and poor health. The study draws from various sources, including surveys and policy documents, to underscore the urgent need for effective social protection strategies. It criticises the current lack of implementation of existing social security policies and recommends a paradigm shift in social

policy to address child labor comprehensively. Suggestions include integrating innovative strategies and lessons from NGOs and other countries, such as India's RSBY model, to improve children's education, skills, and overall well-being. The overarching goal is to foster sustainable development by mitigating the socio-economic barriers that perpetuate child labor and its intergenerational impacts.

### **35. Effects of Remittances on Health Expenditure and Treatment Cost of International Migrant Households in Bangladesh**

*Author(s):* Mohammad Mainul Islam, Sayema Haque Bidisha, Israt Jahan, Md Biplob Hossain, Tanveer Mahmood

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Islam, M. M., Bidisha, S., Jahan, I., Hossain, M. B., & Mahmood, T. (2021). **Effects of remittances on health expenditure and treatment cost of international migrant households in Bangladesh.** *Journal of Governance, Security & Development*, 1(2), 1-21. 10.52823/XFRY 1732.

#### ***Abstract***

The Bangladesh economy is characterised by remarkable progress in international migration, resulting in a considerable inflow of remittance. Although many studies have attempted to study the effect of foreign remittances on household expenditure patterns, no effort has been made to critically analyze the effects and implications of migration and remittance flow on migrant households' health expenditure. This article attempts to explore the effect of remittance on the health expenditure of remittance recipient households (RRHs) and the impact of the cost of treatment. Descriptive and regression analyses and standard micro-econometric techniques were applied by analyzing the nationally representative household data set of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2010 of Bangladesh. Results show that RRHs are more likely to spend more on health matters and more likely to have higher treatment costs than non-recipient households. Thus, remittances are significantly associated with health expenditure and the cost of treatment. International migration seems to be a household strategy characterised by a high expected return.

### **36. Living-dead: The Transformative Power of Educating the Body**

*Author(s):* Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder

*Year of Publication:* 2022

*Citation:* Mozumder, M. G. N. (2022). **Living-Dead: The transformative power of educating the body.** *Society*, 59(4), 393-408. <https://ink.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12115-022-0066>

### *Abstract*

Society, culture, and the state profoundly impact the body; bodily practices also play active roles in combating social ills and (re)constituting heterodox cultural mores. This paper analyzes the unorthodox bodily rituals of the followers of the famed “mystic minstrel,” Fakir Lalon Shah, in contemporary Bangladesh. This ethnographic research with the prominent Fakirs—participant observation, in-depth interview, and textual analysis of Lalon’s songs—shows how the body acts as the means of spiritual cultivation and socio-cultural transformations. We conceptualise three features of Fakirs’ body pedagogics as somatic divinity, selfless subjectivity, and ethical sociality. Identifying the practical implications of the praxis, this paper shows a way of addressing the symptomatic “lack of clarity” of qualitative social research (Aspers and Corte 2019). In explaining why the educated body plays an insufficient but important role to combat social malaise, e.g., religious insularity, I underscore that the expected outcome of Fakirs’ training of the body is both uncertain and reversible. Instead of being an underside, that inherent uncertainty of the body is its strength.

## **5. Population and Health**

### **37. Progress of Severe, Moderate and Global Acute Malnutrition among Children in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarkar & Zakir Hossain*

*Year of Publication: June 2022*

**Citation:** Sarker, A. R., & Hossain, Z. (2021). **Progress of severe, moderate and global acute malnutrition among children in Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(1/2), 31-58. DOI: 10.57138/HGGQ2648

### *Abstract*

Although Bangladesh has achieved remarkable economic growth and improved various health indicators, childhood malnutrition still is a big concern in improving child health in Bangladesh. This paper explores the prevalence and trends of severe acute malnutrition, moderate acute malnutrition and global acute malnutrition, as well as their socio-demographic factors and socio-economic differentials using the last seven rounds (1996-97, 1999-2000, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2017-18) of Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, a nationally representative cross-sectional survey. Results show that the prevalence of all severe acute malnutrition, moderate acute malnutrition and global acute malnutrition has declined from 1996-97 to 2017-18 in Bangladesh: severe acute malnutrition from 6.8 per cent to 1.5 per cent; moderate acute malnutrition from 13.9 per cent to 6.9 per cent; and global acute malnutrition from 20.7 per cent to 8.4 per cent. On the other hand, the overall percentage change in the prevalence of severe, moderate and global acute malnutrition accounts for 78 per cent, 50.3 per cent and 59.4 per cent, respectively. The rate of annual decline of severe acute malnutrition is higher among rural

children (7.02 per cent) and lower in those in urban areas (5.04 per cent). Child age (6-12 months), child size at birth (smaller), father's occupation, administrative division and mother's BMI are strongly related to severe, moderate, and global acute malnutrition. This paper also suggests that there is substantial room to upgrade the nutritional status of children aged 6-59 months in Bangladesh.

### **38. Dietary Diversity among Children Aged 6-23 Months in Bangladesh: Determinants and Inequalities**

*Author(s): Moriam Khanam and Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Khanam, M., & Sarker, A. R. (2021). **Dietary diversity among children aged 6-23 months in Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(3/4), 81-102. <https://doi.org/10.57138/HKFC5019>

#### *Abstract*

Inadequate dietary intake is one of the causes of childhood undernutrition and associated morbidity and mortality in many low and middle-income countries, including Bangladesh. The study aims to identify the prevalence, associated factors, and socio-economic inequalities in minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency, and minimum acceptable diet among 6-23 month-children in Bangladesh. This study uses data from the latest round of the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017-18. Descriptive analyses have been conducted to report frequencies and percentages of the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of 6-23 months aged children. Bivariate and multiple logistic models are used to identify the predictors of each dietary indicator. In addition, we estimate concentration indices and use Wagstaff-based decomposition analysis to identify socio-economic inequalities in dietary diversity and their contributing factors. The study finds the prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency, and minimum acceptable diet as 38%, 81%, and 36%, respectively. Education of mothers is a significant predictor of all three dietary indicators. In addition, household wealth status and administrative division are significant predictors of minimum dietary diversity and minimum acceptable diet. Children of working mothers are found to have higher odds of having minimum meal frequency and minimum acceptable diet compared to their counterparts. We find concentration indices for minimum dietary diversity as 0.21 ( $p < 0.001$ ), for minimum meal frequency as 0.08 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and for minimum acceptable diet as 0.19 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Wealth status of household, mother's and father's education levels, and exposure to mass media are the major contributing factors to these inequalities. Therefore, policymakers and other stakeholders need to give prior attention to enhancing household wealth status, empowering women, and awareness-raising initiatives to improve the feeding practices of children in Bangladesh.

### 39. শিশু স্থূলতার ব্যাপকতা ও এর প্রভাবকসমূহ: বাংলাদেশ জনমিতিক ও স্বাস্থ্য জরিপ ২০১৭-১৮ বিশ্লেষণ

*লেখকবৃন্দ:* আব্দুর রাজ্জাক সরকার, শরীফ ইরফাত জেবীন, মো: জাকির হোসেন

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ:* মার্চ ২০২০

*তথ্যসূত্র:* বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৯/৪০ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৮/১৪২৯

#### সারসংক্ষেপ

শিশু স্থূলতা একটি জটিল স্বাস্থ্য সমস্যা। ২০১৯ সালে, এশিয়ায় পাঁচ বছরের কম বয়সী প্রায় অর্ধেক শিশুর অতিরিক্ত ওজন এবং স্থূলতার সমস্যা ছিল। বাংলাদেশে, স্থূলগামী শিশুদের মধ্যে স্থূলতা এবং অতিরিক্ত ওজনের ফ্রিকোয়েন্সি উদ্বেগজনক। বাংলাদেশ জনমিতিক ও স্বাস্থ্য জরিপ ২০১৭-১৮ এ দেখা যায় যে, বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশে শিশুদের স্থূলতার হার প্রায় ১১ শতাংশ। তবে এই গবেষণায় সবচেয়ে লক্ষণীয় ফলাফল হচ্ছে, গ্রামের শিশুদের (৯.৬১%) তুলনায় শহরের শিশুদের (১৪.২৭%) স্থূলতায় আক্রান্তের হার প্রায় দেড় গুণ বেশি। শিশুদের বয়স অনুযায়ী দেখা যায় যে, ৩৬-৪৭ মাস বয়সী শিশুদের মধ্যে প্রায় ১৪ শতাংশ শিশুই স্থূলতায় আক্রান্ত। অঞ্চলভেদে শিশুদের বয়স অনুসারে এই পরিসংখ্যানটি বিশ্লেষণ করলে দেখা যায় যে, শহরাঞ্চলে এই হার (১৮.৭৩%) গ্রামাঞ্চলের চেয়ে (১২.২১%) তুলনামূলকভাবে বেশি যদিও লিঙ্গভেদে স্থূলতার খুব বেশি তারতম্য দেখা যায়নি। অন্যদিকে, যে সকল শিশু কোন ধরনের শৈশবকালীন অসুস্থতায় ভুগেছিলো, তাদের মধ্যে স্থূলতায় আক্রান্ত হওয়ার প্রবণতা যারা অসুস্থতায় ভুগেনি, তাদের তুলনায় কম বলে পরিলক্ষিত হয়েছে। তবে শিশুর মায়ের BMI বা শরীরের উচ্চতা ও ওজনের আনুপাতিক হারের সাথে শিশুর স্থূলতায় আক্রান্ত হওয়ার প্রবণতার সরাসরি সম্পর্ক দেখা গিয়েছে।

দেখা গেছে, যে সকল মায়েরা স্থূলতায় ভুগছিলেন, তাদের প্রায় ৩১ শতাংশের সন্তানেরাই স্থূলতায় আক্রান্ত ছিলো এবং এই হার শহর এবং গ্রামে যথাক্রমে ৩২ শতাংশ ও ৩০ শতাংশ। ক্ষুদ্র পরিবারে বসবাসরত শিশুদের মধ্যে স্থূলতার প্রবণতা ছিল প্রায় ১৬ শতাংশ। বাংলাদেশের বিভাগগুলোর মধ্যে ঢাকার শহরাঞ্চলে শিশু স্থূলতার হার সবচেয়ে বেশি (১৯%) পরিলক্ষিত হয়েছে। প্রায় ১৫ শতাংশ সর্বোচ্চ ধনী পরিবারের শিশুদের মধ্যে শিশু স্থূলতা দেখা গিয়েছে যা শহর অঞ্চলে প্রায় ১৭ শতাংশ এবং গ্রামে প্রায় ১১ শতাংশ। এই হার সম্পদের সূচকের সাথে সমানুপাতিক হারে কমতে দেখা গেছে অর্থাৎ, দরিদ্রতম খানার শিশুদের মধ্যে শিশু স্থূলতার হার সবচেয়ে কম। এ সমস্যা থেকে রক্ষা পেতে হলে সন্তানকে পরিমিত ও যুক্তিযুক্ত পরিমাণ খাবার খেতে দিতে হবে, অতিরিক্ত মিষ্টিজাতীয় খাবার এড়িয়ে চলতে হবে; সেই সাথে তাজা ফলমূল ও শাকসবজিসহ প্রচুর ফাইবার জাতীয় খাবার সন্তানকে দিতে হবে, স্বাস্থ্যকর খাবার সম্পর্কে সন্তানদেরকে সচেতন করতে হবে এবং তাদেরকে প্রচুর আউটডোর ও ইনডোর কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণে উৎসাহিত করতে হবে।

### 40. বাংলাদেশে হাত ধোয়ার অভ্যাস এবং কোভিড-১৯ পরিস্থিতি: বাংলাদেশ জনমিতি ও স্বাস্থ্য জরিপ ২০১৪ বিশ্লেষণ

*লেখকবৃন্দ:* আব্দুর রাজ্জাক সরকার ও নওশাদ আলী

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ:* মার্চ ২০২১

*তথ্যসূত্র:* বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৮ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৭

#### সারসংক্ষেপ

স্বাস্থ্যবিধির নানা রকম প্রাথমিক জ্ঞানের মধ্যে সঠিকভাবে হাতধোয়া অন্যতম। হাত ধোয়া দৈনন্দিন জীবনের একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। সুস্থতার জন্য সাবান দিয়ে হাত ধোয়া খুবই জরুরি। শুধু হাত পানি দিয়ে ধুলেই যে জীবাণুমুক্ত হয়, তা নয়! সঠিক নিয়মে সাবান দিয়ে হাত না ধুলে নানারকম ভাইরাস, ব্যাকটেরিয়া, ছত্রাক ও অন্যান্য জীবাণু হাতের মাধ্যমে খাদ্যের সাথে আমাদের দেহে প্রবেশ করে। যার ফলশ্রুতিতে ডায়রিয়া, কলেরা, ইনফ্লুয়েঞ্জা এমনকি কোভিড-১৯ রোগের মতো নানাবিধ সংক্রামক রোগ হতে পারে, আর এই সকল রোগ থেকে বাঁচতে সঠিকভাবে হাত ধোয়ার সু-অভ্যাস গড়ে তোলা প্রয়োজন। বাংলাদেশ জনমিতি ও স্বাস্থ্য জরিপ ২০১৪ অনুসারে, বাংলাদেশের প্রায় ৬২% পরিবার

হাত পরিষ্কার করতে শুধু পানি ব্যবহার করে। কিন্তু করোনাভাইরাস বা এর মতো অন্যান্য প্রানঘাতি ভাইরাস কিংবা ব্যাকটেরিয়া মোকাবেলায় শুধু মাত্র পানি দিয়ে হাতধোয়াই যথেষ্ট নয়; বরং এইসকল জীবাণু থেকে রক্ষা পাওয়ার জন্য নানাবিধ অ্যান্টিমাইক্রোবিয়াল এজেন্ট ব্যবহার করতে হবে। বাংলাদেশ জনমিতি ও স্বাস্থ্য জরিপ ২০১৪ এর মতে, বাংলাদেশের মাত্র ২৮% পরিবার হাতধোয়ার জন্য জীবাণুনাশক ব্যবহার করে। করোনাভাইরাস সহ বিভিন্ন ধরনের সংক্রামক মরণব্যধি রোগ থেকে বাঁচার অন্যতম উপায় হলো জীবাণুনাশকের সাহায্যে সঠিকভাবে হাত পরিষ্কার করা। জীবাণুনাশক দ্বারা হাতধোয়ার সাথে করোনাভাইরাসের সম্পর্ক এই গবেষণায় উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে যা পরবর্তীতে এই সংক্রান্ত বিভিন্ন চলমান এবং ভবিষ্যৎ কর্মসূচীর ক্ষেত্রে কার্যকরী ভূমিকা রাখবে বলে আশা করা যায়।

#### 41. বাংলাদেশে প্রবীণ নাগরিকদের স্বাস্থ্য এবং স্বাস্থ্য সেবা পরিস্থিতি

*লেখক: আব্দুর রাজ্জাক সরকার*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০*

##### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

গত কয়েক দশকে স্বাস্থ্য সূচকে অনেক উন্নতি হওয়া সত্ত্বেও, বিশ্বব্যাপী বয়স্ক নাগরিকদের জন্য শাস্ত্রীয় মূল্যের স্বাস্থ্যসেবার সুবিধা প্রদান সম্ভবপর হয়নি। বাংলাদেশ ও এই সমস্যার বাইরে নয়, উচ্চ-ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ অসংক্রামক রোগের পাশাপাশি সম্প্রতি বয়স্ক লোকের সংখ্যা ক্রমাগত বেড়েই চলছে, যদিও বাংলাদেশের স্বাস্থ্য ব্যবস্থা এখনো তাদের চাহিদা মোতাবেক সেবা দিতে আদৌ প্রস্তুত নয়। যদিও বাংলাদেশে বিভিন্ন জনগোষ্ঠীর স্বাস্থ্যসেবা ব্যবহারের উপর বিভিন্ন ধরনের গবেষণা দেখা যায় কিন্তু প্রবীণ নাগরিকদের স্বাস্থ্য এবং স্বাস্থ্য সেবা নিয়ে গবেষণা খুব একটা দেখা যায় না। প্রকৃতপক্ষে, প্রবীণ নাগরিকদের স্বাস্থ্যসেবার ধরণ, তাদের বয়স ও রোগের তীব্রতা, চিকিৎসা ব্যয়কে দৃঢ়ভাবে প্রভাবিত করে এবং প্রায়শই অর্থের অভাবে উন্নত এবং সুচিকিৎসার সুবিধা থেকে বয়স্ক নাগরিকরা বঞ্চিত হয়। এই গবেষণার সাধারণ উদ্দেশ্য হলো বাংলাদেশের বয়স্ক জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে স্বাস্থ্য পরিষেবা ব্যবহারের বাস্তব চিত্র উপস্থাপন করা। এর পাশাপাশি এই গবেষণার প্রবীণ জনগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে স্বাস্থ্য পরিষেবা ব্যবহার সম্পর্কিত প্রভাবকসমূহ নিয়ে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করা হয়েছে যা ভবিষ্যতে বয়স্ক নাগরিকদের স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতির জন্য প্রয়োজন-ভিত্তিক স্বাস্থ্যসেবা চালু করার জন্য সহায়ক হবে। অধিকন্তু এই ফলাফলগুলি স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা কর্মসূচী ও আর্থিক ঝুঁকি কমানোর মত বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচী সমূহ ডিজাইন এবং সেবার পরিধী বিস্তার করতেও ব্যবহার করা যেতে পারে। এটা বাস্তব যে, সকল সাধারণ জনগণকে স্বাস্থ্যসেবার আওতায় নিয়ে আসতে হলে উন্নত বিশ্বের মত বাংলাদেশেও স্বাস্থ্যবীমার প্রয়োজন অনস্বিকার্য। এই গবেষণাটি ২০৩২ সালের মধ্যে ইউনিভার্সেল হেলথ কভারেজ (ইউএইসসি) বা সার্বজনীন স্বাস্থ্য সেবা অর্জনের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্বাস্থ্যসেবা অর্থায়ন কৌশলের মূল উদ্দেশ্যের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ।

#### 42. Addressing GAPS in Nursing Skills and Incentives to Boost the Healthcare Industry

*Author(s): Anwara Begum*

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##### *Abstract*

Growth in the health care industry in Bangladesh, over the last few decades, has been disappointing. Its adherence to constitutional commitments and global assurances is utterly sabotaged by deficiencies of professional and technical skills in the health care arena. The gaps

remain in dearth of adequate supply of qualified, experienced, and specialised nursing professionals in health care industry. In both rural and urban Bangladesh, the healthcare industry is experiencing a simple and abject scarcity of nursing skills among nurses, barring a handful of well-paid professionals in the tertiary level hospitals within the top echelons of the industry. Unsuitable skill mix of doctors and nurses, has led to over-work and miss-use of doctor's skills, overlapping of duties, insecurity for patients, loss of scarce resources and increased out-of-pocket spending for poor and middle-income families. Moreover, lack of proper training and experience affects quality of services proffered by the existing professionals in nursing and care. Curriculum and syllabus followed in nursing training are alleged to be out-of-date, with some faculty members suffering from deficiency of knowledge and modernised information. Shortage of compulsory equipment and facilities for real-world classes and clinical training are also important limitations hindering the growth of this industry.

#### **43. Lacunae in Healthcare for Poor and Disabled Patients: Evidence from Gaps in Skills of Nurses and Corporate Governance**

*Author(s):* Anwara Begum

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*Citation:* Begum, Anwara (2024), "Lacunae in Healthcare for Poor and Disabled Patients: Evidence from Gaps in Skills of Nurses and Corporate Governance", *International Journal of Trade and Commerce-IIARTC*, 13(1), 69-94.

##### *Abstract*

Service of nurses is critical in healthcare. Literature review reveals that nursing standards are low and access to their services, proved onerous for poor patients in the south and south Asian countries, especially during COVID-19. Abject situation of nurses and their need for further education, training was urgently needed. The primary reason behind this gap in care is lack of proper education, training and absence of caring attitude of nurses. Nursing profession, especially in Bangladesh, is deemed tiresome and the overall perception of this job has deteriorated due to influence of culture, religion and other socio-economic factors. The objective of this study is to comprehend the difficulties poor patients encounter due to the skill's gap and low education of nurses. This phenomenon was universally experienced in many countries. A mixed method study was conducted. Triangulation of information tallying 350 responses, was duly collated, and all questionnaires were administered following ethical acquiescence of respondents. Fifty-six interviews of patients using google form was conducted. Plus, face-to-face qualitative interviews of 15 patients who suffered from Corona and 15 stakeholders' interviews were carried out, with the aim of informing more sensitive policy for men, women and children and those with disability. Another quantitative survey comprising of 171 nurses, 32 Key Informants and 15 doctors were also done. The evidence of gaps in skills and education of nurses and negative impact on services, truly solicits sensitive policy intervention and training, for remedial measures.



#### **44. A Comprehensive Economic Assessment of the Health Effects of Tobacco Use and Implications for Tobacco Control in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Nigar Nargis, Golam Mohiuddin Faruque, Maruf Ahmed, Iftekharul Huq, Rehana Parven, Syed Naimul Wadood, AKM Ghulam Hussain, Jeffrey Drope*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

*Citation:* Nargis, N., Faruque, G. M., Ahmed, M., Huq, I., Parven, R., Wadood, S. N., ... & Drope, J. (2022). **A comprehensive economic assessment of the health effects of tobacco use and implications for tobacco control in Bangladesh.** *Tobacco Control*, 31(6), 723-729.

#### ***Abstract***

Despite modest progress in reducing tobacco use, tobacco remains one of the major risk factors for non-communicable diseases in Bangladesh. Using disease-specific, prevalence-based, cost-of-illness approach, this research estimated the economic costs of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke based on data collected from a nationally representative survey of 10 119 households in 2018. The study estimated that 1.5 million adults were suffering from tobacco-attributable diseases and 61 000 children were suffering from diseases due to exposure to secondhand smoke in Bangladesh in 2018. Tobacco use caused 125 718 deaths in that year, accounting for 13.5% of all-cause deaths. The total economic cost was 305.6 billion Bangladeshi taka (BDT) (equivalent to 1.4% of gross domestic product or US\$3.61 billion), including direct costs (private and public health expenditures) of BDT83.9 billion and indirect costs (productivity loss due to morbidity and premature mortality) of BDT221.7 billion. The total economic cost of tobacco more than doubled since 2004. Tobacco use imposes a significant and increasing disease and financial burden on society. The enormous tobacco-attributable healthcare costs and productivity loss underscore the need to strengthen the implementation of tobacco control policies to curb the epidemic.

#### **45. Is Smokeless Tobacco Use Associated with Lower Health-Related Quality of Life? A Cross-Sectional Survey Among Women in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Rumana Huque, S. M. Abdullah, Sayem Ahmed, Nazmul Hossain, Farhin Islam, Mohammad A. B. Sarker, Md. Nurul Amin, Nasiruddin Ahmed*

*Year of Publication: 2024*

*Citation:* Huque, R., Abdullah, S. M., Ahmed, S., Hossain, N., Islam, F., Sarker, M. A., ... & Ahmed, N. (2024). Is smokeless tobacco use associated with lower health-related quality of life? A cross-sectional survey among women in Bangladesh. *Tobacco Induced Diseases*, 22(April), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.18332/tid/185969>.

### *Abstract*

Bangladesh has 22 million adult users of smokeless tobacco (ST). The prevalence among women is higher (24.8%). Health-related quality of life outcome (HRQoL) for ST use is little known. We investigated the association between HRQoL and daily ST use among adult women in Bangladesh. Using multi-stage design, a cross-sectional survey was conducted. Adult women (randomly selected) were surveyed from 4 purposively selected divisions (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rangpur). Female ST users and non-users were compared using HRQoL scores. Self-perceived Visual Analogue Scale (EQ-VAS) values and HRQoL scores were modelled to examine their association with ST use.

A total of 2610 women (1149 users and 1461 non-users) were surveyed. The proportion reported any type of problem in all health dimensions was significantly higher among female ST users than non-users (mobility: 43.3% vs 19.5%, self-care: 29.6% vs 11.9%, usual activities: 48.7% vs 21.8%, pain or discomfort: 69.8% vs 40.6%, and anxiety or depression: 61.3% vs 37.5%). The average HRQoL scores were 0.79 (95% CI: 0.78–0.81) and 0.90 (95% CI: 0.89–0.90) for users and non-users, respectively. Moreover, EQ-VAS average values were significantly higher for non-users [80.7 (95% CI: 79.9–81.6) vs 70.27 (95% CI: 69.2–71.2)]. Controlling the sociodemographic, ST use significantly reduced the HRQoL score by an average of 0.15 points. The EQ-VAS values on average decreased by 0.04 points for ST use. ST use is significantly associated with the HRQoL of females in Bangladesh. Considering the higher prevalence of ST, especially among women, HRQoL hazards need to be communicated for awareness building.

#### **46. Inequality in Access to Healthcare for Persons with Disability During COVID-19: An Illustration from Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Anwara Begum*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

***Citation:*** Begum, A. (2022). **Inequality in access to healthcare for persons with disabilities during COVID-19: An illustration from Bangladesh.** In *Caste, COVID-19, and Inequalities of Care* (pp. 195-214). Singapore: *Springer*.

### *Abstract*

The world is ill-prepared for COVID-19. Bangladesh too is caught off-guard. Corona infected persons suffer, and for many, it is severe and debilitating, while high treatment costs ensue for patients with complications. If persons with disability are compared to persons without any form of disability, the woe increases manifold, especially for women. Persons with disability are braving the risks of this pandemic, at double the level of risk compared to the general people. Men, women and children with disabilities often operate under a shadow of social stigma and experience financial and social dependency and require caregivers, sighted guides and interpreters. Even during this pandemic, physical distancing is not possible for people with disabilities. Moreover, travelling and manoeuvring patients with wheelchairs require more resources, manpower and structural designing, not to mention empathy, especially in nursing and

care that is in short supply. Lack of appropriate vehicle services, preponderance of tertiary healthcare in primate cities, absence of training and awareness among nurses on specific needs of these vulnerable people; physically impaired, neo developmental children, all add up to creating challenges. The primary objective of this study is to understand the severity of constraints, and inequality in access to healthcare of persons with disability, who coped with COVID-19 during this pandemic. In this study, the situation of the hospitals is reviewed and nurses who are at the forefront of this detrimental situation, and persons with disability are interviewed to gauge nursing skills, preparedness, reaction and experiences of patients, through 65 Stakeholder and Key Informant Interviews. Unbundling the issues could inform more sensitive policy formulation in favour of men, women and children with disability, who are inadvertently left out in the arena of COVID-19.

#### **47. Changes in Inequality of Childhood Morbidity in Bangladesh 1993-2014: A Decomposition Analysis**

*Author(s): Rashidul Alam Mahumud, Khorshed Alam, Andre M. N. Renzaho, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Marufa Sultana, Nurnabi Sheikh, Lal B. Rawal, Jeff Gow*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation: Mahumud, R. A., Alam, K., Renzaho, A. M., Sarker, A. R., Sultana, M., Sheikh, N., Rawal, L. B. & Gow, J. (2019). **Changes in inequality of childhood morbidity in Bangladesh 1993-2014: A decomposition analysis.** *PloS one*, 14(6), e0218515.*

#### ***Abstract***

This study examined how socioeconomic inequality is associated with childhood morbidity in Bangladesh, and identified the factors affecting three illnesses: diarrhea, ARI and fever. A total of 43,860 sample observations from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, spanning a 22-year period (1993–2014), were analyzed. Concentration curve and concentration index methods were used to evaluate changes in the degree of household wealth-related inequalities and related trends in childhood morbidity. Regression-based decomposition analyses were used to attribute the inequality disparities to individual determinants for the three selected causes of childhood morbidity.

The overall magnitude of inequality in relation to childhood morbidity has been declining slowly over the 22-year period. The magnitude of socio-economic inequality as a cause of childhood morbidity varied during the period. Decomposition analyses attributed the inequalities to poor maternal education attainment, inadequate pre-delivery care, adverse chronic undernutrition status and low immunisation coverage. High rates of childhood morbidity were observed, although these have declined over time. Socio-economic inequality is strongly associated with childhood morbidity. Socio-economically disadvantaged communities need to be assisted and interventions should emphasise improvements of, and easier access to, health care services. These will be key to improving the health status of children in Bangladesh and should reduce economic inequality through improved health over time.

#### **48. Households' Out-of-pocket Expenditure for Healthcare in Bangladesh: A Financing Incidence Analysis**

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Marufa Sultana, Khorshed Alam, Nausad Ali, Nurnabi Sheikh, Raisul Akram, Alec Morton

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R., Sultana, M., Alam, K., Ali, N., Sheikh, N., Akram, R., & Morton, A. (2021). **Households' out-of-pocket expenditure for healthcare in Bangladesh: A health financing incidence analysis.** *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, 36(6), 2106-2117. DOI: 10.1002/hpm.3275

#### *Abstract*

The objective of this study is to assess the burden of out-of-pocket (OOP) cost on different socio-economic groups by assessing the health financing incidence because OOP cost dominates household expenditure on health in Bangladesh. The study was conducted using latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016. We focused mainly on four specific indicators: level of monthly household OOP cost on in-patient care, urban-rural differences in OOP cost, socio-economic status differences in different payment mechanisms and the Kakwani index. Descriptive statistics were employed to analyse and summarise the selected variables based on the SES and location of residence (e.g., rural and urban).

The study showed the overall OOP healthcare expenditure was 7.7% of the household monthly income while the poorer income group suffered more and spent up to 35% of their household income on healthcare. The Kakwani index indicated that the poorest quintile spends a greater share of their income on healthcare services than the richest quintile. This study observed that OOP cost in Bangladesh is regressive, that is, poorer members of society contribute a greater share of their income. Therefore, policymakers should initiate health reforms for developing and implementing risk-pooling financing mechanisms such as social health insurance to achieve the Universal Health Coverage in Bangladesh.

#### **49. COVID-19 Vaccination in Lower-Middle Income Countries: National Stakeholder Views on Challenges, Barriers, and Potential Solutions**

*Author(s):* Eunice Twumwaa Tagoe, Nurnabi Sheikh, Alec Morton, Justice Nonvignon, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Lynn Williams, Itamar Megiddo

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Tagoe, E. T., Sheikh, N., Morton, A., Nonvignon, J., Sarker, A. R., Williams, L., & Megiddo, I. (2021). **COVID-19 vaccination in lower-middle income countries: National stakeholder views on challenges, barriers, and potential solutions.** *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 709127. DOI: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.709127

### *Abstract*

The development of COVID-19 vaccines does not imply the end of the global pandemic as now countries have to purchase enough COVID-19 vaccine doses and work towards their successful rollout. Vaccination across the world has progressed slowly in all, but a few high-income countries (HICs) as governments learn how to vaccinate their entire populations amidst a pandemic. Most low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have been relying on the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility to obtain vaccines. COVAX aims to provide these countries with enough doses to vaccinate 20% of their populations. LMICs will likely encounter additional barriers and challenges rolling out vaccines compared HICs despite their significant experience from the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI). This study explores potential barriers that will arise during the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in lower-middle-income countries and how to overcome them. We conducted sixteen semi-structured interviews with national-level stakeholders from Ghana and Bangladesh (eight in each country). Stakeholders included policymakers and immunisation programme experts. Data were analysed using a Framework Analysis technique. Stakeholders believed their country could use existing EPI structures for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout despite existing challenges with the EPI and despite its focus on childhood immunisation rather than vaccinating the entire population over a short period of time. Stakeholders suggested increasing confidence in the vaccine through community influencers and by utilising local government accredited institutions such as the Drug Authorities for vaccine approval. Additional strategies they discussed included training more health providers and recruiting volunteers to increase vaccination speed, expanding government budgets for COVID-19 vaccine purchase and delivery, and exploring other financing opportunities to address in-country vaccine shortages. Stakeholders also believed that LMICs may encounter challenges complying with priority lists. Our findings suggest that COVID-19 vaccination is different from previous vaccination programs, and therefore, policymakers have to expand the EPI structure and also take a systematic and collaborative approach to plan and effectively rollout the vaccines.

#### **50. "Prevalence and Socio-demographic Correlates of Depression, Anxiety, and Co-morbidity during COVID-19: A Cross-sectional Study among Public and Private University Students of Bangladesh"**

*Author(s):* Jeenat Mehareen, Mahir A. Rahman b, Tahia Anan Dhira, Abdur Razzaque Sarker

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Mehareen, J., Rahman, M. A., Dhira, T. A., & Sarker, A. R. (2021). **Prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of depression, anxiety, and co-morbidity during COVID-19: A cross-sectional study among public and private university students of Bangladesh.** *Journal of Affective Disorders Reports*, 5, 100179.

### *Abstract*

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the mental health of students. However, in the context of Bangladesh, no study has explored whether students from public and private universities have been affected differently. Therefore, the aim of the study is to focus on the prevalence of

depression, anxiety, and co-morbidity among both types of university students and identify their potential correlates. The study applied convenience sampling to collect data from 333 university students. Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) and General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) were used to assess depression and anxiety respectively along with co-morbidity. Descriptive analysis and multivariate logistic regression were conducted to examine the association of variables.

Among public university students, 59.16% had depression, 53.99% had anxiety and 46.95% had co-morbidity ranging from moderate to severe level. 30.83%, 33.33% and 24.17% of the private university students showed moderate to severe levels of depression, anxiety, and co-morbidity respectively. Overall, female students, students enrolled in third and fourth year, living in nuclear families, and students who spent less time with family reported having higher level of depression, anxiety, and co-morbidity. Due to the cross-sectional nature of the study, we were unable to make causal inferences. Also, data collected through snowball-sampling were prone to selection bias. COVID-19 pandemic imposes a greater burden on mental health of students with different socioeconomic characteristics and university type. Therefore, appropriate psychological interventions are needed to address these differences.

#### **51. COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Prevalence, KAP and Heterogeneous Shocks under 'General Holiday' - An Exploratory Study Based on an Online Survey**

*Author(s): Sarker, A. R., KAS Murshid, T. Mahmood, and N. Azad*

*Year of Publication: Forthcoming*

*Citation: Sarker, A. R. (with KAS Murshid, T. Mahmood, and N. Azad) 2021. COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Prevalence, KAP and Heterogeneous Shocks under 'General Holiday'- An Exploratory Study Based on an Online Survey. *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, forthcoming.*

#### ***Abstract***

This study is based on data generated online which covered all socio-economic groups and all districts of the country. It can be considered representative of the vast online population, and it is believed that the patterns exposed would find strong resonance in the wider population as well. The survey was conducted during the period of the 'general holiday' in Bangladesh which is euphemistically a reference to lockdown. It estimates that 10 per cent of the population displayed COVID-19-type symptoms, and 1 per cent had comorbidities. We also noted that urban residents, divorcees, and members belonging to large households faced greater risk, while higher incomes usually corresponded with reduced risk. Shocks to income were substantial, with nearly 50 per cent reporting income flows halted for younger age groups, while this was about a third for older groups. In terms of coping ability, this was seen to be weak. We also noted that there was considerable awareness of good practices like handwashing and social distancing. While ordinary people tried hard to fight back, their means were limited, indicating that for a poor country, a longer-term lockdown would be untenable.

## 52. Prevalence and Factors of Hypertension among Bangladeshi Adults.

*Author(s):* Moriam Khanam, Emran Hasan, Abdur Razzaque Sarker

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R. (with M. Khanam and E. Hasan). 2021. **Prevalence and factors of hypertension among Bangladeshi adults. *High Blood Pressure & Cardiovascular Prevention.*** <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40292-021-00461-x>

### *Abstract*

Hypertension is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in developing countries, especially in South Asian countries including Bangladesh. This study aimed to assess the prevalence, risk factors, and inequality of hypertension in Bangladesh. This study analyzed the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey data from 2017–2018. A total of 12,863 people aged 18 years and above were included in this study. Both bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed to observe the effects of different factors and reported as adjusted ORs (AORs) with 95% CIs. Concentration index and concentration curve were used to measure the inequality in the distribution of hypertension among people with varying socio-economic status.

This study found that the prevalence of hypertension was 27.43% while this rate was 28.43% among females and 26.11% among males. The prevalence was the highest (49.26%) among those from the highest age group and among individuals who belonged to the richest households ( $p < 0.001$ ). The concentration index for hypertension was 0.07. Our study suggests that the risk of having hypertension was higher among respondents who were female, elderly, were overweight or obese; had diabetes; or were from Barisal and Rangpur divisions. Our study showed that more than one quarter of respondents had hypertension. Early diagnosis and proper management of the risk factors for hypertension are crucial to halt this emerging public health problem. A joint effort involving public, private, and non-governmental organisations is necessary to tackle the burden of hypertension faced by Bangladesh and similar developing countries in South Asia.

## 53. Health-related Quality of Life among Older Citizens in Bangladesh." SSM-Mental Health

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker

*Year of Publication:* 05 October 2021

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R. (2021). **Health-related quality of life among older citizens in Bangladesh. *SSM-Mental Health*, 1, 100031.** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmmh.2021.100031>

### *Abstract*

Despite improvements in many health indicators in the last few decades, providing access to affordable health care for elderly people is a major challenge in low- and middle-income countries like Bangladesh. The objective of this study was to measure the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) among older citizens in Bangladesh and to determine the factors influencing HRQoL. A cross-sectional household survey was conducted in the Tangail district of Bangladesh. The study was conducted among elderly citizens (aged 60 years or above, according

to the National Policy on Elderly People in Bangladesh). Logistic and multiple regression models were used to identify the potential factors affecting the HRQoL of older citizens. A total of 585 older citizens participated in the study. The mean EQ-5D and VAS scores were 0.51 and 0.55, respectively. Most of the older citizens suffered from anxiety or depression (81.6%), followed by pain or discomfort (81.4%). The HRQoL is significantly higher for male than female older citizens ( $P < 0.001$ ). The older citizens currently involved in day labour or business had significantly less health-related problems in the mobility ( $p < 0.001$ ) and self-care ( $p < 0.01$ ). Housewives were 2.17 times more likely to report health problems in the ‘anxiety or depression’ while less likely to suffer ‘usual activities’ related health problems ( $p < 0.001$ ). It is recommended that health authorities and relevant stakeholders prioritise various programs promoting health among the elderly, such as health education, health promotion and health resources, in order to improve HRQoL among the elderly citizens in Bangladesh.

#### **54. Socio-economic Inequalities in Diabetes and Prediabetes among Bangladeshi Adults**

*Author(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarker and M. Khanam*

*Year of Publication: 25 October 2021*

*Citation: Sarker, A. R., & Khanam, M. (2022). Socio-economic inequalities in diabetes and prediabetes among Bangladeshi Adults. *Diabetology International*, 13(2), 421-435. 10.1007/s13340-021-00556-9*

#### ***Abstract***

Diabetes and prediabetes are overwhelming public health concerns in Bangladesh. However, there is a paucity of the literature examining and measuring socioeconomic inequalities in the prevalence of diabetes in Bangladesh. To provide reliable data and contribute to a nationwide scenario analysis, this study aims to estimate the inequality in prevalence of diabetes and prediabetes and to identify factors potentially contributing to socioeconomic inequalities in Bangladesh. This study used data from the latest Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017–18, a nationally representative survey. A regression-based decomposition method was applied to assess the socioeconomic contributors to inequality. The prevalence of diabetes and prediabetes were about 10 and 15% among Bangladeshi adults, respectively. Both diabetes and prediabetes were significantly associated with age, wealth status, suffering from overweight or obesity and administrative divisions of the respondents ( $p < 0.001$ ). Respondents’ household wealth status accounted for about 74 and 81% of the total inequality in diabetes and prediabetes in Bangladesh, respectively. Administrative region contributed 24.85% of the inequality in prediabetes and 12.26% of the inequality in diabetes. In addition, overweight or obesity status contributed 11.37% and exposure to television contributed 5.17% of the inequality in diabetes. Diabetes and prediabetes affect a substantial proportion of the Bangladeshi adult population. Therefore, these findings should be considered in the context of current and proposed policy decision making and for tracking its progression with economic development in Bangladesh.



**55. "The Economic Burden of Rotavirus Hospitalization among Children < 5 Years of Age in Selected Hospitals in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Sayem Ahmed, Farzana Dorin, Syed Moinuddin Satter, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Marufa Sultana, Paul A Gastanaduy, Umesh Parasharh, Jacqueline E. Tate, James D. Heffelfinger, Emily S. Gurley, Jahangir A.M. Khan*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation: Ahmed, S., Dorin, F., Satter, S. M., Sarker, A. R., Sultana, M., Gastanaduy, P. A., ... & Khan, J. A. (2021). **The economic burden of rotavirus hospitalization among children < 5 years of age in selected hospitals in Bangladesh.** *Vaccine*, 39(48), 7082-7090. 10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.10.003*

***Abstract***

Rotavirus is a common cause of severe acute gastroenteritis among young children. Estimation of the economic burden would provide informed decision about investment on prevention strategies (e.g., vaccine and/or behavior change), which has been a potential policy discussion in Bangladesh for several years. We estimated the societal costs of children <5 years for hospitalisation from rotavirus gastroenteritis (RVGE) and incidences of catastrophic health expenditure. A total of 360 children with stool specimens positive for rotavirus were included in this study from 6 tertiary hospitals (3 public and 3 private). We interviewed the caregiver of the patient and hospital staff to collect cost from patient and health facility perspectives. We estimated the economic cost considering 2015 as the reference year.

The total societal per-patient costs to treat RVGE in the public hospital were 126 USD (95% CI: 116–136) and total household costs were 161 USD (95% CI: 145–177) in private facilities. Direct costs constituted 38.1% of total household costs. The out-of-pocket payments for RVGE hospitalisation was 23% of monthly income and 76% of households faced catastrophic healthcare expenditures due to this expense. The estimated total annual household treatment cost for the country was 10 million USD. A substantial economic burden of RVGE in Bangladesh was observed in this study. Any prevention of RVGE through cost-effective vaccination or/and behavioral change would contribute to substantial economic benefits to Bangladesh.

## 56. Antimicrobial Resistance: Is Health Technology Assessment Part of the Solution or Part of the Problem?

**Author(s):** Abigail R. Colson PhD, Alec Morton PhD, Christine Ardal PhD, Kalipso Chalkidou MD, PhD, Sally C. Davies GCB, DBE, Louis P. Garrison PhD, Mark Jit PhD, Ramanan Laxminarayan PhD, Itamar Megiddo PhD, Chantal Morel PhD, Justice Nonvignon PhD, Kevin Outterson JD, John H. Rex MD, Abdur Razzaque Sarker PhD, Mark Sculpher PhD, Beth Woods MSc, Yue Xiao PhD

**Year of Publication:** 2021

**Citation:** Colson, A. R., Morton, A., Ardal, C., Chalkidou, K., Davies, S. C., Garrison, L. P., ... & Xiao, Y. (2021). *Antimicrobial resistance: is health technology assessment part of the solution or part of the problem?* *Value in Health*, 24(12), 1828-1834.

### **Abstract**

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious challenge to the success and sustainability of our healthcare systems. There has been increasing policy attention given to antimicrobial resistance in the last few years, and increased amounts of funding have been channeled into funding for research and development of antimicrobial agents. Nevertheless, manufacturers doubt whether there will be a market for new antimicrobial technologies sufficient to enable them to recoup their investment. Health technology assessment (HTA) has a critical role in creating confidence that if valuable technologies can be developed, they will be reimbursed at a level that captures their true value. We identify 3 deficiencies of current HTA processes for appraising antimicrobial agents: a methods-centric approach rather than problem-centric approach for dealing with new challenges, a lack of tools for thinking about changing patterns of infection, and the absence of an approach to epidemiological risks. We argue that, to play their role more effectively, HTA agencies need to broaden their methodological tool kit, design and communicate their analysis to a wider set of users, and incorporate long-term policy goals, such as containing resistance, as part of their evaluation criteria alongside immediate health gains.

## 57. Cost of Oral Cholera Vaccine Delivery in a Mass Immunization Program for Children in Urban Bangladesh

**Author(s):** Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Ashraful Islam Khan, Md. Taufiqul Islam, Fahima Chowdhury, Farhana Khanam, Sophie Kang, Faisal Ahmed, Justin Im, Deok Ryun Kim, Birkneh Tilahun Tadesse, Tasnuva Ahmed, Asma Binte Aziz, Masuma Hoque, Juyeon Park, Xinxue Liu, Gideok Pak, Khalequ Zaman, Florian Marks, Jerome H. Kim, John D. Clemens...Firdausi Qadri

**Year of Publication:** 2022

**Citation:** Sarker, A. R., Khan, A. I., Islam, M. T., Chowdhury, F., Khanam, F., Kang, S., ... & Qadri, F. (2022). *Cost of oral cholera vaccine delivery in a mass immunization program for children in urban Bangladesh.* *Vaccine: X*, 12, 100247. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvacx.2022.100247>.

### *Abstract*

Cholera poses a substantial health burden in the developing world due to both epidemic and endemic diseases. The World Health Organisation recommends oral cholera vaccines for mass vaccination campaigns in addition to traditional prevention practices and treatments in resource-poor settings. In many developing countries like Bangladesh, the major challenge behind implementing mass vaccination campaigns concerns the affordability of the oral cholera vaccine (OCV). Vaccination of children with OCV is not only an impactful approach for controlling cholera at the population level and reducing childhood morbidity but is also considered more cost-effective than vaccinating all ages. The aim of the study was to estimate the cost of an OCV campaign for children from a societal perspective using empirical study. A total of 66,311 children aged 1 to 14 years old were fully vaccinated with two doses of the OCV Shanchol while 9,035 individuals received one dose of this vaccine. The estimated societal cost per individual for full vaccination was US\$ 6.11, which includes the cost of vaccine delivery estimated at US\$ 1.95. The cost per single dose was estimated at US\$ 2.86. The total provider cost for full vaccination was estimated at US\$ 6.01 and the recipient cost at US\$ 0.10. Our estimation of OCV delivery costs for children was relatively higher than what was found in a similar mass OCV campaign for all age groups, indicating that there may be additional cost factors to consider in targeted vaccine campaigns. This analysis provides useful benchmarks for the possible costs related to delivery of OCV to children and future OCV cost-effectiveness models should factor in these possible cost disparities. Attempts to reduce the cost per dose are likely to have a greater impact on the cost of similar vaccination campaigns in many resource-poor settings.

#### **58. Drivers and Distribution of the Household-Level Double Burden of Malnutrition in Bangladesh: Analysis of Mother-Child Dyads from a National Household Survey**

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Zakir Hossain, Alec Morton

*Year of Publication:* 2022

**Citation:** Sarker, A. R., Hossain, Z., & Morton, A. (2022). **Drivers and distribution of the household-level double burden of malnutrition in Bangladesh: Analysis of mother-child dyads from a national household survey.** *Public Health Nutrition*, 25(11), 3158-3171. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1368980022002075>

### *Abstract*

The double burden of malnutrition (DBM) has become an emerging public health issue in many low- and middle-income countries. This study aims to provide important evidence for the prevalence of different types of DBM at the national and subnational levels in Bangladesh. The study utilised data from the latest Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017–2018. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to identify the sociodemographic factors associated with DBM.

In a nationally representative cross-sectional survey of 8697 mothers aged 15 to 49 years with <5 children., The overall prevalence of the DBM was approximately 21 %, where the prevalence of overweight mother (OWM) & stunted child/wasted child/underweight child (SC/WC/UWC) and underweight mother (UWM) & overweight child (OWC) was 13.35 % and 7.69 %, respectively, with a higher prevalence among urban households (OWM & SC/WC/UWC = 14.22 %; UWM & OWC = 10.58 %) in Bangladesh. High inequality was observed among UWM & OWC dyads, concentration index (CI) = -0.2998, while low level of inequality of DBM were observed for OWM & SC (CI = 0.0153), OWM & WC (CI = 0.1165) and OWM & UWC (CI = 0.0135) dyads. We observed that the age and educational status of the mother, number of children, fathers' occupation, size and wealth index of the household, and administrative division were significantly associated with all types of DBM. Health policymakers, concerned authorities and various stakeholders should stress the prevalence of DBM issues and take necessary actions aimed at identifying and addressing the DBM in Bangladesh.

#### **59. Factors Associated with Post-Natal Care Utilization among the Women of Reproductive Age Group: Evidence from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18**

*Author(s): Israt Tahira Sheba, Razzaque Sarker, Afrida Tasnim*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

**Citation:** Sheba, I. T., Sarker, A. R., & Tasnim, A. (2022). **Factors associated with post-natal care utilization among the women of reproductive age group: Evidence from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18.** *Health Services Research and Managerial Epidemiology*, 9, 23333928221136393. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23333928221136393>

#### ***Abstract***

Postnatal period is a crucial stage of illness for mothers and their newborn children. Lack of post-natal care (PNC) services during this period is life-threatening for both the mother and the babies. This study aims at examining the associated factors of PNC utilisation among the mothers to explore the opportunities to accelerate it. This study utilised the latest data from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017–18, a nationally representative survey. A weighted sample of 5043 Bangladeshi women who gave birth three years prior to the survey was studied. Bivariate and multivariate analyses were performed to identify the underlying factors associated with the utilisation of PNC.

Around 63% women sought PNC from any kind of provider within 24 h to 42 days of the delivery among whom more than 48% received it from medically trained providers. Together with several sociodemographic factors- administrative division, place of residence, educational level, employment status, wealth status, some maternal factors such as- antenatal care (ANC) visits, place and mode of delivery- played a significant role in utilising PNC services from trained providers. To further improve utilisation of post-natal care, national and local level action plans

should be introduced to promote health facility delivery irrespective of their place of residence. In the meantime, PNC awareness campaigns, intervention and economic empowerment programs targeting mothers from the poorest quintile needs to be implemented, particularly those who are unable to attend at least four ANC visits, and have accessibility issues to education.

#### **60. Disease-specific Distress Healthcare Financing and Catastrophic Out-of-pocket Expenditure for Hospitalization in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Nurnabi Sheikh, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Marufa Sultana, Rashidul Alam Mahumud, Sayem Ahmed, Mohammad Touhidul Islam, Susan Howick & Alec Morton*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

**Citation:** Sheikh, N., Sarker, A. R., Sultana, M., Mahumud, R. A., Ahmed, S., Islam, M. T., ... & Morton, A. (2022). **Disease-specific distress healthcare financing and catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure for hospitalization in Bangladesh.** *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 21(1), 114. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57138/HGGQ2648>

#### ***Abstract***

Financial risk protection and equity are two fundamental components of the global commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which mandates health system reform based on population needs, disease incidence, and economic burden to ensure that everyone has access to health services without any financial hardship. We estimated disease-specific incidences of catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure and distress financing to investigate progress toward UHC financial risk indicators and investigated inequalities in financial risk protection indicators by wealth quintiles. In addition, we explored the determinants of financial hardship indicators as a result of hospitalisation costs. Data were extracted from the latest Bangladesh Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 2016–2017. Financial hardship indicators in UHC were measured by catastrophic health expenditure and distress financing (sale/mortgage, borrowing, and family support). Concentration curves (CC) and indices (CI) were estimated to measure the pattern and severity of inequalities across socio-economic classes. Binary logistic regression models were used to assess the determinants of catastrophic health expenditure and distress financing.

We found that about 26% of households incurred catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) and 58% faced distress financing on hospitalisation in Bangladesh. The highest incidence of CHE was for cancer (50%), followed by liver diseases (49.2%), and paralysis (43.6%). The financial hardship indicators in terms of CHE (CI = -0.109) and distress financing (CI = -0.087) were more concentrated among low-income households. Hospital admission to private health facilities, non-communicable diseases, and the presence of chronic patients in households significantly increases the likelihood of higher UHC financial hardship indicators. The study findings strongly suggest the need for national-level social health security schemes with a particular focus on low-income households, since we identified greater inequalities between low- and high-income households in UHC financial hardship indicators. Regulating the private sector and implementing subsidised healthcare programmes for diseases with high treatment costs, such as cancer, heart disease, liver disease, and kidney disease are also expected to be effective to protect households from financial hardship. Finally, in order to reduce reliance on OOPE, the government should consider increasing its allocations to the health sector.

**61. Economic Assessment of Childhood Rotavirus Vaccination in Bangladesh. Journal of Infections and Public Health**

*Author: Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Sarker, A. R. (2023). **Economic assessment of childhood rotavirus vaccination in Bangladesh. *Journal of Infection and Public Health*, 16(5), 816-822. S1876-0341(23)00102-8**

***Abstract***

Rotavirus is one of the most highly prevalent communicable diseases in Bangladesh. The objective of this study is to evaluate the benefit-cost ratio of childhood rotavirus vaccination program in Bangladesh. A spreadsheet-based model was used to estimate the benefit and cost of a nationwide universal rotavirus vaccination program against rotavirus infections among under-five children in Bangladesh. A benefit-cost analysis was performed to evaluate a universal vaccination program compared with a status quo. Data from various published vaccination-related studies and public reports were used. The introduction of a childhood rotavirus vaccination program in Bangladesh for 14.78 million under-five children is projected to prevent approximately 1.54 million rotavirus cases during the first 2 years including 0.7 million severe rotavirus infections. This study shows that among the WHO-prequalified rotavirus vaccines, the net societal benefit is the highest if the vaccination program adopts ROTAVAC® rather than Rotarix® or ROTASIIL®. For every dollar invested in the outreach-based ROTAVAC® vaccination program, society would gain \$2.03 in return, while in a facility-based vaccination program, society would gain up to about \$2.2. The findings of this study demonstrate that a universal childhood rotavirus vaccination program is a cost-beneficial investment of public money. Thus, the government should consider the introduction of rotavirus vaccination in their Expanded Program on Immunisation since the rotavirus immunisation policy in Bangladesh will be economically justifiable

**62. Economic Burden of Dengue in Urban Bangladesh: A Societal Perspective. PLOS Neglected Tropical Disease**

*Author(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Subrata Paul, Fatema Zohara, Zakir Hossain, Irfat Zabeen, S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury, Maruf Ahmed, Nausad Ali, Raymond Oppong*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Sarker, A. R., Paul, S., Zohara, F., Hossain, Z., Zabeen, I., Chowdhury, S. Z. I., ... & Oppong, R. (2023). **Economic burden of dengue in urban Bangladesh: A societal perspective. *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 17(12), e0011820. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0011820>**

### *Abstract*

Dengue, a vector-borne disease, is a major public health problem in many tropical and subtropical countries including Bangladesh. The objective of this study is to estimate the societal cost of illness of dengue infections among the urban population in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A cost-of-illness study was conducted using a prevalence-based approach from a societal perspective. Costs attributable to dengue were estimated from a bottom-up strategy using the guideline proposed by the World Health Organisation for estimating the economic burden of infectious diseases.

A total of 302 hospitalised confirmed dengue patients were enrolled in this study. The average cost to society for a person with a dengue episode was US\$ 479.02. This amount was ranged between US\$ 341.67 and US\$ 567.12 for those patients who were treated at public and private hospitals, respectively. The households out-of-pocket cost contributed to a larger portion of the total costs of illness (66%) while the cost burden was significantly higher for the poorest households than the richest quintile. Dengue disease imposes a substantial financial burden on households and society. Therefore, decision-makers should consider the treatment cost of dengue infections, particularly among the poor in the population while balancing the benefits of introducing potentially effective dengue preventive programs in Bangladesh.

### **63. Increasing Rates of Cesarean Birth in Bangladesh: A Household-level Pooled Analysis**

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker PhD, Irfat Zabeen MSS, Zakir Hossain MPH, Nausad Ali MSS, Jahangir A. M. Khan PhD

*Year of Publication:* 2023

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R., Zabeen, I., Hossain, Z., Ali, N., & Khan, J. A. (2024). **Increasing rates of cesarean birth in Bangladesh: A household-level pooled analysis.** *Birth*, 51(2), 326-342. <https://doi.org/10.1111/birt.12789>

### *Abstract*

Cesarean birth (CB) rates have been increasing rapidly globally, including in Bangladesh. This study aimed to assess national trends in CB rates and to investigate associated factors in Bangladesh. We analyzed data from the five most recent Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (BDHS) between 2003 and 2018. A total of 27,328 ever-married women aged 15–49 who had a live birth in the 2 years preceding the survey were included in this study. We estimated the prevalence of CB from 2003 to 2018, as well as changes in the prevalence. Logistic regression analysis was used to measure the association between dependent and independent variables.

The overall prevalence of CB among Bangladeshi mothers was 3.99% in 2003–04; this rate increased to 33.22% in 2017–18. The annual percentage change in CB rate was 16.34% from 2004 to 2017–18, which is alarming relative to the World Health Organisation’s cesarean birth

recommended threshold. Several factors, such as maternal age, maternal and paternal education, working status of the mother, maternal BMI, age at first pregnancy, antenatal care (ANC) use, administrative division, and wealth status, had a significant influence on the rising rate of CB in Bangladesh. This study documents the alarming rate of CB increase in Bangladesh since 2003. It is critical that authorities implement more effective national monitoring measures to identify the causes of this dramatic increase and work to mitigate the rate of unnecessary CB in Bangladesh.

#### **64. Healthcare-seeking Experiences of Older Citizens in Bangladesh: A Qualitative Study**

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Irfat Zabeen, Moriam Khanam, Ruckshana Akter, Nausad Ali

*Year of Publication:* 2023

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R., Zabeen, I., Khanam, M., Akter, R., & Ali, N. (2023). **Healthcare-seeking experiences of older citizens in Bangladesh: A qualitative study.** *PLOS Global Public Health*, 3(2), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0001185>

#### ***Abstract***

Despite improvements in many health indicators in the last few decades, providing access to affordable and quality healthcare for older citizen remains a considerable challenge in Bangladesh. This study aimed to understand individuals' experiences regarding their healthcare-seeking, treatment cost, accessibility and coping mechanisms for the promotion of appropriate strategies to enhance the quality of life of the older citizens of Bangladesh. A qualitative descriptive approach was used in this study. A total of 27 In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted in a district in Bangladesh with older people between January and February 2020, where gender distribution was equal. Face-to-face interviews were conducted by trained and experienced interviewers regarding healthcare-seeking and accessibility, affordability, and healthcare coping strategy. Thematic analysis was conducted to analyse the data. It was found that the health condition of the older population is not satisfactory. Most of them had been suffering from several diseases such as benign tumor, chronic kidney disease, body aches, gastric ulcers for a longer period of time. The majority of the participants were suffering from multiple non-communicable diseases while diabetes and hypertension were the foremost of all diseases. This study provides insight into the challenges of managing healthcare services for older citizens in Bangladesh. Healthcare facilities were available, but high out-of-pocket payments, lack of caregivers, and time distance created a barrier to the service provision. The findings indicated that geriatric care policymakers and service providers should prioritize the older-friendly health infrastructures with affordable cost of treatment for the betterment of the health status of older citizens in Bangladesh.



**65. Out-of-pocket Expenditure among Patients with Diabetes in Bangladesh: A Nation-wide Population-based Study**

*Author(s): Zakir Hossain, Moriam Khanam, Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Hossain, Z., Khanam, M., & Sarker, A. R. (2023). **Out-of-pocket expenditure among patients with diabetes in Bangladesh: A nation-wide population-based study.** *Health Policy OPEN*, 5(7), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hpopen.2023.100102>

***Abstract***

Diabetes has become one of the fastest growing public health emergencies worldwide. The objective of this study was to estimate the average annual out-of-pocket cost of diabetes treatment as well as to find out the catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) and their determinants in Bangladeshi context. The study utilised data from the most recent nationally representative Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016–2017. The incidence of CHE was estimated by applying 10% and 25% of the annual total household expenditure threshold levels. The factors associated with CHE was presented as adjusted odds ratio with 95% confidence intervals.

The annual average out-of-pocket cost per diabetes patient was US\$ 323 (BDT 25,473). The cost of medication was the main cost driver contributed for 75.43% of the total out-of-pocket cost. The incidence of CHE was 14.34%, and 5.86% of the study households for 10% and 25% of the threshold levels, respectively. The patient aged more than 60 (AOR: 4.89; CI 0.82 to 28.95), uneducated (AOR: 1.83; CI 0.25 to 2.12), comorbid condition (AOR: 1.62; CI 0.94 to 2.79), small household size (AOR: 3.20; CI 0.58 to 17.51), rural resident (AOR: 1.85; CI 0.46 to 1.57), poorest asset quintile (AOR: 4.06; CI 1.43 to 13.87) and private facility type (AOR: 8.16; CI 3.46 to 19.25) were significantly associated with the incidence of CHE due to diabetes treatment. There are considerable out-of-pocket costs needed for diabetes care in Bangladesh. The evidence of catastrophic expenditure suggests the urgent need to improve financial risk protection to ensure access to care.

**66. Equity Assessment of Maternal and Child Healthcare Benefits Utilization and Distribution in Public Healthcare Facilities in Bangladesh: A Benefit Incidence Analysis**

*Author(s): Nurnabi Sheikh, Marufa Sultana, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, and Alec Morton*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Sheikh, N., Sultana, M., Sarker, A. R., & Morton, A. (2023). **Equity assessment of maternal and child healthcare benefits utilization and distribution in public healthcare facilities in Bangladesh: A benefit incidence analysis.** *Population Health Metrics*, 21, 12.

### *Abstract*

The distribution of healthcare services should be based on the needs of the population, regardless of their ability to pay. Achieving universal health coverage implies first ensuring that people of all income levels have access to quality healthcare, and then allocating resources reasonably considering individual need. Hence, this study aims to understand how public benefits in Bangladesh are currently distributed among wealth quintiles considering different layers of healthcare facilities and to assess the distributional impact of public benefits. To conduct this study, data were extracted from the recent Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2017–18. We performed benefit incidence analysis to determine the distribution of maternal and child healthcare utilisation in relation to wealth quintiles. Disaggregated and national-level public benefit incidence analysis was conducted by the types of healthcare services, levels of healthcare facilities, and overall utilisation. Concentration curves and concentration indices were estimated to measure the equity in benefits distribution.

An unequal utilisation of public benefits observed among the wealth quintiles for maternal and child healthcare services across the different levels of healthcare facilities in Bangladesh. Overall, upper two quintiles (richest 19.8% and richer 21.7%) utilised more benefits from public facilities compared to the lower two quintiles (poorest 18.9% and poorer 20.1%). Benefits utilisation from secondary level of health facilities was highly pro-rich, while benefit utilisation found pro-poor at primary levels. The public benefits in Bangladesh were also not distributed according to the needs of the population; nevertheless, poorest 20% household cannot access 20% share of public benefits in most of the maternal and child healthcare services even if we ignore their needs. Benefit incidence analysis in public health spending demonstrates the efficacy with which the government allocates constrained health resources to satisfy the needs of the poor. Public health spending in Bangladesh on maternal and child healthcare services were not equally distributed among wealth quintiles. Overall health benefits were more utilised by the rich relative to the poor. Hence, policymakers should prioritise redistribution of resources by targeting the socioeconomically vulnerable segments of the population to increase their access to health services to meet their health needs.

#### **67. Economic Evaluations of Immunization Programs as An Indispensable Tool for Policymakers**

*Author(s): Saskia den Boon, Sayem Ahmed, and Abdur Razzaque Sarker*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** den Boon, S., Ahmed, S., & Sarker, A. R. (2023). **Economic evaluations of immunization programs as an indispensable tool for policymakers.** *BMC Health Services Research*, 23(1), 1284. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-023-10071-z>

### *Abstract*

Introducing new vaccines within national immunisation programs requires careful consideration of disease and vaccine-related issues as well as of the strength of the program and the affected health system. Economic evaluations play an essential role in this process. In this editorial, we set the context and invite contributions for a BMC Health Services Research Collection of articles titled 'Economic Evaluations of Vaccine Programs.

#### **68. Out-of-pocket Payment for Healthcare Among Urban Citizens in Dhaka, Bangladesh**

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker, SM Zulfiqar Ali, Maruf Ahmed, SM Zahedul Islam Chowdhury, Nausad Ali

*Year of Publication:* 2022

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R., Ali, S. Z., Ahmed, M., Chowdhury, S. Z. I., & Ali, N. (2022). **Out-of-pocket payment for healthcare among urban citizens in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *PLOS One*, 17(1).** DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0262900>

### *Abstract*

Out-of-pocket (OOP) payment is the major payment strategy for healthcare in Bangladesh, and the share of OOP expenditure has increased alarmingly. Dhaka is recognised as one of the fastest-growing megacities in the world. The objective of this study is to capture the self-reported illnesses among urban citizens and to identify whether and to what extent socioeconomic, demographic and behavioural factors of the population influence OOP healthcare expenditures. This study utilises cross-sectional survey data collected from May to August 2019 in urban Dhaka, Bangladesh. A total of 3,100 households were randomly selected. Simple descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentage, mean (95% CI), median and inter-quartile range were presented. Bivariate analysis and multivariate regression models were employed.

We observed that acute illnesses (e.g., fever, flu/cough) were dominant among participants. Among the chronic illnesses, approximately 9.6% of people had diabetes, while 5.3% had high/low blood pressure. The richest quintile only spent 5.2% of their household income on healthcare, while the poorest households spent approximately six times more than the richest households. We noted that various factors such as marital status, religion, source of care, access to safe water, income quintile and even the location of households had a significant relationship with OOP expenditure. Our findings can serve as important source of data in terms of disease-specific symptoms and out-of-pocket cost among urban citizens in Dhaka. The people belonging to wealthier households tended to choose better healthcare facilities and spend more. A pro-poor policy initiative and even an urban health protection scheme may be necessary to ensure that healthcare services are accessible and affordable, in line with the Bangladesh National Urban Health Strategy.

## 69. Validity and Reliability of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) among University Students of Bangladesh

*Author(s): Tahia Anan Dhira, Mahir A. Rahman, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Jeenat Mehareen*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Dhira, T. A., Rahman, M. A., Sarker, A. R., & Mehareen, J. (2021). **Validity and reliability of the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) among university students of Bangladesh.** *PloS one*, 16(12). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0261590>

### *Abstract*

This study investigated the reliability and factorial validity of Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) in the context of university students in Bangladesh. The research aimed to assess whether the original one-dimensional model or a model containing both somatic and cognitive-emotional factors is appropriate in the case of a sample of university students. A repeated cross-sectional survey design based on convenience sampling was used to collect data from 677 university students from both public and private universities. The factor structure of the PHQ-9 was assessed using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). Measurement invariances were assessed across gender, type of university, level of education and victim of domestic violence. Its convergent validity was determined by investigating its correlations with Generalised Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) and Patient Health Questionnaire Anxiety-Depression Scale (PHQ-ADS). Results showed excellent reliability of PHQ-9 as measured by both Cronbach's  $\alpha$  and McDonald's  $\omega$ . CFA suggested that a modified one-factor model where the error variances between item-3 ('sleeping difficulties') and item-6 ('feeling as a failure'), item-6 and item-9 ('suicidal thoughts'), item-4 ('feeling tired') and item-9, item-3 and item-9 were allowed to covary is appropriate for the sample. This model provided high values of comparative fit index (CFI), goodness of fit index (GFI), and Tucker Lewis Index (TLI), low value of standardised root mean square residual (SRMR) and a non-significant root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) as well as a high Factor Determinacy Score Coefficient. Correlation between PHQ-9 and GAD-7 was 0.751 and 0.934 between PHQ-9 and PHQ-ADS. Finally, the model is strictly invariant across gender and university type. Overall, the study provided support for modified unidimensional structure for PHQ-9 and showed high internal consistency along with good convergent validity.

## 70. Economic Assessment of Childhood Rotavirus Vaccination in Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Abdur Razzaque Sarker

*Year of Publication:* 2023

*Citation:* Sarker, A. R. (2023). **Economic assessment of childhood rotavirus vaccination in Bangladesh.** *Journal of Infection and Public Health*, 16(5), 816-822. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiph.2023.03.021>

### *Abstract*

Rotavirus is one of the most highly prevalent communicable diseases in Bangladesh. The objective of this study is to evaluate the benefit-cost ratio of childhood rotavirus vaccination program in Bangladesh. A spreadsheet-based model was used to estimate the benefit and cost of a nationwide universal rotavirus vaccination program against rotavirus infections among under-five children in Bangladesh. A benefit-cost analysis was performed to evaluate a universal vaccination program compared with a status quo. Data from various published vaccination-related studies and public reports were used. The introduction of a childhood rotavirus vaccination program in Bangladesh for 14.78 million under-five children is projected to prevent approximately 1.54 million rotavirus cases during the first 2 years including 0.7 million severe rotavirus infections. This study shows that among the WHO-prequalified rotavirus vaccines, the net societal benefit is the highest if the vaccination program adopts ROTAVAC® rather than Rotarix® or ROTASIIL®. For every dollar invested in the outreach-based ROTAVAC® vaccination program, society would gain \$2.03 in return, while in a facility-based vaccination program, society would gain up to about \$2.2. The findings of this study demonstrate that a universal childhood rotavirus vaccination program is a cost-beneficial investment of public money. Thus, the government should consider the introduction of rotavirus vaccination in their Expanded Program on Immunisation since the rotavirus immunisation policy in Bangladesh will be economically justifiable

## 71. Access and Fees in Public Health Care Services for the Poor: Bangladesh as a Case Study

*Author(s):* Wahid Abdallah, Shyamal Chowdhury, Kazi Iqbal

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Abdallah, W., Chowdhury, S., & Iqbal, K. (2022). **Access and fees in public health care services for the poor: Bangladesh as a case study.** *Oxford Development Studies*, 50(3), 209-224. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2021.2004392>

### *Abstract*

The redistributive objective of public services critically hinges on the extent to which the poor can avail themselves of such services. We investigate two factors that can compromise redistribution: unequal access and illegal fees. Using a nationally representative survey (a data source less prone to reporting bias), we find that poor patients in Bangladesh are 8–10% less likely to consult public health care services than non-poor patients. Moreover, a large number of

patients visiting public health facilities pay ‘consultation fees’ which are higher than the official rates, indicative of underlying corruption. Taken together, we find that the poor not only visit public health care facilities less frequently, they also pay a larger share of their non-food expenditure as bribes when they do access these facilities. Our results offer important insights into how the redistributive goal of public health care services can be hampered by misgovernance and corruption.

## **72. Assessing the Impact of Internal Branding on Organizational Citizenship Behavior among Hotel Employees in Bangladesh**

**Author(s):** Dewan Mehrab Ashrafi, A Haque, AR Sarker, NA Chowdhury

**Year of Publication:** 2021

**Citation:** Ashrafi, D. M., Haque, A., Sarker, A. R., & Chowdhury, N. A. (2022). **Assessing the impact of internal branding on organizational citizenship behavior among hotel employees in Bangladesh.** *Pacific Business Review (International)*, 14(8), 46-61. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2021.2004392>

### ***Abstract***

The purpose of the paper is to investigate the relationship between internal branding and organisational citizenship behavior in the hotel industry from the context of Bangladesh. A quantitative approach was employed to gain an understanding regarding the relationship between organisational citizenship behavior and internal branding. The sampling method is characterised by convenience sampling and 253 employees from various hotels holding different designations were surveyed through a structured questionnaire. Moreover, factor analysis and regression analysis have been carried out to assess the relationship between internal branding and organisational citizenship behavior. Results indicated that there is a significant positive relationship between organisational citizenship behavior and internal branding. Finding of this study can help the practitioners as well as policymakers of organisations to apprehend the crucial significance of internal branding. Nevertheless, it can assist human resource managers and practitioners in developing effective strategies to enhance organisational performance through organisational citizenship behavior.

## 6. Environment Issues

### 73. Casualisation of Labour as Coping with Cyclone Aila: Peasants' Perception in the Sundarbans Area of Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan

*Year of Publication:* 2022

*Citation:* Bhuyan, M. H. R. (2021). *Casualisation of labour as coping with cyclone Aila. The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(1&2), 77-128. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57138/JURL.7372>

#### *Abstract*

This paper investigates the coping processes of Bangladeshi peasants after the disaster of Cyclone Aila in 2009. The focus is on the experience of peasants and how they respond to the losses caused by the cyclone. Using 72 in-depth interviews with peasants, shrimp farmers, local leaders, labour contractors, engineers and NGO staff, and surveys of 850 households, this paper analyses the aftermath of Cyclone Aila in two villages in the Satkhira district located in the Sundarbans delta of Bangladesh. One of the villages, Gorkumarpur, was economically backward and poorer than Mollapara village because of its vulnerable geographical location and damaged embankments. By illustrating resilience as the function of coping with vulnerabilities, this paper finds that the peasants can cope with this natural calamity by taking up a range of casual jobs, such as earthwork and brick kiln, to improve their lives and livelihoods. Such casual employment is essential after the initial relief initiatives ended, which shows the ability of the local peasants to protect their family's survival and secure livelihoods.

### 74. দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলার রাজনৈতিক অর্থনীতি: সুন্দরবন অঞ্চলের কৃষকদের অভিজ্ঞতা ও অভিমত বিশ্লেষণ

*লেখক:* মোহাম্মদ হারুনুর রশিদ ভূঁইয়া

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ:* ২০২৩

*তথ্যসূত্র:* বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৯/৪০ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৮/১৪২৯

#### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

দারিদ্র্যের ব্যাপ্তির সাথে সাথে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের প্রভাব ও প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ বাংলাদেশকে পৃথিবীর অন্যতম দুর্যোগপ্রবণ দেশ হিসেবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছে। বাংলাদেশ তার ভৌগোলিক অবস্থান ও ভূসংস্থানের জন্য ঐতিহাসিকভাবেই প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের একটি উর্বর ক্ষেত্র। সাইক্লোনের ফলে বিশ্বে এ পর্যন্ত যত মানুষ মৃত্যুবরণ করেছে, তার ৫০ শতাংশই ঘটেছে বাংলাদেশে। যদিও বিশ্বব্যাপী সংঘটিত সাইক্লোনের মাত্র ১ শতাংশ বাংলাদেশে আঘাত হেনেছে। এই মৃত্যুহার বেশি হওয়ার একটি কারণ হলো ১৯৭০ ও ১৯৯১ সালে বাংলাদেশে সংঘটিত দুটো ভয়াবহ সাইক্লোন, যেখানে প্রচুর লোক মারা যায়। একটিতে প্রায় ৫ লাখ ও অন্যটিতে ১ লক্ষ ৪০ হাজার লোক মৃত্যুবরণ করে। এ মৃত্যুর আরেকটি বড় কারণ হলো বাংলাদেশের কয়েক কোটি মানুষ নিম্নাঞ্চলে (দেশের দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিমাঞ্চল ও দক্ষিণ-পূর্বাঞ্চলে) বাস করে, যেখানে ২০০৯ সালে আইলা নামক একই ধরনের বড় সাইক্লোন আঘাত হানে। এতে প্রায় ৩.৯ মিলিয়ন লোক আক্রান্ত হয়েছিল। দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিমাঞ্চলে, বিশেষ করে পৃথিবীর সবচেয়ে বড় ম্যানগ্রোভ বন সুন্দরবন এলাকায় বসবাসকারী মানুষ সাধারণত জীবন জীবিকার জন্য সুন্দরবন ছাড়াও কৃষি কাজের উপর নির্ভরশীল। কৃষক ও দরিদ্রপীড়িত জনগোষ্ঠী ২০০৭ সালে সাইক্লোন সিডর ও ২০০৯ সালে সাইক্লোন আইলায় আক্রান্ত হয়েছিল। বর্তমান গবেষণাটি সাইক্লোন আইলায় সবচেয়ে বেশি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত সাতক্ষীরা জেলার শ্যামনগর উপজেলার কৃষকদের নিয়ে।

## 75. বাংলাদেশে কৃষকদের ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের প্রবণতা এবং জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন অভিযোজন কৌশল

লেখক: তাজনুরী ছামিনা খানম

প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪

তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০

### সারসংক্ষেপ

বাংলাদেশে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন কৃষিতে মারাত্মক প্রভাব ফেলছে, বিশেষ করে বন্যা, লবণাক্ত পানি অনুপ্রবেশ এবং খরার মাধ্যমে জীবিকা হুমকির মুখে ফেলছে। কৃষিতে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের নেতিবাচক প্রভাব হ্রাসের একটি অন্যতম উপায় বা নীতি বিকল্প হলো অভিযোজন অর্থাৎ পরিবর্তিত জলবায়ু পরিস্থিতির সাথে খাপ খাওয়ানো। অন্যদিকে, কৃষকদের ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের প্রবণতা তাদের খামার পরিচালনা সংক্রান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে। এই প্রবন্ধে আন্তর্জাতিক ধান গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউটের (IRRI) ১,৪৮৫টি পরিবারের তথ্য বিশ্লেষণ করে বাংলাদেশি কৃষকদের ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের প্রবণতা, তাদের জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের অভিযোজন কৌশলগুলি অন্বেষণ করা হয়েছে, এবং তাদের মধ্যকার সম্পর্ক চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে। গবেষণা ফলাফল থেকে দেখা যাচ্ছে, একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য সংখ্যক কৃষক ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের বিমুখতা শ্রেণীর অন্তর্ভুক্ত এবং বিবৃতি আবহাওয়ার সাথে খাপ খাইয়ে নিতে কৃষকরা বিভিন্ন অভিযোজন কৌশল গ্রহণ করেছে যেমন ফসলের নতুন জাত চাষ করা, আবহাওয়ার পূর্বাভাস পরিবীক্ষণ করা, নতুন চাষের ধরনে সুইচ করা, বিনিয়োগ এবং শস্য বৈচিত্র্যকরণ, গবেষণা ফলাফল থেকে আরও দেখা যাচ্ছে যে, কৃষকদের বিভিন্ন অভিযোজন কৌশল অবলম্বনকে প্রভাবিত করার কারণগুলি বিভিন্ন রকম হয়ে থাকে। ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের প্রবণতা, জেন্ডার, জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের প্রভাব সম্পর্কে কৃষকদের উপলব্ধি, সংগঠনে সদস্যপদ এবং জমির আকার জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের সাথে কৃষকের অভিযোজনের সম্ভাবনা ব্যাখ্যা করতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে। অন্য যেসব কারণ কৃষকদের অভিযোজন কৌশল অবলম্বনের সম্ভাবনাকে উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে প্রভাবিত করেছে তার মধ্যে রয়েছে শিক্ষার স্তর এবং জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের প্রভাবে ফসলের ক্ষতির মাত্রা। এই গবেষণা কৃষকদের বৈচিত্র্যময় ঝুঁকি গ্রহণের প্রবণতা এবং সম্পদের সীমাবদ্ধতাকে বিবেচনা করে প্রতিক্রিয়াশীল অভিযোজন নীতিমালা তৈরির জন্য মূল্যবান অন্তর্দৃষ্টি প্রদান করে, যা নীতিনির্ধারকদের জন্য কার্যকর।

## 76. আন্তঃসীমান্ত অভিবাসনের মাধ্যমে দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলা: ঘূর্ণিঝড় আইলার অভিজ্ঞতা

লেখক: মোহাম্মদ হারুনুর রশিদ ভূঁইয়া, মাহমুদুল হাসান

প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪

তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০

### সারসংক্ষেপ

ব্যাপক দারিদ্র্য বাংলাদেশকে গ্রীষ্মমন্ডলীয় ঝড় ও বন্যার প্রভাব মোকাবেলায় অত্যন্ত ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ করে তুলেছে। বৃষ্টিপাতের অপ্রত্যাশিত পরিবর্তন, হিমালয়ের হিমবাহের ক্রমাগত ক্ষয় হয়ে যাওয়া এবং সমুদ্রপৃষ্ঠের উচ্চতা বৃদ্ধির পাশাপাশি অন্যান্য প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ বৃদ্ধির পূর্বাভাস পাওয়া যাচ্ছে (DMB, 2010: 7-8; Khan et al., 2010: 2; Watson et al., 1996: 30-33)। সারা বিশ্বে ঘূর্ণিঝড়ের কারণে সংঘটিত মৃত্যুর প্রায় ৫০ শতাংশ ঘটনা ঘটে বাংলাদেশে, যদিও এখানে বিশ্বব্যাপী ঘূর্ণিঝড়ের মাত্র ১ শতাংশ আঘাত হানে (Amadore et al., 1996:4)। অধিক মৃত্যুর কারণ হলো বাংলাদেশের উন্মুক্ত উপকূলীয় এলাকায় লাখ লাখ মানুষের বসবাস; উদাহরণস্বরূপ বলা যায়, ২০০৯ সালে ৩.৯ মিলিয়ন মানুষ ঘূর্ণিঝড় আইলায় আক্রান্ত হয়েছিল (IRIN, 2009: 1; Kartiki, 2011: 104; Tacoli, 2009: 104)। যারা ঘূর্ণিঝড় এবং বন্যার ঝুঁকিতে রয়েছে তাদের জন্য অভিবাসন একটি কার্যকর অভিযোজন প্রক্রিয়া হতে পারে। এই গবেষণায় বাংলাদেশে ঘূর্ণিঝড় আইলার মতো দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলায় বিপদাপন্ন মানুষদের দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলার কৌশল (coping



strategy) হিসেবে আন্তঃসীমান্ত অভিবাসনের ঘটনাটি অনুসন্ধান করা হয়েছে। অভিবাসন বিভিন্ন আর্থ-সামাজিক কারণ দ্বারা অনুপ্রাণিত ও প্রভাবিত হয়, যেমন “পারিবারিক আয়ের উন্নতি করতে, পরিবারের সদস্যদের সাথে যোগ দিতে, নিপীড়ন থেকে বাঁচতে, এবং পরিবেশগত ও অন্যান্য হুমকি থেকে মুক্তি পেতে” (Beddington et al., 2011: 447)। “অভিবাসন হতে পারে স্বেচ্ছায়, বা নিগ্রহের শিকার হয়ে, বা জোরপূর্বক” “Migration can be voluntary, or coerced, or forced” (Bagchi, 2011: 420)। আমরা এখানে অভিবাসনকে ‘জোরপূর্বক’ অভিবাসন বলে বিবেচনা করছি, যেখানে বাংলাদেশের উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলে ঘূর্ণিঝড়ের ক্রমাগত ধ্বংসযজ্ঞ থেকে গ্রামবাসীদের বাঁচতে বেছে নিতে হয় অভিবাসনের ন্যায় কঠিন বিষয়কে।

**77. Gender, Migration and Environmental Change in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta in Bangladesh. In A. Hans (Eds), En-gendering Climate Change: Learnings from South Asia**

*Author(s): Anwara Begum*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Begum, A. 2021 "Gender, Migration and Environmental Change in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta in Bangladesh." In A. Hans (Eds), En-gendering Climate Change: Learnings from South Asia. **Publisher: Sage.**

***Abstract***

The relationship between gender, migration, and environmental change in Bangladesh is complex and influenced by historical, socio-economic, and environmental factors. *The Gendered Dimensions of Migration* in Bangladesh has historically been male-dominated, driven by economic opportunities in urban areas. Men typically migrate for informal sector jobs, while women often stay behind to manage household duties. However, there is a rising trend of more women migrating domestically and internationally for employment and education, influenced by changing norms and increased educational opportunities. Despite these shifts, gender disparities persist due to lower education levels and societal norms that limit women's mobility. Bangladesh's deltaic geography exposes it to environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change, such as flooding and sea-level rise. These factors contribute to seasonal and forced migrations, particularly from rural to urban areas during lean agricultural periods or disasters. Bangladesh has implemented various adaptation strategies to address climate change impacts, aiming to enhance resilience in delta regions prone to environmental risks. Gender-sensitive adaptation measures are crucial to ensure equitable access to resources for women, empowering them in migration decision-making. Community-based initiatives are essential for building local resilience and reducing forced migrations. Despite policy efforts, challenges persist in effectively implementing adaptation measures and securing rights for internal migrants, especially women. Looking forward, addressing the intertwined issues of gender, migration, and environmental change is essential for sustainable development in Bangladesh. Integrated policies that consider gender dynamics, community resilience, and environmental sustainability are crucial. In conclusion, Bangladesh's approach to gender, migration, and environmental change requires holistic strategies that integrate socio-economic development with climate adaptation. Empowering women, protecting vulnerable communities, and promoting sustainable livelihoods are pivotal for navigating future environmental uncertainties effectively.

**78. Mitigation, Adaptation and Building Resilience of the Risks to Females in Bangladesh Due to Environmental Hazards: An Analysis**

*Author: Anwara Begum*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

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***Abstract***

This paper focuses on developing strategies to alleviate women’s problems in the disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh. Societal response in Bangladesh towards women’s difficulties, often fail to be practically implementable in this conservative milieu. This situation is aggravated because shelters are few and overcrowded during times of environmental disasters. Occupying these is often prohibitive for women as there is no privacy from strange men, who also harass them. By laying emphasis upon segregated shelters, coping mechanisms of households and responses of women, attention is focused on policies towards revitalising females in the economy. Females, who are at the helm of households’ adjustments, repeatedly fail to avail migration. Women’s untenable structural and environmental milieu in their community, affects their resilience. Women tend to the households, children, elderly and also guard the property and livestock, which limit their abilities and hence precludes migration. Using unique methodology involving snowball sampling techniques, quantitative, qualitative, retrospective compilation of data that elicits in-depth, informed interviews of migrants and non-migrants, this paper has drawn a vivid picture of the affected population. This would enable more sensitive policies directed at women and contribute to formulation of more gender disposed and nuanced strategies to assist environmental hazard victims.

**79. Expert Adoption of Composite Indices: A Randomized Experiment on Migrant Resettlement Decisions in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Ivar Kolstad, Azreen Karim, Päivi Lujala, Arne Wiig*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Kolstad, I., Karim, A., Lujala, P., & Wiig, A. (2023). **Expert adoption of composite indices: a randomized experiment on migrant resettlement decisions in Bangladesh.** *Natural Hazards*, 119(1), 261-297.

***Abstract***

In settings where complex social decisions are made, information is often aggregated into indices to facilitate decision making. The value added of such composite indices depends, inter alia, on the extent to which decision makers trust and make use of them. This paper presents a

randomised experiment on the use of an index designed to inform migrant resettlement decisions, using 410 graduate students in Bangladesh as respondents. Respondents were randomly assigned to control and treatment conditions. In the control group, respondents faced a discrete choice experiment where they were asked to allocate 1000 migrants between two locations described by five attributes (availability of cropland, distance to hospital, distance to school, poverty incidence, frequency of floods, droughts and cyclones). In the treatment group, respondents also had access to the migrant resettlement index for the two locations. Results show that the resettlement index is used by the respondents, and mechanism analyses suggest this is due to perceptions of improved benefits to costs from using the index to make decisions. Results from the control group also suggest that past adverse environmental events are particularly important for resettlement decisions, but less so for respondents who grew up in areas where such events were frequent.

## 7. Gender Issues

### 80. Economic Valuation of Women's Unpaid Household Service Work in Bangladesh

*Author: Binayak Sen, Tanima Ahmed, Kazi Iqbal, Mohammad Yunus*

*Year of Publication: 2024*

**Citation: Sen, B., Ahmed, T., Iqbal, K., & Yunus, M. (2024). Economic valuation of women's unpaid household service work in Bangladesh. *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 45(1&2), 111-127. <https://doi.org/10.57138/ZVIH4105>**

#### *Abstract*

This paper estimates the economic value of women's unpaid household service work in Bangladesh using data from the Time Use Survey 2021 of BBS. This survey collected detailed information 17,772 respondents (10,024 female and 7,748 male) from 8,000 households on how individuals aged 15 years and older spent their time over a 24-hour period in a day on various activities. Productive time of all household members is divided into three categories: i) household chores (e.g. cooking, cleaning, etc.); ii) caregiving services for household members; and iii) paid and self-employed work. The first two categories comprise unpaid household service work. Data show that women and men spent 7 hours and 6.9 hours on productive work, respectively. In order to estimate the total economic value of women's unpaid work, we follow an input-based replacement cost approach with generalist wage rates. Our estimate shows that the valuation of women's unpaid care work is BDT 5,307 billion, which is equivalent to 14.8 per cent of the GDP in 2021. This figure is a meagre 2.8 per cent of GDP for men.

**81. Acclimatizing Women and Building Resilience to Overcome the Risks to Females and Migration: Strategies to Ameliorate Vulnerability Following Climate Disasters**

*Author: Anwara Begum*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

**Citation:** Begum, Anwara. 2023. **Acclimatizing women and building resilience to overcome the risks to females and migration: Strategies to ameliorate vulnerability following climate disasters**”, *International Journal of Trade and Commerce-IIARTC*, 12(1), 91-114.

*Abstract*

The Government of Bangladesh has emphasised streamlining movements into the national development plans under the Sixth Five Year Plan as well as in the Vision 2021, and the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh. Overall, GoB plans strive to enable all forms of migration with focus on better utilisation of human resources and an inclusive agenda. Improved Migration Policy would be aimed at supporting labour migration from disaster affected areas for enhanced livelihood and improving migrant worker’s employment conditions in semi-rural or urban destinations; providing for reasonable and more efficient labour absorption in growth foci, for creating enabling environment en-route towards a more conducive form of migration, overcoming distress episodes, and focusing on planned movements, internally.

Construction of flood shelter segregated for women, and those that are distinctly separate from that of men is highly relevant in a closed and conservative society like rural Bangladesh. There is a need to explore options for insurance and other emergency preparedness measures to address increase of cyclonic disasters. It is important to provide drinking water for the living and assist in burial of bodies in flood affected areas; reports abound about the harrowing experience of having known people’s bodies floating out of their graves. It is highly traumatic and families have to spend money on wooden caskets, which then have to be held down with boulders, under water.

**82. Mobile phones, Household Welfare, And Women’s Empowerment: Evidence from Rural Off-Grid Regions in Bangladesh**

*Authors: Monzur Hossain and Hussain Samad*

*Year of publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Hossain, M. and Samad, H. (2022). **Mobile phones, household welfare, and women’s empowerment: evidence from rural off-grid regions in Bangladesh**, *Information Technology for Development*, Taylor and Francis (with Hussain Samad); Vol 27, 2021

### *Abstract*

Using household survey data from off-grid regions of rural Bangladesh, this study attempts to assess the impacts of mobile phone use on household welfare and women's empowerment. Using two propensity score-based weighted regressions (IPW and AIPW), this study finds that mobile phone use increases household income (3–10 percent) from different sources, such as small businesses and remittances; improves women's empowerment; and facilitates consumption smoothing during periods of shocks. Thus, favorable policies on investment in mobile telephone technologies, tariffs on talk time and internet usage, and mobile innovations, such as mobile financial services could reduce communication bottlenecks and digital divide in rural lagging regions that will help achieve a balanced regional development. Simultaneously, policies to avoid adverse impact of mobile phone usage should also be in place.

### **83. Empowerment of Women: Addressing Constraints and Challenges of the Urban Informal Sector**

*Authors: Anwara Begum*

*Year of publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Begum, Anwara. (2021). **Empowerment of women: Addressing constraints and challenges of the urban informal sector**". Asia Pacific Journal on Environment and Development; Vol. 30-37; pages 141-150; June 2018 to December 2021.

### *Abstract*

In a country of 160 million people, approximately one-third are poor, with 10 to 12 percent being extremely impoverished and vulnerable. Disasters have devastated infrastructure, leading to job losses and stagnation in the informal and transport sectors. An estimated 16.4 million new poor are anticipated, with 16% of working families leaving Dhaka, which is home to approximately 21.75 million people. Nearly 9% of the population has suffered from COVID-19. Women and children among the poor experience the greatest hardships, with significant gender disparities in income and human poverty. Women who are working in the informal sector, especially in female-headed households, face higher and more severe poverty. Intra-household inequalities exacerbate their vulnerability, leading to lower consumption and fewer benefits for women and girls.

Gender bias is pronounced in extreme poverty, with higher rates of severe malnutrition, mortality, and morbidity among female-headed households. Despite strides in education and labor force participation, women still face significant disadvantages. Constraints such as early marriage, lack of safe transportation, violence against women and inadequate workplace facilities hinder their workforce participation. Many women engage in informal businesses but need support to minimize barriers and facilitate formalization.

## 8. Poverty and Inequality

### 84. Poverty in Bangladesh during 2010-2016: Trends, Profile and Drivers

*Author(s): Ruth Hill, Maria Genoni and Binayak Sen*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

**Citation:** Hill, R., & Genoni, M. E. (2019). **Poverty in Bangladesh during 2010-2016. The Bangladesh Development Studies**, 42(2/3), 1-21.

#### *Abstract*

This article provides a broad overview of progress, drivers and vulnerability in poverty reduction of Bangladesh in the 2010s. It discusses the main findings of the special issue and analyses the strengths and weaknesses of poverty reduction strategy in Bangladesh. In particular, it looks ahead of a pandemic crisis and draws attention to the challenges faced by the Bangladesh economy. What has worked in the past may not work in the future. Poverty is likely to increase substantially in the short-term. Some of these increases will be “transient poverty”, some will be “new poverty: the relative share between the two components remains to be explored.

### 85. Convergence in Regional Poverty Rates in Bangladesh

*Author(s): Mohammad Yunus*

*Year of Publication: 2020*

**Citation:** Yunus, M. (2019). **Convergence in regional poverty rates in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Development Studies**, 42(2/3), 103-129. <https://doi.org/10.57138/HQIK6908>

#### *Abstract*

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reduction of poverty headcounts, poverty gap, and squared poverty gap since 2000. While scores of studies rigorously looked into drivers of poverty reduction from the perspective of sources, both the cross country and single country literature on poverty convergence is scant. Even most of these convergence estimates are biased arising out of omitted variable due to ignorance of unobserved individual heterogeneity and endogeneity of at least a subset of regressors. This paper exploits a unique set of data to provide credible evidence of convergence in poverty across the districts of Bangladesh during 2000-2016 using the Arellano-Bond system dynamic panel estimator and panel generalised method of moments estimator. We find that poverty convergence is present during this period both through direct estimation and decomposition with relevant indirect estimates. Our results are robust to the alternative frequency of data (cross-section vis-à-vis panel) and the consequent estimation techniques, sources of data (direct estimates from the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys vis-à-vis small area estimates) and the alternative transformation of the dependent

variables. Both growth-accounted poverty convergence effect and strong growth effect dominate the adverse effect of initial poverty on growth effectiveness to ensure strong overall poverty convergence found across the districts.

## 86. Rural Transformation, Occupational Choice and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh during 2010-2016

*Author(s): Binayak Sen*

*Year of Publication: 2020*

*Citation: Sen, B. (2019). Rural transformation, occupational choice and poverty reduction in Bangladesh during 2010-2016. The Bangladesh Development Studies, 42(2/3), 263-287. <https://doi.org/10.57138/BPUN9487>*

### *Abstract*

Between 2010 and 2016, 90 per cent of the poverty reduction of Bangladesh occurred in rural areas. The gains in poverty reduction were largely driven by non-agricultural sectors (i.e., both industry and services). This paper describes the recent evolution of employment and wages in rural Bangladesh. The analysis highlights the increasing trend into non-farm employment in the rural sector and some of the factors linked to the choice of non-farm jobs. The paper relies on the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys for 2010 and 2016 with additional evidence drawn from the Labour Force Surveys. Overall, there has been a more pronounced non-farm orientation of jobs in rural areas since 2010. This process has been observed for both males and females, and for those with higher education levels. Better connectivity and microfinance are also positively linked with off-farm employment. The increase in non-farm employment was much faster in Eastern than Western divisions of the country, which can partly explain the re-emergence of the East-West divide in terms of welfare after 2010.

## 87. সাহিত্য, অতিমারী ও সমাজ

*লেখক: বিনায়ক সেন*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২১*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৮ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৭*

### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

প্রবন্ধটিতে কোভিড-১৯ এর সূত্র ধরে অতিমারী এবং সমাজ পরিবর্তনের আন্তঃসামাজিক বিশ্লেষণ করা হয়েছে। এর জন্য লেখক যেমন ঐতিহাসিক উপাদান ব্যবহার করেছেন, তেমনি দর্শন ও সাহিত্যের সাক্ষ্য টেনে এনেছেন। আলোচনার পটভূমি ইতিহাসের দীর্ঘ প্রেক্ষাপট থেকে অতি সাম্প্রতিক অভিজ্ঞতা পর্যন্ত বিস্তৃত। প্রবন্ধটি থেকে এ শিক্ষা মেলে যে অতিমারী যদিও বারে বারে আসে না, কিন্তু যখন আসে, তখন তা সমাজ, ইতিহাস ও অর্থনীতির গতিমুখকে বদল করে দেয়। সেটা সাম্প্রতিক কোভিডের জন্য যেমন সত্য, তেমনি অতীতের কলেরা, প্লেগ প্রভৃতি মহামারীর জন্যও সত্য। এটা যেমন ইউরোপের ক্ষেত্রে দেখা গেছে, তেমনি পরিলক্ষিত হয়েছে গুপনিবেশিক পরিস্থিতিতেও।

## 88. সাহিত্য ও অর্থনীতি: বাংলার কয়েকটি দুর্ভিক্ষ

লেখক: বিনায়ক সেন

প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২১

তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৭ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৬

### সারসংক্ষেপ

এই প্রবন্ধে বাংলাদেশের ০৪টি দুর্ভিক্ষের কথা আলোচিত হয়েছে। একটি হচ্ছে ১৭৭০ সালের দুর্ভিক্ষ, আরেকটি হচ্ছে ১৮৭৮ সালের চরম খাদ্যাভাব, তৃতীয়টি হচ্ছে ১৯৪৩ দুর্ভিক্ষ ও শেষেরটি হচ্ছে ১৯৭৪ সালের দুর্ভিক্ষ। এ প্রবন্ধ থেকে দেখা যায় যে, দুর্ভিক্ষের নানা প্রেক্ষিত রয়েছে। প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ, কৃত্রিমভাবে খাদ্যসংকট সৃষ্টি, যুদ্ধের কারণে অর্থনৈতিক সংকট, বৈদেশিক খাদ্য সাহায্যের অভাব সবকিছুই সাধারণ মানুষের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তার ওপরে প্রভাব ফেলে। তবে খাদ্যের ওপরে সাধারণ মানুষের অধিকারের অভাবই দুর্ভিক্ষের প্রধান কারণ।

## 89. বাংলাদেশে শিক্ষা বৈষম্য: একটি পর্যালোচনা

লেখক: শাকিল আহম্মেদ, মো: নাদিমুদ্দীন

প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪

তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০

### সারসংক্ষেপ

এই গবেষণার মূল বিষয় হলো বাংলাদেশে সামগ্রিক শিক্ষা বৈষম্যের বর্তমান অবস্থা মূল্যায়ন করা এবং প্রভাব বিস্তারকারি কারণগুলিকে চিহ্নিত করা। ফলাফলে দেখা গিয়েছে যে, বাংলাদেশে সামগ্রিক শিক্ষা বৈষম্য যা শিক্ষা গিনি দ্বারা পরিমাপ করা হয়েছে তা সময়ের সাথে সাথে কমছে। এই শিক্ষা বৈষম্য মূলত কমেছে প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক স্তরে সবার উল্লেখযোগ্যহারে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কিন্তু উচ্চশিক্ষায় এখনো বৈষম্য রয়ে গেছে। শিক্ষা গিনির ডিকম্পিশন দেখায় যে, সামগ্রিক বৈষম্যের ক্ষেত্রে পুরুষ-মহিলা, গ্রাম-শহর ইত্যাদি নিজেদের মধ্যকার পার্থক্যের অবদান বেশি হলেও আর্থসামাজিক অবস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে পারস্পরিক পার্থক্যের অবদান বেশি। এটি ইঙ্গিত করে যে, ক্রমবর্ধমান আয়বৈষম্যের কারণে ধনী-দারিদ্রের মধ্যে শিক্ষা অর্জনে পার্থক্য তৈরি হচ্ছে- যা শিক্ষা বৈষম্যকে প্রকট করে তুলছে। সর্বশেষ, গবেষণাটি শিক্ষা বৈষম্য কমাতে নীতগিত পরামর্শ হিসেবে- উচ্চ শিক্ষায় মেয়েদের এবং দরিদ্র জনগোষ্ঠীর অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধির জন্য কর্মসূচি, গ্রামীণ অঞ্চলে শিক্ষার মান বৃদ্ধি, বয়স্ক জনগোষ্ঠীকে শিক্ষা-কাঠামোর মধ্যে আনা, অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক উন্নয়ন, শিক্ষায় বাজেট বরাদ্দ বাড়ানোর পাশাপাশি শিক্ষার্থী প্রতি বরাদ্দ বাড়ানো এবং শিক্ষার ব্যয়ের সুসম বণ্টন করার প্রতি জোর দেয়া হয়েছে।

## 90. COVID-19, Absence from Work and Coping Strategies with Income Loss in Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Kea Tijdens, Maarten van, Klaveren, Ahmed Adib, Daniela Ceccon and Tahreen Tahrira Chowdhury

*Year of Publication:* 2023

*Citation:* Tijdens, K., van Klaveren, M., Adib, A., Ceccon, D., & Chowdhury, T. T. (2024). COVID-19, absence from work and coping strategies with income loss in Bangladesh. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 26(1), 258-279. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-023-00255-y>



### *Abstract*

Has workplace closure due to lockdown policies to control the spread of COVID-19 affected workplace hygiene, absenteeism, income loss and coping strategies in Bangladesh? Drawing on face-to-face interviews of 1,894 employees in tea, construction, ready-made garment (RMG) and leather sectors in September–October 2020, the study shows poor supply of disinfectant and sanitizer. Absenteeism was high in April 2020 in all sectors except tea but dropped later on. Two in three workers reported income losses, due to workplace closure. 20% of workers with reduced wages received governmental food distribution and 4% cash assistance, pointing to poor implementation and rise in poverty.

#### **91. Déjà Vu: The Untenable Reality of the Pavement Dwellers of Dhaka - Evidence from Three Decades**

*Author(s): Anwara Begum and Kazi Zubair Hossain*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

*Citation:* Begum, A., & Hossain, K. Z. (2023). Déjà vu: **The untenable reality of pavement dwellers of Dhaka—Evidence from three decades.** *Journal of Regional and City Planning*, 34(3), 322-341.

### *Abstract*

Pavement dwellers migrate to the city in search of better opportunities. Their commitment to this way of life is based on an expectation of benefits in the destination area. This study examined five aspects of pavement dwellers' reality: demographics, socioeconomics, migration outcomes, living conditions, and fulfillment of expectations. A mixed-method data collection exercise resulted in 64 pavement dwellers' accounts of their current situation in Dhaka city, which were compared to similar studies from 1991 and 1993. The results show that their conditions have remained unchanged. Though half of the migration occurred for economic reasons, the real income level has remained the same as in 1991. Shelter and employment remain elusive, and moving to slums is financially infeasible. More than half of those interviewed lived on the pavement for access to a livelihood. Most declared that they could not access social safety nets. The persistence of pavement dwelling in the face of remarkable economic growth demands the refocusing of policies on urban poverty eradication.

#### **92. Assessing Food Poverty, Vulnerability and Food Consumption Inequality in the Context of COVID-19: A Case of Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Sayema Haque Bidisha, Tanveer Mahmood and Md Biplob*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Bidisha, S. H., Mahmood, T., & Hossain, M. B. (2021). **Assessing food poverty, vulnerability and food consumption inequality in the context of COVID-19: A case of Bangladesh.** *Social Indicators Research*, 155(1), 187-210.

### *Abstract*

There is no denying the fact that, for a developing country like Bangladesh, the economic consequences of lockdown for containing COVID-19 pandemic can be far reaching affecting livelihoods of millions of households. Given that the share of food consumption expenditure to total expenditure is higher in the lower income groups of Bangladesh, this shock is expected to directly affect affordability of consumption of basic food items of these households. Using nationally representative household survey data of Bangladesh, and while following the Feasible Generalised Least Square method, this paper attempts to examine food poverty, food consumption inequality along with vulnerability to food poverty of households and explores the importance of different socio-demographic and environmental factors in this connection. Our estimation reflects that, greater percentage of households with young children or with elderly people are found to suffer high food vulnerability. In addition, households in environmentally endangered regions e.g. drought prone areas or river erosion affected places are more food vulnerable than those in other parts of the country. Certain occupation groups e.g. day labourer and self-employed are found to be highly vulnerable to food poverty while according to our decomposition analysis of food consumption inequality, area of residence (urban vs. rural) is expected to cause sizable inequality in food consumption. This study can therefore, help in identifying food vulnerable households for government's social protection programs and COVID-19 incentive packages, and thereby can contribute towards designing effective poverty reduction strategies.

### **93. Earnings Inequality and the Changing Nature of Work: Evidence from Labour Force Survey Data of Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Sayema Haque Bidisha, Tanveer Mahmood, and Mahir A. Rahman*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Bidisha, S. H., Mahmood, T., & Rahman, M. A. (2021). **Earnings inequality and the changing nature of work: Evidence from Labour Force Survey data of Bangladesh** (No. 2021/7). *WIDER Working Paper*.

### *Abstract*

With structural changes in production coupled with technological progress, there have been shifts in modes of production and patterns of employment, with important consequences on task composition of occupations. This paper has utilised different rounds of Labour Force Survey data of Bangladesh and combined it with occupation network data of the United States along with its country-specific database and analysed the role of such factors on labour market outcomes. Our analysis shows a fall in the average routine intensity of tasks with no evidence of job polarisation. We find a decline in earnings inequality where the decomposition analysis shows that earnings structure effect rather than characteristics effect plays a key role, with routine-task intensity of jobs and education explaining the majority of differences in earnings. Our analysis suggests that investing in education should be the highest priority, with greater emphasis on skill-based training programmes, particularly those involving cognitive skill.

## 82. Occupation Based Poverty & Vulnerability in Bangladesh: Insights From COVID-19

*Author(s): Sayema Haque Bidisha, Md Biplob Hossain, Tanveer Mahmood*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation: Bidisha, S. H., Hossain, M. B., & Mahmood, T. (2021). Occupation based poverty & vulnerability in Bangladesh: Insights from COVID-19. Journal of Poverty, 26(5), 403-423. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2021.1925805>*

### *Abstract*

While utilising the latest round of a household survey of Bangladesh, this paper used a vulnerability index to understand household welfare in case of shocks, uncertainty, or unforeseen events like COVID-19. According to our analysis, environmentally exposed regions are found to be more vulnerable to economic shock, and certain occupational groups are expected to experience higher incidences of poverty and vulnerability. In addition, demographic features of households can be crucial in vulnerability analysis. Our analysis therefore expects to provide crucial policy guidelines for identifying the vulnerable groups as well as for redesigning poverty reduction strategies.

## 9. Governance

### 83. বঙ্গবন্ধু ও গণতান্ত্রিক সমাজতন্ত্র: তত্ত্ব, তথ্য ও তর্ক

*লেখক: বিনায়ক সেন*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২০*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৩৯/৪০ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪২৮/১৪২৯*

### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

বঙ্গবন্ধুর গণতান্ত্রিক সমাজতন্ত্রের কয়েকটি মৌল বৈশিষ্ট্যকে বর্তমান প্রবন্ধে চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে। এগুলো হচ্ছেঃ (ক) বিভিন্ন ধরনের মালিকানার সহাবস্থান বা ‘মিশ্র অর্থনীতি’; (খ) অর্থনৈতিক বাস্তবতাবাদ বা ইকোনমিক প্র্যাগ্ম্যাটিজম; (গ) একচেটিয়া (মনোপলি) পুঁজির বিরুদ্ধে দৃঢ় অবস্থান; (ঘ) ‘সুযোগের সমতা’ (‘ইকুয়ালিটি অব অপরচ্যুনিটি’) ও ‘ফলাফলের সমতা’ (‘ইকুয়ালিটি অব আউটকাম’); (ঙ) নানামাত্রিক শোষণের অবসান; (চ) তীক্ষ্ণ জোটনিরপেক্ষতা বা ‘র্যাডিকেল নন-এলাইনমেন্ট’; এবং (ছ) ক্রমাধ্বন্যবাদীতা বা গ্র্যাজুয়ালিজম। প্রতিটি বৈশিষ্ট্যই বিশদ বিচার-বিশ্লেষণের দাবি করে। সংক্ষেপে বললে দাঁড়ায়, এরা এমন কতগুলো দিক তুলে ধরেছে যা প্রথাগত সমাজতন্ত্রের মধ্যে নেই, অথবা থাকলেও নিতান্ত অসম্পূর্ণভাবে উপস্থিত।

## 10. Miscellaneous

### 94. Does Higher Trust Mean Better Compliance? Covid-19 Evidence from Urban Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Mohammad Riaz Uddin, Rubaiya Murshed and Md. Zabid Iqbal

*Year of Publication:* 2023

*Citation:* Uddin, M. R., Murshed, R., & Iqbal, M. Z. (2021). **Does Higher Trust Mean Better Compliance? Covid-19 Evidence from Urban Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 44(3/4), 103-134. <https://doi.org/10.57138/OJYB1696>

#### *Abstract*

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated many problems that were inherent in our societies, e.g., poverty, inequality, and food shortages, to name a few. The pandemic has also brought to the surface other problems, some of which are valid in the context of the coronavirus: public panic, difficulty in getting the public to comply with issued guidelines, and the struggle to keep information separate from rumours. In such situations of uncertainty, it is crucial to be able to provide guidance for the public to follow, and equally important that the public believes the communication. So, it matters who the public trusts as a source of information. This paper is based on the premise that public trust in information sources translates into public compliance with issued guidelines to make communication count. Thus, we ask whether there is any association between peoples' most trusted information source, and most followed information source, with their compliance, which we measure through a compliance score that we calculate. Using a sample of respondents that is urban-representative of Bangladesh, this paper finds that people who mostly trust international media, academicians, political leaders, and the World Health Organisation are more compliant with issued guidelines. In contrast, people who mostly follow the police as an information source are less compliant. Based on the findings, the paper suggests that the increased involvement of certain trusted information sources is better than other sources in designing and implementing effective communication strategies during a pandemic in Bangladesh.

### 95. Social Conditions of the Innovative Use of Smartphone: A Qualitative Investigation among Young Users in Dhaka

*Author(s):* Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder

*Year of Publication:* 2021

*Citation:* Mozumder, M. G. N. (2019). **Social conditions of the innovative use of smartphone: A qualitative investigation among young users in Dhaka.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42(4), 135-156. <https://doi.org/10.57138/EAGU2520>

#### *Abstract*

Concerns about the adverse impacts of using smartphones are common in the literature. However, there is insufficient research on whether users make innovative use of the device. If they do, what is the nature of the creative use of smartphone? What are the social conditions that facilitate the innovative use of the smart device? This study seeks to answer these questions by investigating the use of smartphone among teenagers in Dhaka. The respondents of this research are purposively selected from the secondary schools located in five different areas of Dhaka city. Snowballing technique was used to identify the forty-four avid users. Findings of the study show that respondents employ innovative strategies of escaping supervision: Installing software, e.g., AppsLock, Gallery Lock, and CM Security; using password; and blocking parents and relatives on social media— “totally black-listed.” They also read books using Gutenberg Apps and go online to learn how to wear hijab “smartly.” Advance users heavily use smartphone to learn software programming, prepare science projects, and do photography for presenting at art exhibitions. Most importantly, the study identified three facilitating conditions of the creative use of smartphone: Friends, events, and parents. These social conditions constitute an ecosystem that facilitates the innovative dispositions of the young users of smartphones.

#### **96. Livelihood Diversity of Forcibly Displaced Rohingyas Encamped in Bangladesh**

*Author(s):* Mohammad Mainul Hoque and Mohammad Yunus

*Year of Publication:* 2022

*Citation:* Hoque, M. M., & Yunus, M. (2020). **Livelihood diversity of forcibly displaced Rohingyas encamped in Bangladesh.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 43(3&4), 77-119. <https://doi.org/10.57138/OXDS5040>

##### *Abstract*

This paper assesses the livelihood strategies of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals encamped in Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh. Although the predominant source of livelihood of the encamped Rohingya households is supposed to be various sources of assistance and transfer receipts, almost 76 per cent of them report positive income from various sources, including farm activities, enterprises, labour market, remittance, and non-food transfers, despite restrictions on mobility and income generation through employment. While a few of the sources dampen income inequality, others exacerbate it. Similarly, while several factors facilitate participation in income generation both at the extensive and intensive margins, a few others appear to hinder the process. Both the diversity and the level of income appear to be higher for households in the old wave (arrived before 25 August 2017) compared to that in the new wave (arrived after 25 August 2017), possibly due to better integration and adaptation to the local environment and context. The encamped Rohingya households with supplementary earned income and receipts rather than exclusively depending on WFP assistance enjoy relatively better well-being, at least in terms of higher expenditure and dietary diversity. The evidence on the impact of earned income and receipts on household well-being indicators reinforces their appeal for the right to work.

## 97. The Lived Dystopia of the Rohingya: Liminalisation, Demonisation, and Expulsion

*Author(s): Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

*Citation:* Mozumder, MGM (2020). **The Lived Dystopia of the Rohingya: Liminalisation, Demonisation, and Expulsion.** *The Bangladesh Development Studies*, 43(3&4), <https://doi.org/10.57138/WWOC9483>

### *Abstract*

The prospect and willingness of the Rohingyas to repatriate are, by and large, conditioned by their past experience of living in Myanmar. Discussions on repatriating the Rohingyas are likely to fail not because they are unwilling to return but mainly because of the lack of reasonable initiatives to address the deep-rooted animosity against the minority group prevalent in the country they had to flee. This paper analyses the findings of the 50 in-depth interviews of the refugees encamped in Cox's Bazar. It presents ten instances of injustice, nine examples of forced payments, and systemic discrimination against the Rohingyas in Myanmar. Twenty-eight per cent of the respondents reported that at least one family member or relative was killed during the atrocities in 2017. The study finds that not all Buddhists participated in the attack against the Rohingyas; some reportedly helped the victims find safe shelter. The Rohingyas in Bangladesh suffer from an insufficient supply of relief during the last days of a relief distribution cycle. To survive, they take loans and seek illegal ways for finding employment outside the camp. While awaiting the perpetrators to be brought to justice, some Rohingyas remain optimistic about a peaceful return to their home country. And others are scared of even thinking of going back to the places where they witnessed both their homes and hopes burnt into ashes. Besides proposing two short-term measures—“burden-sharing” and “internal flight alternative”—this paper underscores the need for a novel approach in finding a durable solution to the problem.

## 98. A Network Understanding of FinTech (in) Capabilities in the Global South.

*Authors: Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah, Nadine Shaanta Murshid and Mohammad G.N. Mozumder.*

*Year of Publication: 2021*

*Citation:* Boamah, E. F., Murshid, N. S., & Mozumder, M. G. (2021). **A network understanding of FinTech (in) capabilities in the global South.** *Applied Geography*, 135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102538>

### *Abstract*

This article probes how uneven access to digital financial technologies maps onto and reinforces existing inequalities in the global South. Grounded in Sen's capability approach, it deploys a

network science approach to examine emergent factors reinforcing techno-financial inequality or the uneven access to FinTech instruments, such as mobile money (MM) or m-banking services. Focusing on a case study in Dhaka, Bangladesh, our findings suggest that unequal access to MM services is driven by a lack of capability inputs (e.g., low income and savings) needed to access certain goods (e.g., mobile phones). This lack affects and is affected by personal conversion factors (e.g., functional and financial illiteracies), environmental conversion factors within the MM ecosystem (e.g., unreliable MM operators), and socio-cultural practices (e.g., gender norms) within which MM services are embedded. We argue that these factors must be understood and analyzed as a network of converging forces that constrain digital financial capabilities and wellbeing within the peripheries of the global South. This network understanding highlights the need to avoid one-size-fits-all policy interventions, including moving beyond techno-centric paradigms that privilege the proffering of technological fixes: dumping more FinTech instruments into global South markets. Rather, FinTech policy models must recognise and carefully address the intersection of micro and macro factors inhibiting FinTech access in the global South.

#### 99. ঢাকা শহরের ফুটপাথবাসীর জীবনযাত্রার ধরন: তিন দশকের বাস্তবতা

*লেখক: আনোয়ারা বেগম*

*প্রকাশনার তারিখ: ২০২৪*

*তথ্যসূত্র: বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন সমীক্ষা, খন্ড ৪১ বার্ষিক সংখ্যা ১৪৩০*

#### *সারসংক্ষেপ*

বাংলাদেশের ন্যায় উন্নত দেশগুলোতে সাধারণত উন্নত জীবন ও ভালো কাজের সুযোগ লাভের আশায় শহরের ফুটপাথে বসবাসকারী ছিন্নমূল ও গৃহহীন মানুষেরা মূলত গ্রাম থেকে শহরে পাড়ি জমায় বিশেষ করে রাজধানী শহরে। একটি অর্থহীন এবং গ্রামের চাইতে তুলনামূলক স্বচ্ছল-উন্নত জীবনের প্রত্যাশা নিয়েই তারা তাদের জীবনধারণ ক্ষেত্রে এ পরিবর্তনকে বেছে নেয়। এ নিবন্ধে ফুটপাথে বসবাসকারীদের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত পাঁচটি বিষয় যথা: ভূ-প্রাকৃতিক অবস্থা, আর্থ-সামাজিক পরিবেশ, গ্রাম থেকে শহরে স্থানান্তর হওয়ার ফলাফল, বসবাসের স্থানের পরিবেশ বা ধরণ এবং আশা-আকাঙ্ক্ষার বাস্তবায়ন বিষয়ক নিরীক্ষার কথা উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে। ঢাকা শহরের ফুটপাথে বসবাসকারী ৬৪ জন ছিন্নমূল ব্যক্তির বর্তমান অবস্থার উপর একটি মিশ্র-পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে সংগৃহিত তথ্যাবলী, যার ফলাফল ১৯৯১-৯৩ সালে সম্পাদিত প্রায় একই ধরনের সমীক্ষার ফলাফলের সাথে তুলনা করা হয়েছে। ফলাফলে দেখা যায় যে, গৃহহীনদের সামগ্রিক অবস্থার তেমন কোনরূপ পরিবর্তন হয় নাই। যদিও প্রায় অর্ধেক সংখ্যকের এই যাবাবর জীবন অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতির আশায় ঘটেছে তথাপি বাস্তবক্ষেত্রে তাদের আয় ১৯৯১ সালের ন্যায়ই রয়ে গিয়েছে। কোন উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিবর্তন নাই। আশ্রয় ও কর্মসংস্থানের বিষয়টি রয়ে গিয়েছে প্রায় অধরা। বস্তিজীবনে আর্থিক স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য থাকবে এটি এখনো অনেকটা স্বপ্ন থেকে দূরে বস্তিবাসীদের জীবনে। ফুটপাথে বসবাসকারীদের মধ্যে যাদের উপর এ সমীক্ষা করা হয়েছে তাদের প্রায় অর্ধেকের বেশি এখনো তাদের জীবনে কোনরকম সুযোগ-সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা অর্থাৎ যে আর্থিক নিরাপত্তার আশা নিয়ে তারা শহরে পাড়ি জমিয়েছিল তার ব্যবস্থা করে উঠতে পারেনি। রয়ে গিয়েছে বসবাসের ক্ষেত্রে অপরিপূর্ণ অবস্থা। সমীক্ষায় উঠে এসেছে যে, অধিকাংশ ছিন্নমূল ব্যক্তির জীবনের সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা এখনো সন্তোষজনক অবস্থানে পৌঁছায়নি। দেশের উল্লেখযোগ্য অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধির ক্ষেত্রে শহরের এই ফুটপাথে বসবাসকারী ছিন্নমূলবাসীদের জীবনযাত্রার বিষয়টি শহরাস্থলের দারিদ্র্য দূরীকরণ কর্মসূচির সাথে ওতপ্রোতভাবে জড়িত।

## II. Research Reports

### 1. Macroeconomic Issues

#### 1. Aspirational Momentum: The Development Story of Bangladesh

*Author(s):* Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and Mahir A. Rahman

*Research Report No:* 196

*Year of Publication:* 2023

#### *Abstract*

This report argues that the exemplary development path of Bangladesh can be explained by focusing on family at the core of decision-making. Families decide on future goals (aspirations) determined by their collective resources, tangible and intangible. Once family-level resource endowments increase, new opportunities open up that would enhance the life-cycle-intergenerational income and welfare of the family. Measures that reduce uncertainties (subjective or objective) and increase future payoffs will reinforce the process of change. The payoffs are also enhanced by access to information on peer-level success, reducing information asymmetry and thus motivating the family towards the new set of goals, and momentum in aspiration builds up recursively. The sequence of change is like an algorithmic process, which is termed "Aspirational Momentum."

We conduct a fixed-effect estimation of a dataset consisting of 26 countries (middle-income and low-income) for the years 1996 to 2020. We also conduct the Clemente-Montenes-Reyes double Additive Outlier test for unit roots to test for the presence of any structural breaks in the indicators. The coefficients show expected signs. We find a negative but not statistically significant impact of child mortality on GDP per capita. The secondary enrolment rate for females and access to electricity have a positive and statistically significant impact on GDP per capita. Population density has a positive impact on GDP per capita, and the result is statistically significant in one specification. Finally, gross fixed capital formation has a statistically significant and positive impact on GDP per capita. We also see some preliminary indications of the presence of structural breaks across these indicators. The findings of the study affirm that simultaneous and reinforcing interplay of changes at the family level in health, and education, particularly of women, diffusion of technology, and aggregate investment (at the national level) together created a momentum that codetermined income and welfare outcomes over time in Bangladesh.



## 2. Industry and Trade

### 2. The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Hospitality and Tourism Sector in Bangladesh

*Author(s): Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Mainul Hoque and Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury*

*Research Report No: 192*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

#### *Abstract*

This research report identifies and analyses the probable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the HTS in terms of changes in several business indicators, the adaptation strategies, including retrenchment of workers and adjustment of workers' salary and benefits based on a comparison between the pre-COVID-19 and the COVID-19 pandemic periods. The plummets in business indicators coincided with these pandemic waves. During the second quarter (April–June) of 2020-21, when the infection rate due to COVID-19 peaked, there was a sharp drop in the number of days operated. The average number of days operated was reported to be only 31 days by the transport agencies at the maximum and two days by amusement parks at the minimum. Even the restaurant services, which are a necessity by characteristics, were open for only 26 days during the same time. By the last quarter, when the pandemic situation was relatively well-controlled, the revenue from high-tariff rooms reached only 37 per cent of that reported in the pre-COVID-19 period. The expenses of hotels and resorts, restaurants, and amusement parks appear to follow an inverted V-shaped trend in 2020, although a secular flat trend across quarters was exhibited in 2019.

In contrast, the seasonal pattern for expenses observed in the cases of travel agencies & tour operators and tourism SMEs in 2019 was disrupted during the COVID-19 periods, especially during the months of April-June during the pandemic years. Most of the sub-sectors, except hotels and resorts, travel agents, and tour operators, started to gain positive surpluses from the third quarter. The upward trend continues till the fourth quarter of the pandemic year. The net employment dropped during the pandemic consistently in all the sub-sectors. The average reduction in wages and salaries is quite substantial among the hotels and resorts (34 per cent) and travel agents and tour operators (27 per cent). In comparison, benefits and bonuses were reduced by about 42-55 per cent for employees in these sub-sectors. The percentage of employees reporting a fall in earnings is sizeable among the travel agents and tour operators (71 per cent) and hotels and resorts (51 per cent) during the second quarter of the year when the strict lockdown was in effect.

It is estimated that about Tk. 600 million was lost in gross value added in the HTS due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The transport sub-sector has borne the brunt of the heat as it endured more than 40 per cent of the loss. The hotels & resorts, and restaurants, respectively, accounted for 29 per cent and 25 per cent of the loss in gross value added. The scenario is also depressing for the job losses in the HTS. As many as 140 thousand workers lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The restaurants and transport agencies accounted for more than 90 per cent of the job loss as mobility restrictions curtailed the business of the transport agencies. Most of the

entrepreneurs in the sub-sectors realised that the current state of business is untenable in the medium term as consumers' tastes and preferences change over time and hence need major overhauling in terms of infrastructures and services with skilled human resources. As complementary measures, they pointed to several issues that the government needs to address, including the development of tourist sites and strengthening diplomatic efforts by the Bangladeshi missions abroad so that non-resident and foreign tourists are attracted to visit.

### **3. Facets of Workers' Skills in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector of Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Mainul Hoque and Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury*

*Research Report No: 195*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

#### ***Abstract***

This study attempts to analyse the HTS of Bangladesh from the following perspectives: (i) the current skills composition HTS, (ii) skill gaps and skill shortages, the mismatch between the actual and desired levels of education and experience, and recruitment difficulties in the HTS together with the proximate causes and consequences, (iii) the future levels of demand for each of the major occupations disaggregated by skill levels. A primary survey was conducted with enterprises and workers from 115 hotels and resorts (categorised from 2-star to 5-star) from Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, and Sylhet, as well as 78 travel agencies and tour operators. As many as 497 employees from the sample hotels and resorts from all the cities and towns mentioned above, and 63 from travel agencies and tour operators located in Dhaka, were also interviewed. Data were collected for the year 2019 – a normal year – to delineate the characteristics of the enterprises, the seasonality of their business, and the nature and composition of their workforce in terms of skill gaps, skill shortages, etc.

The employers of hotels and resorts perceived the current level of different skills of their employees (each of the four departments) as “proficient”. The actual level of education of employees in different departments within hotels and resorts varies between 10 to 13 years, while those in travel agencies and tour operators are about 14 years. The percentage of enterprises stating the existence of skill gaps is lowest among 5-star hotels and resorts in each of the four departments. In contrast, 2-star rank hotels and resorts stated skill gaps in food and beverage service (41 per cent) and housekeeping (47 per cent), while those with 3-star and 4-star ranks face substantial skill gaps in food and beverage production.

At least 50 per cent of the hotels and resorts reported that skill gaps exist in all four departments due to a lack of training for employees. On the other hand, 25 per cent of travel agents and tour operators stated skill gaps among the existing workforce of their enterprises. However, around 80 per cent of travel agents and tour operators stated that the skill gap is “organisation-specific”, and the rest reported that a skill gap exists due to a lack of training for employees. All of these enterprises reported that training will be “most effective” to mitigate skill gaps.

About 98 per cent of hotels and resorts reported hard-to-fill vacancies. For hotels and resorts, “not enough applicants with required skill” came up as the major reason for “hard-to-fill-vacancies” across all four departments. However, “not enough applicants with the work experience the enterprise demands” (front office and housekeeping only) and “not enough applicants with qualifications/right attitudes/motivations the enterprise demands” (food and beverage production and services) came up as the corresponding second reason. “Not enough applicants with qualifications the company demands” (28 per cent of enterprises), “not enough applicants with the required skills (24 per cent of enterprises)”, “not enough applicants with work experience the company demands” (28 per cent of enterprises), and “not enough applicants with the required attitude, motivation or personality” (18 per cent of enterprises) came up as the major reasons of “hard-to-fill vacancies”, as reported by travel agencies and tour operators.

Hard-to-fill vacancies impede the process of introducing modern and new working practices in culinary, resulting in adverse effects on the “production and service of food and beverages” of hotels and resorts. In contrast, such vacancies in housekeeping, front office, and food and beverage (service) result in revenue losses because of the reduced number of guests, as reported by the majority of enterprises. The majority of travel agencies and tour operators report that “hard-to-fill vacancies” lead to difficulties in maintaining the standard quality of service in the forms of “forgoing the provision of offering certain products to customers due to lack of workforce” and “facing difficulties in meeting certain customer service objectives owing to shortage of employees”. “Increasing salaries” and “increasing the skill level of the existing workforce through providing training” came up as the two major actions to mitigate the adverse effects of “hard-to-fill vacancies” as stated by employers of hotels and resorts. Increasing advertisements and redesigning the recruitment process came up as other suggested actions by them. Similarly, “increasing the provision of training for employees” came up as the most effective action to fill up hard-to-fill vacancies, followed by “increasing salaries”, as stated by the majority of travel agencies and tour operators.

Views from the consultative workshop revealed that the current infrastructure in all the colleges and universities, except for the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, providing training on hospitality and tourism management does have the facilities for the trainees to grow up as professionals. The projected number of enterprises for hotels and resorts came up as 1,230, 1,568, and 1,997 in the years 2025, 2030, and 2035, respectively. For travel agencies and tour operators, these counts stand as 4,381, 5,838, and 7,780 in the years 2025, 2030, and 2035. The projection on labour demand reveals that demand for workforce in the hotels and resorts would grow by 40 per cent in 2025, 149 per cent by 2030, and 348 per cent by 2035 compared to the level of 2019. The corresponding numbers for the travel agencies and tour operators are 37 per cent, 139 per cent, and 320 per cent, respectively, during the same periods. Considering the projected growth rate of skilled and semi-skilled workers in the next 5-15 years, the areas of high potential for skilled workers are food and beverage production, food and beverage services, and housekeeping in hotels and resorts. While the former two departments in hotels and resorts would observe an explosion for both skilled and semi-skilled workers, the latter would largely demand more semi-skilled workers.

#### **4. Agglomeration and Resilience: Impact of Covid-19 On Clustered and Non-Clustered SMES in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Kazi Iqbal, Tanveer Mahmood and Md Nahid Ferdous Pabon*

*Research Report No: 197*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

##### ***Abstract***

Agglomeration forces are argued to make enterprises in clusters more resilient to shocks than enterprises outside the clusters. We examine this hypothesis in the context of the impact of COVID-19 on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh. Using a pre-COVID-19 survey as the benchmark, we conducted three rounds of worker-linked surveys of both clustered and non-clustered SMEs. In each post-COVID-19 round, we retrospectively collected data from the previous months, creating two panels of enterprises and workers, spanning February 2020 to February 2021. We observe a V-shape recovery of the SMEs, with a steeper recovery for the clustered SMEs. Controlling for month and firm (workers) fixed effects, in this study, we find no significant differences between SMEs in clusters and SMEs outside during and immediately after the lockdown. However, gaps in output, sales, employment, and inventories between clusters and non-clusters widened over time as the clustered SMEs' recovery was stronger than the non-clustered SMEs. We also documented the differences in Marshallian externalities between clusters and non-clusters and argued that the agglomeration force, particularly sharing and learning, can be an important source of resilience to cope with shocks. Our findings have significant implications for cluster development policies in developing countries.

### **3. Human Resources**

#### **5. Impact of Migration on The Nutrition Condition of Children Under Five Years of Age in the Rural Households of Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Kashfi Rayan and Maruf Ahmed*

*Research Report No: 193*

*Year of Publication: 2022*

##### ***Abstract***

This study examines the role of migration (both internal and international migration) on the nutritional status of children under five years of age in rural households in Bangladesh. Using both OLS and IV regression methods on BIHS Dataset (2015), this study provides empirical evidence on the relationship between migration and nutrition in rural areas of Bangladesh. Five methods were employed to check for the robustness of the findings and examine the variations in the magnitude of nutritional indicators across these different models. Also, two different instruments ('District wise sex ratio in 2011' and 'Percentage of international migrant households in districts in 2011) were used to deal with endogeneity problems with migration and international migration.

Findings reveal that living in a migrant household increases the children's Weight-for-age z score (indicator of underweight) by 0.9 to 2.5 standard deviations and Height-for-age z score (indicator of stunting) by 1.4 to 2.2 standard deviations, compared to children living in non-migrant households. However, the magnitude of the findings changes and increases when the focus is riveted on 'international migration' exclusively. Living in an international migrant household increases the child z score by 1.7 to 4.5 standard deviations for Weight-for-age and 2.8 to 3.8 standard deviations for Height-for-age z-scores compared to children living in non-migrant households.

This study significantly contributes to the prevailing literature on the migration-nutrition nexus in Bangladesh from a nationally representative dataset. It establishes a direct and positive relationship between children under five years of age living in international migrant households and their higher Weight-for-age and Height-for-age z scores compared to non-migrant. Unlike this study, few studies on nutrition and migration in Bangladesh either deal with particular regions or lack rigorous quantitative exercise.

## **6. Teaching and Learning Experience at The National University Affiliated Tertiary Colleges in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Badrun Nessa Ahmed and Rizwana Islam*

*Research Report No: 198*

*Year of Publication: 2024*

### ***Abstract***

The focus of CEDP is to improve the capacity of the National University College system to plan, manage, implement, and monitor institutional programs, as well as strengthen the foundation for the next phase of development activities. To measure the satisfaction level of the relevant stakeholders (i.e., students, teachers, and employers), three beneficiary feedback surveys (i.e., baseline, mid-term, and endline) are planned to be conducted, among which the baseline was carried out in 2019. The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) conducted the Mid-term Satisfaction Survey in May-June 2022. The mid-term survey is the second of the three planned surveys of the CEDP, measuring the mid-term satisfaction level of the stakeholders, students and teachers of National University-affiliated colleges, and employers of NU graduates. This study uses data from the Mid-term Satisfaction Survey to assess the mid-term satisfaction level of students, teachers, and employers. The study was designed using a mixed-method approach, both quantitative and qualitative, to address the objectives of this study. Data analysis has used both the baseline data collected in 2019 and the mid-term data collected in this study. Using the baseline and mid-term data, a two-round panel data was constructed at the college level. Depending on the specific indicators, the program's effect at the college level was calculated.

We compare the overall satisfaction level regarding all the relevant indicators by stakeholder types, i.e., principals, teachers, and students, and observe differences among the average satisfaction levels. The overall teaching and learning environment satisfaction level is 3.81 among college principals, 2.95 among teachers, and 2.57 among students. A similar pattern is also found for other indicators except the collaboration of colleges with industries. The satisfaction level regarding the collaboration of colleges with industries is noted as the lowest for principals (1.62) and teachers (1.76), and for students, it is slightly higher (2.10 on a scale of 5). The lowest satisfaction level among students is recorded for connectivity through the internet (1.89), and the highest for teaching skills (3.92). The regression results show that for the full sample, the Difference-in-Difference (DiD) of the satisfaction scores on the quality of academic infrastructure, the quality of internet connection, and the quality of facilities for students' soft skill improvement are statistically significant. The DiD for the other two satisfaction scores, namely, the teaching and learning environment and the degree of industry linkage, are not statistically significantly different from zero. These results show that the colleges that received Institutional Development Grants (IDGs) have made a positive and statistically significant impact on the improvement of the quality of academic infrastructure, quality of internet connection and other related facilities, and quality of facilities for students' soft skill compared to those who did not receive this grant. The overall findings from the mid-term satisfaction survey highlighted that: (1) Institutional Development Grant (IDG) has made positive and statistically significant impact on the improvement of quality of academic infrastructure, quality of internet connection and other related facilities, and quality of facilities for students' soft skill compared to those who did not receive this grant; (2) The grant has made some changes in the teaching and learning environment and the degree of industry linkage between IDG-awarded colleges and IDG non-recipient colleges. These changes are not significant enough to increase the satisfaction level of the students, teachers, and principals.

Therefore, this study proposes these recommendations for increasing the overall satisfaction level of all stakeholders: (1) The poor level of industry collaboration has been highlighted by all types of beneficiaries. To facilitate industry collaboration, job fairs should be organised every year, preferably at the district level; (2) Introducing short course facilities can increase the job market opportunities of the NU-affiliated colleges; (3) Subject-based pedagogical training for the NU teachers is highly recommended; (4) The interrelation and collaboration between NU-affiliated colleges and universities should be increased. The colleges that are not well equipped with enough facilities can collaborate with the universities to share their equipment, such as computer labs, libraries, scientific labs, etc. This will help the less privileged colleges provide quality teaching and learning facilities to the students; (5) Forming and activating the activities of Alumni Associations in the NU-affiliated colleges; (6) There should be funds available for the renovation of old academic buildings, addition to an existing building, and upgrading labs and research facilities for teachers wherever appropriate, (7) There should be some provision of need-based funds/emergency grant that might be used or made available to the college authorities in case of sudden emergency or need (e.g., a sudden flash flood in Sylhet division).

## **7. Performance Assessment of the Pilot Program of Shishu Bikash Kendra**

*Author(s): S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury and M. A. Mannan*

*Research Report No: 199*

*Year of Publication: 2024*

### ***Abstract***

The distressed/street children are deprived of the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and other supports – psychological and others, needed for a child. The government initiated six Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBKs) to improve the environment for street children, their quality of life, and future prospects. Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA), under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), has designed a holistic model that will directly reach 1,500 children (250 under each SBK) and promote their education, livelihood opportunities, healthcare, and protection. SBK, being implemented by BSA, aims to improve the quality of life of these deprived children by providing accommodation and food with a major focus on education and training. This study examines the process of targeting and selecting children and assesses the situation of children living in the SBK. The major problem faced by the SBK children is accommodation, including access to bath and toilet facilities. In addition to limited floor space, most of the SBKs do not have adequate bathrooms and latrines. It is very important for the SBKs to have their own buildings with adequate bath and toilet facilities. The selection process may be changed as there is provision to accommodate more children. The number of children staying should be increased by changing the selection process (for example, collecting children from slums/remote areas). A protective environment is pivotal to governments' commitment to ensuring that no child is deprived of the material, spiritual, and emotional resources needed to achieve their potential so that they can participate as full and equal members of society. BSA should make efforts to provide children with the necessary skill/vocational training and other assistance to ensure job prospects for them by networking with different government departments/agencies so that they can participate in income-earning activities and be capable of supporting themselves and become useful members of the society.

## **4. Population and Health**

### **8. An Impact Analysis of Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme in Bangladesh**

*Author(s): Mitali Parvin*

*Research Report No: 194*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

In Bangladesh, safety nets are formal and informal ways of protecting people from poverty. In contrast, formal safety nets include various transfer programmes designed to play both a redistributive and risk-reduction role. The traditional role of safety nets is to redistribute income and resources to the needy in society so that the impact of poverty can be reduced. This study

examines the targeting, selection, and benefit distribution process, including the extent of leakage associated with the VGF programme. The study employed various research methods (questionnaire survey, focus group discussion, key informant interview) to gather data. The findings implied that lobbying with the chairman/member or local influential persons is crucial for getting the VGF card for safety net programmes. The VGF programme expects to bring tangible and direct benefits to vulnerable groups through cash or in-kind transfers. However, effectiveness in reducing poverty and deprivation is adversely affected because of the inefficiency and corruption associated with selecting beneficiaries and disbursing benefits. The issue of leakage is vital in this respect. Inappropriate targeting, such as the inclusion of the wrong person or the exclusion of the right person in the programme, is a major concern with most safety net programmes. Leakage is commonly reported but seems more prevalent in kind-mediated programmes than cash-mediated ones. The programme delivery remains weak due to weak institutions, especially government institutions at the local level. The efficiency of the VGF programme must improve. Many problems associated with targeting and leakage can be minimised if greater emphasis is placed on monitoring and evaluation. Programme monitoring should be supplemented by developing the capacity of line ministries to monitor programmes on a day-to-day basis.

## **9. Report on Post Enumeration Check of Population and Housing Census, 2022**

*Author(s): Binayak Sen, Mohammad Yunus and S M Zahedul Islam Chowdhury*

*Year of Publication: 2023*

### ***Abstract***

The national net coverage error rate of Population and Housing Census 2022, weighted by population share, is estimated at 2.75%. The net coverage error rate is lower in rural areas (2.55%) than in urban areas (3.19%). Within urban areas, the net coverage error rates increase with the level and sophistication of urbanisation. It is also noted that the standard errors in urban areas are higher than in rural areas. The rural coverage error rate is subject to a 16% relative error rate in contrast to 34% in the upazila sadar and growth center. Together with the higher standard error, the higher coverage error leads to a higher coefficient of variation. The gender-specific coverage error rate analysis shows that the net undercount rate is higher at 2.81% for males compared to 2.69% for females. Besides, both the standard error and the coefficient of variation of the coverage error are lower for females. The coverage error rates by religion show that the extent of undercount appears to be higher for Muslims at 2.76% compared to the non-Muslims at 2.67%. However, the coverage error rate estimate for the non-Muslim population appears to be imprecise.

The analysis of demographic coverage error rates shows that the net undercount rates for age groups follow a U-shaped pattern. The successive rates secularly decrease until the minimum is reached at the 40-44 age group, and then, the trend is secularly upward. Both the lower and the



higher age groups have higher rates; while the coverage error rate for the highest age group (75+ years) is estimated at 4.82%, the same is estimated at 4.23% for the 0-4 age group. In contrast, persons from the 30-34 age group to the 55-59 have coverage error rates of less than 2%. Despite the wide variations in the coverage error rates across age groups, many of the standard errors are 'high,' which tend to make the estimates imprecise.

## 5. Poverty and Inequality

### ***10. Does Income Bring Happiness? An Empirical Analysis Using Pseudo-Panel Data from Bangladesh***

***Author(s):*** Badrun Nessa Ahmed

***Research Report No:*** 191

***Year of Publication:*** 2022

#### ***Abstract***

Bangladesh is one of the emerging developing countries in the world, with a large number of populations living below the national poverty line. However, recent research identifies that people in Bangladesh enjoy a higher level of happiness, despite their low income, compared to many other countries in the world with high per-capita income. This study explores this dilemma by identifying the correlates of happiness through analysing quantitative data from the World Value Survey (WVS). Both cross-section and panel analyses have been employed to identify the effects and changes, over time, in happiness in Bangladesh. The results from the empirical model, based on cross-section and pseudo-panel, suggest that income is one of the core determinants of happiness. People do care about their social class and relative social position in the area they live. Besides, the effects of variables such as freedom of choice and individual's health status are strong variables that influence an individual's happiness at a point in time and over time. Therefore, it is supported by this research that money can buy happiness in a country where the fulfillment of the basic needs of a majority of the population is a principal cause of concern. The ability to meet basic needs significantly improves individuals' level of happiness. This conclusion gives the answer to the paradox of rising happiness in Bangladesh in the era of economic growth and prosperity.

## II. Book Chapters

### Binayak Sen

1. “সত্তার বিভক্তি: মিল, বঙ্কিম ও ঔপনিবেশিক আধুনিকতা প্রসঙ্গে”, আহমেদ কামাল, নুসরাত সাবিনা চৌধুরী, নাজমুল সুলতান, টমাস নিউবোল্ড, তৈমুর রেজা এবং সাক্বির আজম সম্পাদিত *সময়ের কুয়াশায়: দীপেশ চক্রবর্তীর সম্মানে প্রবন্ধগুচ্ছ*, ইউনিভার্সিটি প্রেস লিমিটেড, প্রথম প্রকাশ ২০২২।

### Monzur Hossain

2. “Exchange Rate Management in Bangladesh: Implications for Macroeconomic Stability and Trade Competitiveness”, in Mustafizur Rahman (Eds.) *Bangladesh Economy in an Evolving Regional and Global Context*, published by the Center for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, December 2022.
3. "Covid-19, Fintech, and the Recovery of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises: Evidence from Bangladesh," in *Fintech and COVID-19: Impacts, Challenges and Policy Priorities in Asia*, ADBI, Tokyo, Eds. John Beirne, James Villafuerte, and Bryan Zhang, 2022 (with Tahreen T. Chowdhury)
4. "State-owned Enterprises and Cluster-Based Industrialization: Evidence from Bangladesh", in *Reforming State-Owned Enterprises in Asia*, Springer, Singapore, 2021 Monzur Hossain, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Naoyuki Yoshino Chul Ju Kim and Kunmin Kim
5. *Macroeconomic Policies, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh: An Overview* (Chapter 1)
6. *Inflation and Household Welfare: Evidence from Bangladesh* (Chapter 2) (with M.K. Mujeri)
7. *Labor Market Dynamics, Inflation and Wage Adjustments in Bangladesh* (Chapter 3), (with M.K. Mujeri and Tahreen T. Chowdhury)
8. *Impact of Energy Price Adjustments on Bangladesh economy: A Macro-econometric Modeling Approach* (Chapter 4), (with Mahbubur Rahman and Atiqur Rahman)
9. *Assessing the Effectiveness of Monetary Policy in Bangladesh* (Chapter 5), (with Wahid Ferdous Ibon)
10. *A Review of Public Expenditures in Bangladesh: Evidence on sustainability and cyclicity* (Chapter 6) (with Zahid Hussain)
11. *Financing infrastructure investment through spillover tax revenue sharing: Evidence from some Asian countries* (Chapter 8)
12. *Trade Liberalization Policies and Trade Performances in Bangladesh: An Empirical Evaluation* (Chapter 9)

13. Analysis of trade pattern, market access and trade potential in Bangladesh (Chapter 10), (with N. C. Nath)
14. Exchange Rate Management under Floating Regime: An Empirical Assessment (Chapter 11), (with Mansur Ahmed)
15. Determinants of Capital Flows to LDCs: Lessons for Bangladesh (Chapter 12)
16. Aid, Macroeconomic Stability and Economic Development in Bangladesh (Chapter 13), (with Sultan Hafeez Rahman)
17. Financial liberalization, Financial Development and Economic Growth: An analysis of the financial sector of Bangladesh (Chapter 15)
18. Development of Capital Market and Financing Future Growth in Bangladesh (Chapter 17)

### **Kazi Iqbal**

19. **“Changes in Consumption and Demand for Food in Bangladesh: Implications for Health and NCD risks”** in *“Red Alert!: Non-Communicable Disease Burden in Bangladesh,”* The University Press Limited, Dhaka by Dr. Kazi Iqbal with S. Farook, S. Mustafa and Haque, C.E.
20. The background papers for the 8th Year Plan, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh
21. Iqbal, K and S. Shahana (2023); **“Learning against the Tide: Making the Education System Flood-Resilient in Bangladesh”**, Policy Note included as a chapter in the book *“Building Resilient Education System in Asia and the Pacific”*, ADBI (accepted)

### **Anwara Begum**

22. **“Entrepreneurship Potentials and Policy Imperatives to Overcome Child Labour in Bangladesh,”** pp 78-88; chapter, in the book titled, *“Entrepreneurship in the Global Turbulent Scenario: Challenges and Resilience”*, edited by Dr. Mahboob Ali; published by Entrepreneurial Economists’ Club, Dhaka School of Economics, Dhaka.

### **S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury**

23. **“One Belt, One Road and BCIM Economic Corridor: Bangladesh Perspectives.”** pp 567-636); Basak, Kishore Kumer, Chowdhury, S M Zahedul Islam, Islam, M. Shahidul, Sarker, Noor Mohammad, Shoieb, Md. Jahan and Yesmin, Sultana (2021) in Ren Jia Chen Lijun (Ed), *The Belt and Road Initiative and BCIM-EC Construction*, published by Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), Kunming, China.
24. **“Enhancing People- to-People Contacts and Cultural Interaction Would Promote Better Understanding and Co-operation among BCIM Countries,”** pp 709-734; Chowdhury, S M Zahedul Islam, (2021) in Ren Jia Chen Lijun (Ed), *The Belt and Road Initiative and BCIM-EC Construction*, published by Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS), Kunming, China.

## Azreen Karim

25. **“COVID-19 and Fiscal Stimulus in South Asia: Implications for Resilience and Sustainable Development.”** Karim, A., DeWit, A., Shimizu, S., & Shaw, R. (2022). pp 13-28; chapter, in the book titled, *“South Asia: Implications for Resilience and Sustainable Development.”* In *Pandemic Risk, Response, and Resilience*, 13-28. Elsevier.
26. **“Fiscal Policies and Post COVID-19 Development Challenges: An Overview”** Karim, A., Dewit, A., & Shaw, R. (2022). pp 61-82; chapter, in the book titled, *“Global Pandemic and Human Security: Technology and Development Perspective”* Springer Nature. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5074-1\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-5074-1_4)

## Maruf Ahmed

27. **A Comprehensive Economic Assessment of the Health Effects of Tobacco Use and Implications for Tobacco Control in Bangladesh.** Ahmed, M. (with Nigar Nargis, G. M. Faruque, Iftekharul Huq, Rehana Parveen, S. N. Wadood, A. K. M Ghulam Hussain, and Jeff Drope). 2021. “A Comprehensive Economic Assessment of the Health Effects of Tobacco Use and Implications for Tobacco Control in Bangladesh.” *BMJ*.

## IV. Books

### 1. **Agricultural Transformation and Rural Poverty in Bangladesh (2021)**

*Edited by: K.A.S. Murshid and Atiqur Rahman*

This book is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mahabub Hossain, a highly respected scholar and researcher who was Bangladesh's best-known expert in agricultural economics and rural development. It draws upon a commemorative volume put together by his colleagues, friends and admirers drawn from Bangladesh and other parts of South Asia. The Bangladeshi contributors have written on Bangladesh's fast changing rural context while others have written either on the Indian experience or taken a broader pan-South Asian view. The topics span a large canvas but are joined together with a common refrain around agriculture and rural development.

### 2. **Reading in Bangladesh Development (Volume-1) (2021)**

*Edited by: K.A.S. Murshid, Minhaj Mahmud and Kazi Iqbal*

These commemorative volumes were conceived as a dedication to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation, whose birth centenary is being nationally celebrated. This is BIDS' contribution to these celebrations that unfortunately, had to remain somewhat muted due to the ongoing pandemic. These volumes are an apt tribute to our national hero who has inspired the struggle for an independent Bangladesh through his sacrifice, vision, and courage. Bangabandhu dreamt of a free, equitable and prosperous Bangladesh, and even during the brief period that he was in power before being assassinated on 15 August 1975, he was able to put in place the basic structure of governance and broad policy directions that would admirably serve the country on its development journey.

In dedicating these volumes to the memory of Bangabandhu, we not only recognise his wisdom and leadership but also acknowledge that the history of the last fifty years in every field would have been different, had he not been present. These volumes contain a selection of research carried out over the period 1972-2020 on many critical aspects of development, and in the process outlines a development journey that will inform, inspire, and hopefully encourage further explorations in our contemporary economic history. The authors and contributors here are the best in the field of development studies that Bangladesh has produced. On this occasion, we have brought some of the most brilliant minds together under 'one roof' as it were, in creating the ultimate intellectual tribute to Bangabandhu that BIDS could offer.

Volume-I begins with the post-Liberation period and extends up to the year 2000 consisting of a total of 25 articles contributed by BIDS' first generation of scholars. Although the articles are presented in a chronological order, these are best introduced under broad topical categories so that complementarities and synergies can be better appreciated.

The selected papers focus on food, agriculture, and rural development; manufacturing industry; population studies; migration; and domestic and external resource management.

### **3. Reading in Bangladesh Development (Volume-2) (2021)**

*Edited by: K.A.S. Murshid, Minhaj Mahmud and Kazi Iqbal*

These commemorative volumes were conceived as a dedication to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation, whose birth centenary is being nationally celebrated. This is BIDS' contribution to these celebrations that unfortunately, had to remain somewhat muted due to the ongoing pandemic. These volumes are an apt tribute to our national hero who has inspired the struggle for an independent Bangladesh through his sacrifice, vision, and courage. Bangabandhu dreamt of a free, equitable and prosperous Bangladesh, and even during the brief period that he was in power before being assassinated on 15 August 1975, he was able to put in place the basic structure of governance and broad policy directions that would admirably serve the country on its development journey.

In dedicating these volumes to the memory of Bangabandhu, we not only recognise his wisdom and leadership but also acknowledge that the history of the last fifty years in every field would have been different, had he not been present. These volumes contain a selection of research carried out over the period 1972-2020 on many critical aspects of development, and in the process outlines a development journey that will inform, inspire, and hopefully encourage further explorations in our contemporary economic history. The authors and contributors here are the best in the field of development studies that Bangladesh has produced. On this occasion, we have brought some of the most brilliant minds together under 'one roof' as it were, in creating the ultimate intellectual tribute to Bangabandhu that BIDS could offer.

This volume reprints the work published during 2000-2020. The topics covered are highly relevant to Bangladesh's development transformation. Bangladesh's performance over the years was steady and sustained, regularly notching up an additional percentage point to the GDP growth rate in each successive decade since the 1980s. While the selected papers focus on the micro evidence related to the drivers of Bangladesh's development, including manufacturing performance, investments in infrastructure and ICT, NGOs and microcredit, women empowerment and social outcomes, they also highlight the importance of good governance as well as issues such as political instability, urbanisation, and climate change related risks for the country.

### **4. Digital Transformation and Economic Development in Bangladesh: Rethinking Digitalization Strategies for Leapfrogging (2023)**

*Authored by: Monzur Hossain*

*Published by: Palgrave MacMillan*

This book assesses the digital Bangladesh initiative of the government through different lenses: supply-side and demand-side perspectives and policy diffusions. The Bangladesh government has been pursuing a big-push policy for digitalisation, namely the “Digital Bangladesh Vision,” since 2009 as a shifting development strategy to leapfrog into the next level of development with

the leverage of demographic dividend. However, historical anecdotes, dictated policy, international success stories and other related issues could lead to a rethinking on ICT-based development strategy. The content of the book draws on the author's long-standing research works on ICTs and economic growth in Bangladesh.

#### **5. Bangladesh's Macroeconomic Policy: Trends, Determinants and Impact (2020)**

*Edited by: Monzur Hossain*

*Published by: Palgrave MacMillan*

This book provides valuable insights on issues pertaining to current macroeconomic policy debates and challenges in Bangladesh. It evaluates various macroeconomic policies and reflects on a future direction in terms of four central themes: (i) Macroeconomic Policy, Growth and Poverty; (ii) Monetary and Fiscal Policy; (iii) International Trade and Finance; and (iv) Finance and Growth.

Given its scope, the book will serve as a useful resource for academics and macroeconomic practitioners whose work involves developing countries.

#### **6. Bangabandhu and Democratic Socialism (2024)**

*The 1972 Constitution and Aspiration for an Equitable Society*

*Authored by: Binayak Sen*

*(বেশবন্ধু ও গণতান্ত্রিক সমাজতন্ত্র : বাহাত্তরের সংবিধান ও সমতামুখী সমাজের আকাঙ্ক্ষা)*

*Published by: Katha Prakash (Forthcoming)*

The book explores Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's vision of democratic socialism, characterised by a mixed economy, economic pragmatism, radical non-alignment, equality of outcome, and equality of opportunity. The book emphasises that Bangabandhu's socialism is not confined to state ownership alone but embraces a diverse ownership structure, including public, private, and cooperative sectors, dictated by pragmatic consideration with respect to the choice of methods of economic management in a particular phase of development.



## Chapter 4

# Other **Completed** Studies



## D. Other Completed Studies (Excluding Policy Studies)

### Summary Matrix of Completed Studies (Excluding Policy Studies) by BIDS

Table 1: Number of Studies according to Thematic Categories

Themes	Number of Completed Studies
1. Macroeconomic Issues	1
2. Human Resources	2
3. Population and Health	5
4. Environmental Issues	4
5. Gender Issues	4
6. Poverty and Inequality	1
Total	17

## Other Completed Studies by the BIDS (Excluding Policy Studies) from January 2021 to June 2024

### 1. Macroeconomic Issues

#### 1. COVID-19 and Fiscal Stimulus in South Asia: Implications for Resilience and Sustainable Development

*Study Team: Azreen Karim, Andrew DeWit, Satoka Sugiyama, and Rajib Shaw*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

##### *Abstract*

The world continues to be gripped by COVID-19, though the pandemic's impact varies across countries and regions. The South Asian case is illustrative. The region is marked by inherent socioeconomic and other vulnerabilities, including high population density, relatively poor health care, and limited water sanitation facilities. South Asian countries also evince varied levels of damage from the pandemic. This paper examines the region's circumstances as of November 2020, using macroeconomic data to explore varied pandemic impacts and fiscal policy responses. We also discuss the COVID-19 fund formed at the South-Asian regional level with contributions from all eight South Asian countries. Our analysis includes each country's external and internal share of fiscal stimulus, and the implications for sustainable development goals (SDGs). In an argument for integrating resilience and development frameworks, the paper analyses Japan's example of national resilience planning and related sustainable development frameworks. Our research indicates that a sustainable recovery is advantaged by fiscal stimulus that can be linked to extant developmental frameworks.

### 2. Human Resources

#### 2. Assessment of Social Action Projects of P4D Programme of the British Council in Bangladesh: Updating Six Issue Briefs Incorporating the Impact of Covid-19

*Team Member(s): Zulfiqar Ali and Badrun Nessa Ahmed*

*Sponsor: P4D Programme, British Council, Dhaka*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

##### *Abstract*

The British Council in Bangladesh is implementing a three-year programme titled "Platforms for Dialogue (P4D): Strengthening Inclusion and Participation in Decision Making and Accountability Mechanism in Bangladesh" in partnership with the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh funded by the European Union (EU). Its aim is to harness, promote and affect collaborative dialogue between civil society and government of Bangladesh (GoB), ensuring the most marginalized groups in society participate. The current study intended to look into the issues being implemented under the social action projects of P4D more closely in order to draw lessons and prepare issue briefs.

### **3. Expert Adoption of Composite Indices: A Randomised Experiment on Migrant Resettlement Decisions in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim and CMI Researchers*

*Sponsor: World Bank*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

#### ***Abstract***

Composite indices receive a lot of attention in debates on international development and sustainability; e.g., Human Development Index (HDI). The advantages of such aggregate indices are avoiding over-reliance on individual indicators like GDP per capita, and usefulness for simple comparison, analysis and advocacy (Chowdhury and Squire, 2006). These advantages notwithstanding, composite indices have been the source of considerable debate in the academic literature. We study the effect of having access to a migrant resettlement index on decisions to allocate migrants between host locations within a country. The experiment was conducted in Bangladesh using graduate students as respondents. This article has tested the effect of a migrant resettlement index on migrant allocation decisions, and found it to hold promise in influencing decisions.

## **3. Population and Health**

### **4. Healthcare for Persons with Disability in the Time of Corona**

*Team Member(s): Anwara Begum*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

#### ***Abstract***

The primary objective of this study was to understand the severity of constraints, inequality in access to healthcare of persons with disability, who coped with Covid-19 during this pandemic. The predicament of persons with disability is two-fold: the labour market is almost inaccessible for them and sharp barriers to accessing basic essential services, prevail. This qualitative research delineated a case, one out of the total persons with disabilities, responded positively to receiving the announced disability allowance. It underscores the financial hardship that many persons with disability experience. With the corona infection their burden has increased and it is almost a double blow for them. Although highly contagious, awareness about this disease and related information has increased somewhat due to its life-threatening nature but service for persons with disability is still not forthcoming. There is an imperative need to promote human rights of people with disability as laid down by the UNCRPD. The study concluded that un-bundling the issues could inform more sensitive policy formulation in favour of men, women and children with disability, inadvertently left out in the arena of Covid-19.

## **5. Development of the National Adolescent Strategy (NAS) in Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Nazneen Ahmed and SM Zahedul Islam Chowdhury*

*Sponsor: UNICEF through Oxford Policy Management, UK*

### ***Abstract***

Over one fifth or 22% (over 32 million) of the total population of Bangladesh, a densely populated country in South Asia currently falls under the 10 to 19 years age group (UNICEF (2017), an age group defined as adolescence by WHO, (2014). Despite notable progress in poverty reduction and driving social changes (including achieving gender parity in educational enrolment, meeting many of the MDG targets particularly for health care), Bangladesh remains a country thriving to eliminate poverty. And one-third of these children continue to live below the international poverty line. Due to various reasons children and adolescents often have limited opportunities to express themselves. Expression of independent opinions and participation in decision-making are often impeded due to traditional views about children and because parents control them to work or study hard. The main purpose of the task is to develop a comprehensive National Adolescence Strategy for Bangladesh. The strategy will need to articulate priorities and plans in context of adolescent-sensitive responses for emergency situations, disability, ethnicity, gender, reproductive health, nutrition HIV/AIDS and enhance tools for generating evidences so as to support the country progress achieving its international and national commitment in regard to the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) & SDG (2105-2030) etc. This NAS is a high-level macro strategy. By working together to make this strategy a reality for adolescents we are letting them know that they matter, that they are important to us now and for our future. A mixed method approach consisting of both quantitative and qualitative methods & tools is applied. This involves key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) with adolescents, community leaders, private sector employers, and government and non-government stakeholders, at national and sub-national level and survey with parents/caregivers etc.

## **6. Covid-19 Vaccine Delivery Barriers in Lower-middle Income Countries: National Stakeholder Views on Challenges, Barriers, and Potential Solutions**

*Team Member(s): Abdur Razzaque Sarkar*

*Funding by: University of Strathclyde, UK*

*Year of Completion: 2021*

### ***Abstract***

This study explores potential barriers that will arise during the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in lower middle-income countries and how to overcome them. We conducted sixteen semi-structured interviews with national-level stakeholders from Ghana and Bangladesh (eight in each country). Stakeholders included policymakers and immunisation programme experts. Data were

analysed using a Framework Analysis technique. Stakeholders believed their country could use existing EPI structures for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout despite existing challenges with the EPI and despite its focus on childhood immunisation rather than vaccinating the entire population over a short period of time. Stakeholders suggested increasing confidence in the vaccine through community influencers and by utilising local government accredited institutions such as the Drug Authorities for vaccine approval. Additional strategies they discussed included training more health providers and recruiting volunteers to increase vaccination speed, expanding government budgets for COVID-19 vaccine purchase and delivery, and exploring other financing opportunities to address in-country vaccine shortages. Stakeholders also believed that LMICs may encounter challenges complying with priority lists. Our findings suggest that COVID-19 vaccination is different from previous vaccination programs, and therefore, policymakers have to expand the EPI structure and also take a systematic and collaborative approach to plan and effectively rollout the vaccines.

## **7. National Information Platform for Nutrition: An Introduction**

*Study Director: Md. Asaduzzaman*

*Sponsor: Helen Keller International*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

NIPN Bangladesh officially started its activities in the beginning of 2018 and is expected to run through the end of 2021. NIPN's primary objective is to support governmental and civil society nutrition policy planners to strengthen capacity to monitor progress towards reduction of undernutrition and to help direct attention to more cost-effective and evidence-based policies to strengthen nutritional well-being of all citizens of this country. NIPN is trying to set up a functional and effective information and analysis platform through two major components: to formulate policy questions for analysis and undertaking analysis of already available data to feed the policy-making process. Its achievements include strengthening institutional and human capacity for nutritional analysis. NIPN has conducted short term trainings, sent officials abroad for formal university degrees. And NIPN has prepared several reports and policy briefs which have examined the gaps in policy and knowledge and tried to fill those up in modest ways.

## **8. Sanitation and Earnings of the Indigenous Population: Evidence from Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Md. Abdur Rahman Forhad*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### *Abstract*

Sanitation facilities usually act as a health safeguard that increases the productivity and earnings of individuals. This study examines the impact of sanitation access on income using a unique dataset on indigenous and tribal communities. Findings show that sanitation access increases income from forestry, fishing, salaried employment, and financial instruments. The estimated effects also confirm that sanitation facilities increase consumption expenditures on food and non-food categories, indicating that sanitation access improves the living standards of these communities. These positive impacts recommend enhancing their poor sanitation and sewerage systems.

## **4. Environmental Issues**

### **9. Impact of Natural Disaster on Education Outcomes: Evidence from Bangladesh**

*Team Member(s):* Kazi Iqbal, Mainul Haque, Paritosh K. Roy

*Sponsor:* South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

*Year of Completion:* 2021

### *Abstract*

Impact of natural disaster on physical capital, livelihoods, and economic growth is well documented. We examine the impact of floods on education outcomes (test results) of the students in secondary schools in Bangladesh within the time period of 2011 to 2018, covering all Registered High Schools. A total number of 18713 Secondary School (grade VI-X) from 64 Districts and 540 subdistricts (upazilas) were selected for the study. Our results offer an explanation why a disaster-prone country may grow slower than others, all else equal. Learning deficiencies can have long term consequences on human capital accumulation which can produce regional and local poverty traps in the flood prone areas. Achievement in gender parity in schooling may be compromised by floods. Targeted interventions for the affected schools and students, particularly female students, are required to compensate the deficiencies caused by the floods.

### **10. Creating a Political and Social Climate for Climate Change Adaptation– AMENDMENT #3 (CPSCCA3)**

*Team Member(s):* Ivar Kolstad, Azreen Karim, Päivi Lujala, Arne Wiig

*Sponsor:* Research Council of Norway through Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

*Year of Completion:* 2022

### *Abstract*

Climate change impacts will be unavoidable in the coming decades leading to increased frequency and severity of floods, drought and extreme weather events particularly in the developing world. According to the recent IPCC report 2022 on climate adaptation; hundreds of millions of people in developing countries will have their lives and livelihoods affected by climate change. This study assessed and analysed the extent to which the indices will be used in policy decisions, by conducting a randomized controlled experiment using 410 university students in Bangladesh as subjects. Through a discrete choice experimental design, students were asked to allocate 1000 migrants between two otherwise anonymized destination locations in Bangladesh. The results show that the respondents in the treatment group relied on the resettlement index to allocate migrants, and placed significantly more emphasis on the index than most of the individual attributes. Additional analyses into mechanism suggests that this is due to the perceived improvement in resettlement decisions the index contributes to, rather than order or experimenter demand effects. This study has tested the effect of a migrant resettlement index on migrant allocation decisions, and found it to hold promise in influencing decisions.

### **11. Creating a Political and Social Climate for Climate Change Adaptation (CPSCCA)**

*Team Member(s): Päivi Lujala, Ivar Kolstad, Arne Wiig, Minhaj Mahmud, Sosina Bezu*

*Sponsor: Research Council of Norway through Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### *Abstract*

Climate change will in coming decades lead to increased frequency and severity of floods, drought and extreme weather events. As the more exposed areas of the world become increasingly inhospitable, this will lead to substantial climate induced displacement of people in developing countries. For affected countries and communities, this creates challenges in accommodating the displaced and in avoiding social tension and conflicts that may arise. The aim of the study is to improve the basis for effective policy making in addressing displacement at the local, national and international levels. Its objectives are very much in line with the UN global development agenda as expressed in the first two targets of Sustainable Development Goal 13, to “strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards ... in all countries” and to “integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”. The project assessed and analyzes how well countries and communities are able to cope with displacement caused by climate change by creating global and national indexes to assess resettlement capacity. Crucially, resettlement capacity depends not only on physical and economic factors, but also on social and political conditions. These aspects were integrated into our indices. Moreover, through a series of experiments in Bangladesh and Ethiopia, we analyzed how attitudes towards the displaced form and evolve, and whether and how they can be influenced to ease resettlement processes and avert tension.

## 5. A Study on Climate Change and Gender in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Azreen Karim, Abdul Aahad*

*Sponsor: The World Bank Group*

*Year of Completion: 2023*

### **Abstract**

These studies have explored the impacts of climate change on women's empowerment and female labor force participation, voice and agency, gender-based violence and differential impacts of climate-induced migration in an isolated manner. There are extremely few context-specific studies which have explored gender gap dimensions among varying degrees of climate-induced migrated households; and quantitative data gap exists in the climate change induced migration-gender nexus dimensions to analyze the socio-economic narratives of these households in rural and urban settings. Therefore, the overall goal of the study is to understand the nexus between climate change, internal migration and gender issues in coastal Bangladesh.

We examine gender-based violence (GBV) indicators among migrated and non-migrated households in the rural and urban region. We identify physical abuse and verbal abuse as GBV indicators to understand the gaps between female migrated and female non-migrated responses. Our results depict that migrated female members are often physically abused in the urban areas i.e., wider gap. Additionally, the cases of threatening and divorced/remarried are found to be more prevalent in migrated households compared to non-migrated ones and the gaps are wider (i.e., positive and non-significant) among the climate affected (migrated and non-migrated) households in both regional (urban and rural) contexts. We further analyze the case of verbal abuse among migrated and non-migrated households in the same regional context. We found migrated female members are often or sometimes verbally abused in the urban locations (i.e., wider gap). Around 73.28 percent migrated households did not face verbal abuse with the gap being wider in the rural locations. Likewise some other gender indicators, these disparities in both physical and verbal abuse among climate affected migrated and non-migrated households are also not found to be statistically significant. This evidence re-emphasizes the fact that patriarchal social norms also exist in the climate change setting and GBV could further restrain female economic opportunities in the regional contexts as well.

## 5. Gender Issues

### 6. E-Commerce Opportunities through Smartphones and Women's Entrepreneurship and Empowerment

*Team Member(s): Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Abdur Rahman Forhad, and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

*Year of Completion: 2022*



### *Abstract*

This study examines the impact of the smartphone and training intervention on entrepreneurs' business outcomes by comparing them to a similar group of entrepreneurs. In the first phase, the baseline study examined whether the beneficiary and comparison group entrepreneurs are similar in terms of business outcomes before the intervention. In the second phase, this study examines the impact of the UNDP intervention on the business outcome and other household behaviors. This study mainly employs mixed-method, quantitative and qualitative approaches to examine the impact of the UNDP intervention on the entrepreneurial outcome. The intervention has significantly affected entrepreneurs in retaining their employees and increased sales revenue, irrespective of the past benchmark. However, the intervention does not significantly affect the item-wise percent of household expenditures of the total monthly income for most categories and skill levels and does not improve women empowerment immediately.

#### **7. Needs Assessment of Anondomela Women Entrepreneurs**

*Study Team:* Mohammad Yunus, Mohammad Abdur Rahman Forhad, and Rizwana Islam

*Sponsor:* United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

*Year of Completion:* 2022

### *Abstract*

As women are more likely to be engaged in informal business activities than their male counterparts, e-commerce platform offers them prospects of achieving substantial gains towards empowerment. Therefore, an e-commerce platform is likely to boost business opportunities, especially for women entrepreneurs. For the betterment of women entrepreneurs, UNDP Bangladesh has thus launched several projects. 'Anondomela,' an online e-commerce platform set up by UNDP Bangladesh, is a part of such an initiative. The main objectives of this study are to analyze and explore the challenges, needs, and priorities of women entrepreneurs of Anondomela members, with particular attention to their online business operations. Using a mixed method approach, this study identifies that laptops and laptop-use efficiency levels would increase business earnings for Anondomela entrepreneurs. Lack of confidence in running business independently and lack of skills for effective business communication and trainings hinder their growth. Increased knowledge and skills on online based platforms, customer care and reducing geographical barriers such as distance to training centres as well as counselling on how to deal with bad online reviews and competition in the existing market will help the entrepreneurs in the long run.

## **8. End-Line Evaluation of Strengthening Women’s Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle**

*Team Member(s): Binayak Sen, Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Tanveer Mahmood, Sharif Irfat Zabeen, and Quazi Towfiqul Islam*

*Sponsor: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

The main objective of the present study is to assess the impact of the project SWAPNO 3rd cycle on beneficiaries’ wellbeing, including income, expenditure and asset accumulation through rigorous methods of project evaluation. The other likely effects of the project on employment, health status, nutrition, food security, education, aspiration (subjective well-being), women’s empowerment and COVID-19 coping strategies are also captured. We focus on the beneficiaries of the SWAPNO 3rd cycle (2020-21) who just completed 2020-21 cycle for measuring the effects of the project. The baseline study of SWAPNO 3rd cycle (2020-21) beneficiary was conducted in February, 2020 on 884 households, including 442 project and 442 control households. We conducted the end-line survey in December 2021 on the same set of households. Due to attrition, however, we finally got 447 beneficiary households and 437 control households. The findings suggest that in respect of all major indicators of economic wellbeing, the SWAPNO beneficiaries graduating from the current cycle of 2020-21 outperformed the control group households. The benefits from the SWAPNO project are not just noticeable in terms of major economic indicators but also reflected in terms of dietary diversity and “subjective measures” of well-being. The evaluation study documented that woman having decision making power in terms of new earn rising activity (91.05% vs. 75.69%) and women’s participation in meetings and committees (60% vs. 21%) are significantly higher for SWAPNO beneficiary households than that of the control households.

## **9. Impact of the Smartphone Intervention on Women's Entrepreneurship**

*Team Member(s): Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Md. Abdur Rahman Forhad and Rizwana Islam*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

*Year of Completion: 2022*

### ***Abstract***

This study designs a quasi-natural experiment offered by the United Nations in Bangladesh to evaluate the effectiveness of a smartphone intervention program. Following this, the study examines the impact of smartphone and training interventions on entrepreneurs’ business outcomes. Using a two-period panel dataset on women entrepreneurs, this study employs difference in difference (DID) methodology. Empirical findings reveal that the smartphone

intervention program significantly contributes to adopting online business platforms, increasing sales earnings, and making more profits. It is also evident that the intervention significantly affects women entrepreneurs using internet devices for more business- and non-business-related activities. As women are likely to discontinue or exit from their established businesses, such a positive impact of the intervention on business would unleash female entrepreneurial financial constraints.

## 7. Poverty and Inequality

### 10. Urban Inequality in Bangladesh

*Team Member(s): Siddiqur R. Osmani and Binayak Sen*

*Sponsor: Unfunded BIDS Study*

*Year of Completion: 2023 (Published subsequently in Tonon, G., Eds. (2024). Urban Inequalities: A Multidimensional and International Perspective, Springer.)*

#### *Abstract*

Bangladesh has experienced rapid economic development in the last three decades. During the same period, it has also experienced rapid growth in urban population (one of the fastest in the world), with average urban opulence rising faster than at the national level. There is clear evidence, however, that the poorer segment of the urban population has not always shared equitably in the fruits of economic growth. Inequality has widened in the distribution of household income and health outcomes, but has narrowed in the distribution of educational opportunities. This paper examines the processes underlying these diverse outcomes and argues for a stronger role of public action as a countervailing force against the inequalising tendency of the market forces unleashed by the growth process. The paper demonstrates that where public action has been strong, inequality has narrowed, as in the case of education, and where public action has been weak, inequality has widened, as in the case of income and health.



## Chapter 5



# Public Lectures

## E. Public Lectures

Interaction with eminent economic scholars and experts serves as an important source for ideational inputs in research works. To this end, BIDS invited a series of economists and policy practitioners to deliver public lectures on key development themes. So far, BIDS has organised 13 public lectures, as listed below. Our seminars and public lectures not only enrich the BIDS researchers, but also policy practitioners and academia at large.

The list of BIDS's Public Lectures is given below:

SL	Title	Author	Year of Publication
1.	Understanding Economic Development: Some Exploratory Ideas	Wahiduddin Mahmud BIDS Public Lecture	August, 2022
2.	Aspiration, Freedom, and Growth	Mohiuddin Alamgir BIDS Public Lecture	August, 2022
3.	How have Women Contributed to Bangladesh's Development?	Sajeda Amin BIDS Public Lecture	October, 2022
4.	Looking at the Past to See the Future	S. Nazrul Islam BIDS Public Lecture	November, 2022
5.	বাংলায় মার্কস অধ্যয়ন: শতবর্ষের পর্যালোচনা	আনু মুহাম্মদ BIDS Public Lecture	February, 2023
6.	Macroeconomic Management in a Post-Covid Uncertain Global Environment	Sadiq Ahmed BIDS Public Lecture	February, 2023
7.	আমরা কে? ধর্মীয় বহুত্ববাদ ও বাংলার সাংস্কৃতিক বৈচিত্র্য	আবদুল মমিন চৌধুরী বিআইডিএস পাবলিক লেকচার	August, 2023
8.	ভাষা আন্দোলন থেকে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ: পূর্ববঙ্গে মধ্যবিত্তের বিকাশ	আতিউর রহমান বিআইডিএস পাবলিক লেকচার	October, 2023
9.	Amartya Sen: The Lion Who Defies Winter	S. Nazrul Islam BIDS Public Lecture	December, 2023
10.	Evolving Global Order and Geo-economics: Implications for Less Developed Countries	Wahiduddin Mahmud BIDS Public Lecture	January, 2024
11.	Mainstream Economics and Bangladesh's Economy: Seven Challenges and Opportunities	Ahmad Ahsan BIDS Public Lecture	January, 2024
12.	আগামী বাংলাদেশের দশ করণীয়	নজরুল ইসলাম বিআইডিএস পাবলিক লেকচার	January, 2024
13.	Development, Justice and Freedom	S.R. Osmani BIDS Public Lecture	June, 2024



# Chapter 6



## Seminars

## F. Seminars

BIDS organises fortnightly seminars on various development issues. In recent years, it has given special emphasis to organising seminars in creating public opinion and fostering public reason on development policies and concerns. In the past three and a half years, it has organised about fifty seminars. Hence it will not be an exaggeration to suggest that BIDS has truly become one of the most prominent platforms for academic debates and policy discourses in Bangladesh. During the reporting period BIDS has organised 42 seminars as categorised by the themes below:

Seminars	
Themes	Number of Seminars
1. Macroeconomic Issues	15
2. Agriculture and Rural Development	3
3. Industry and Trade	3
4. Human Resources	6
5. Population and Health	6
8. Poverty and Inequality	2
9. Governance	1
10. Miscellaneous	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

### **1. Stabilising the Macro Economy of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) hosted a book launch event on **9 May 2024** in the BIDS Conference Room. The unveiled book “Bangladesh Stabilising the Macro Economy” is authored by **Dr Sadiq Ahmed**, Vice Chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).

### **2. Unpacking the Economic Manifesto of the Awami League: Trends and Challenges for Tomorrow's Bangladesh**

BIDS hosted a seminar titled "Unpacking the Economic Manifesto of the Awami League: Trends and Challenges for Tomorrow's Bangladesh" on **24 March 2024** at the BIDS conference room. The seminar commenced at 10.30 am (BST) and concluded at 5.00 pm (BST).

### **3. Formation of Socio-Emotional Skills and their Effects on Educational Attainment**

On **March 3, 2024**, the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) convened a seminar entitled "Formation of Socio-Emotional Skills and their Impact on Educational Achievement" at the BIDS conference room. During the seminar, **Dr. Shyamal Chowdhury**, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Sydney, delivered a presentation on his research paper.

### **4. Changing Horizon of Economic Analysis: A Path for Knowledge Economy**

On **19 February 2024**, BIDS organised a seminar titled Changing Horizon of Economic Analysis: A Path for Knowledge Economy. **Dr Radha Binod Barman**, Former Chairman, National Statistical Commission (ex officio Minister of State, Government of India); Former Executive Director (Dy Governor Status), Reserve Bank of India; Former Vice Chairman, Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics, Bank for International Settlements, Basel, Switzerland presented an hour-long speech on the topic at BIDS. The seminar started at 2:30 pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) and ended at 5 pm (BST).

### **5. Ten Tasks for Future Bangladesh – আগামী বাংলাদেশের দশ করণীয়**

The sixth Abdul Ghafur Memorial Lecture was organised at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) on **31st January 2024** at 2.30 pm. The lecture on “Ten Tasks for Future Bangladesh – আগামী বাংলাদেশের দশ করণীয়” was delivered by **Dr. Nazrul Islam**, Former Chief of Development Research at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

### **6. Competitive Procurement with Ex-Post Moral Hazard**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies organised a seminar titled Competitive Procurement with Ex Post Moral Hazard. The seminar was held on **19 September 2023** in BIDS conference room. The seminar started at 2:30 pm and ended at 5:00 pm (BST). **Professor Fahad Khalil**, Department of Economics, University of Washington, U.S.A., presented the paper at the seminar.



## **7. Tariff Protection and Export Diversification Are Not Mutually Exclusive: The Bangladesh phenomenon**

BIDS organised a seminar titled "Tariff protection and export diversification are not mutually exclusive: The Bangladesh phenomenon." The event was held on **13 September, 2023**, at BIDS conference room. The seminar started at 2.30 pm and ended at 5.30 pm. **Dr. Zaidi Sattar**, chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (P.R.I.), presented a paper at the seminar.

## **8. Who Are We: Religious Pluralism and Cultural Diversity of Bengal?**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has organised a public lecture on **30 August 2023**. **Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury**, a former Professor at the Department of History, University of Dhaka, and Former Vice-Chancellor of the National University, provided that lecture on "Who Are We: Religious Pluralism and Cultural Diversity of Bengal?".

## **9. Mobile Phone: Skill, Communication & Sociation**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has organised a fortnightly seminar on **20 August 2023**. **Dr. Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder**, Research Fellow, BIDS, presented a paper titled Mobile Phone: Skill, Communication & Sociation.

## **10. Four Key Challenges for the National Budget 2023-24: Some Reflections**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a seminar titled as "Four Key Challenges for the National Budget 2023-24: Some Reflections" on **12 June 2023** at the BIDS Conference Room. **Dr. Sadiq Ahmed**, Former Chief Economist, South Asia Region, World Bank and Vice Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI) was the key speaker at this seminar.

## **11. Debt and Development: Where is Bangladesh Headed?**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the BIDS Fortnightly Seminar 2023 titled "Debt and Development: Where is Bangladesh Headed?" on **29 March 2023** in the BIDS Conference Room. **Dr. Syed Mainul Ahsan**, Professor Emeritus, Concordia University, Canada, and Visiting Professorial Fellow, BIDS, delivered the lecture in the seminar.

## **12. Asia's Journey to Prosperity: Policy, Market, and Technology over 50 Years**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a seminar titled "Asia's Journey to Prosperity: Policy, Market, and Technology over 50 Years" on **13 March 2023** in the BIDS Conference Room, Dhaka. **Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada**, Professor of Economics at the University of Tokyo and former Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), delivered the lecture. The event was held in Hybrid mode.

**13. Dissemination Seminar on Post Enumeration Check of the Population and Housing Census, 2022**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a “**Dissemination Seminar on Post Enumeration Check of the Population and Housing Census, 2022**” on **February 8, 2023**, at NEC Conference Room, Ministry of Planning. BIDS Senior Research Fellow **Dr. Mohammad Yunus** presented the technical findings of the Post Enumeration Check of the Population and Housing Census, 2022.

**14. What do we learn about household food demand patterns and elasticities from micro-data in Bangladesh?**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the BIDS Fortnightly Seminar 2022 titled “What do we learn about household food demand patterns and elasticities from micro-data in Bangladesh?” on **09 November 2022** in the BIDS Conference Room. **Dr. Wasel bin Shadat**, Post-Doctoral Fellow at BIDS, presented his research findings in this seminar.

**15. Socio-Economic Impacts and Policy Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: Lessons for the Future**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a seminar titled “Socio-Economic Impacts and Policy Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: Lessons for the Future” on **26 October 2022** in the BIDS Conference Room. **Dr. Ayago Wambile**, Senior Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank presented his research findings in this seminar.

**16. Aspirational Momentum: The Development Story of Bangladesh** by **Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury**, Bangladesh Bank, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister for Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, and Mr. Mahir A. Rahman, Research Associate, BIDS was held in BIDS on **October 16, 2022**

**17. A dissemination seminar titled Massive Boom of C-Section Delivery in Bangladesh: A Household Level Analysis (2004-2018)** by **Md. Abdur Razzaque Sarker**, Research Fellow, BIDS was organised by BIDS on **September 28, 2022**

**18. BIDS Organised a seminar titled Agrarian Transition or Rural Transformation? Factors and Trends of Change in Village Bangladesh** by **Dr. Shapan Adnan**, Professorial Research Associate, Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London (September 14, 2022)

**19. Dissemination Workshop on the Research Findings of the Labour Market Studies for SEIP** by **Dr. Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS, August 2022

**20. Power, Governance and Anti-Corruption Strategies** by **Mushtaq Husain Khan**, Professor of Economics, SOAS, University of London delivered this lecture. (August 24, 2022)

**21. Disappearance of the Bengali Family Farm** by **Geof Wood**, Emeritus Professor of International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath (3 August 2022)

22. **Effectiveness of Non-Formal Education Program in Bangladesh: Evidence from Reaching Out of School Children Project** by Dr. S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS (July 27, 2022)
23. **Russia-Ukraine War and the Global Crisis: Impacts on Poverty and Food Security in Bangladesh and Other Developing Countries** by Dr. Paul Dorosh, Director of the Development Strategy and Governance Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (July 27, 2022)
24. Abdul Ghafur Memorial Lecture 2021 on “**Marx Studies in Bengal: Some Critical Reflections**” by Professor Anu Muhammad, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University (23 December 2021)
25. **Bangabandhuke Kache Theke Dekha: Remembrance by His Contemporaries** by Dr. Mashur Rahman, the Economic Affairs Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister and others, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (Part II) (August 17, 2022)
26. **Bangladesher Orthanaitik Unnayaner Gatidhara: Subarnajayantite Firay Dekha** by Rizwanul Islam, Former Special Adviser for the Employment Sector, International Labour Office (ILO) (6th June 2022)
27. **Exports and Gender Gap in Manufacturing Employment** by Md. Moniruzzaman, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka (May 25, 2022)
28. **Economic Preferences across Generations and Family Clusters: A Large-scale Experiment in Developing Country** by Professor Shyamal Chowdhury, School of Economics, University of Sydney (May 18, 2022)
29. **When am I Richer than You? A Methodological Perspective on the Constant Dollar Per-Capita Income Comparison** by Dr. Syed Mainul Ahsan, Professor Emeritus, Concordia University, Canada (March 30, 2022)
30. **Innovations to Address Seasonal Poverty** by Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics, Yale University, USA (March 23, 2022)
31. **Tackling Calcium Deficiency in the Diet: Learning from the People** by Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director, ICDDR’B (March 13, 2022)
32. **Water Development in Bangladesh: Past, Present and Future** by Dr. S. Nazrul Islam, Chief of Development Research, UNDESA (March 10, 2022)
33. **Getting Urbanisation Right in Bangladesh** by Dr. Forhad Shilpi, Senior Economist, the World Bank and Dr. Alejandro Molnar, Economist, the World Bank by (March 3, 2022)
34. **Evaluating the Impact of Development Programme for Improving the Living Standard of the Hijra, Bede, and Underprivileged Community** by Dr. Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan, Research Fellow of BIDS (February 23, 2022)

35. **Bangabandhuke Kache Thake Dekha: Remembrance** by His Contemporaries (18 August 2021)
36. **Muktijuddho O Bangabandhu Gobeshona Corner at BIDS Library**, by Dr. Shamsul Alam, The Honorable State Minister of Planning, Prof. Muntasir Mamun, & Dr. Atiur Rahman (December 22, 2021)
37. **Local Nonfarm Opportunities and Migration Decisions: Evidence from Bangladesh** by Dr. Kazi Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow (October 6, 2021)
38. **The Role of Homestead Fish Ponds for Household Nutrition Security in Bangladesh** by Dr. Badrun Nessa Ahmed, Research Fellow of BIDS (October 21, 2021)
39. **Healthcare for Persons with Disability in the Time of Corona** by Dr. Anwara Begum, Senior Research Fellow (November 3, 2021)
40. **Market, Morals and Development: Rethinking Economics from a Developing Country Perspective** by Wahiduddin Mahmud (November 7, 2021)
41. **Epidemiological and Economic Burden of Dengue in Dhaka** by Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Research Fellow of BIDS (November 17, 2021)
42. **Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) on the occasion of 50 Years of Bangladesh** (December 1-3, 2021)
43. **BIDS Critical Conversations 2021** titled “**Normalising Masks: Health and Economic Implications**” (June 9, 2021)

## G. Conferences (Abridged Version)

### 1. Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2023

**December 08-10, 2023**

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised the three-day long international conference titled “Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2023”. This annual flagship event served as a pivotal forum uniting scholars, policymakers, and civil society members. Through a series of public lectures, academic presentations, and panel discussions, it delved into the intricate nexus between development, justice, and freedom, aiming to address the pressing challenges of both global and domestic uncertainty.

**Day 1: Thursday, December 7, 2023**

#### **Inaugural Session: Development, Justice and Freedom**

Opening Remarks: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Keynote Speech: *Development, Justice and Freedom* by **S.R. Osmani**, Professor of Development Economics, University of Ulster, UK

#### **Public Lecture 1**

##### **Macroeconomic Challenges and Policy Options in Bangladesh**

**Ahsan H. Mansur**, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

Session Chair: **Salehuddin Ahmed**, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

##### **Session 1: Democratic Socialism: Debates, History and Options**

Paper: **Bangabandhu, the 1972 Constitution, and the Idea of Democratic Socialism for Less Developed Countries**

**Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

Session Chair: **M.M. Akash**, Former Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka

#### **Session 2: Recent BIDS Works – I**

Paper 1: **Exchange Rate Management in the Post-Covid Crisis Context: Implications for Macroeconomic Stability**

**Monzur Hossain**, Research Director, BIDS

Paper 2: **Export Processing Zones in Bangladesh: Enclave Industrialization Redux?**

**Mohammad Yunus**, Research Director, BIDS

Nahid Ferdous Pabon, Research Fellow, BIDS

Session Chair: **Atiur Rahman**, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

### Special Seminar 1

#### **Forced Displacement, Mental Health and Child Development: Evidence from the Rohingya Refugees**

**Asad Islam**, Professor of Economics, Monash University, Australia

Session Chair: **Sajjad Zohir**, Executive Director, Economic Research Group (ERG)

### Special Seminar 2

#### **Examining Productivity within the Bangladeshi RMG Sector: Dispersion, Determinants, and Gender Advancement**

**Atonu Rabbani**, Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka

Session Chair: **Sajjad Zohir**, Executive Director, Economic Research Group (ERG)

### Session 3: Update on Growth Experience in South Asia

#### **Paper 1: South Asia Development Update and Regional Economic Outlook: Toward Faster, Cleaner Growth**

**Siddharth Sharma**, Lead Economist, World Bank

**Patrick Alexander Kirby**, Senior Economist, World Bank

#### **Paper 2: How Do Agricultural Import Tariffs Affect Men and Women Smallholders?**

**Gayatri B. Koolwal**, Consultant, World Bank.

Session Chair: **Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

### Day 2: Friday, December 8, 2023

### Session 4: Global Price Shocks and Food Security

#### **Paper 1: Governance of Food System**

**Danielle Resnick**, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

#### **Paper 2: Structure of Bangladesh Food System**

**James Thurlow**, Director, Foresight and Policy Modeling, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

#### **Paper 3: Impacts of the Global Price Shocks on the Bangladesh Food System**

**Angga Pradesha**, Senior Scientist, Foresight and Policy Modeling, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

#### **Paper 4: Implications for Policy and Further Research**

**Paul Dorosh**, Director, Development Strategy and Governance, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Session Chair: **Paul Dorosh**, Director, Development Strategy and Governance, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

## Public Lecture 2

### Megatrends in Gender, Population and Development

**Sajeda Amin**, Senior Associate, Population Council, New York, USA

Discussants: **Zarina Nahar Kabir**, Associate Professor of Public Health and Principal Researcher, Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

**Mehtab S. Karim**, Professor Emeritus, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan

**Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Columbia University, New York, USA

Session Chair: **Tasnim Azim**, President, Naripokkho and Adjunct Professor, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

## Public Lecture 3

### Diverging Stories of Son Preference in South Asia: The Case of Bangladesh and India

**Naila Kabeer**, Professor of Gender and Development, Department of Gender Studies, The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK

Discussant: **Alaka Basu**, Professor of Development Sociology, Cornell University, USA

Session Chair: **Sajeda Amin**, Senior Associate, Population Council, New York, USA

## Special Seminar 3

### Deadweight Losses or Gains from In-kind Transfer: Experimental Evidence from India

**Gaurav Datt**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Deputy Director, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia

Session Chair: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

## Session 5: Recent BIDS Works – II

### Paper 1: *Déjà vu: The Untenable Reality of Pavement Dwellers of Dhaka - Evidence from Three Decades*

**Anwara Begum**, Research Director, BIDS

Kazi Zubair Hossain, BIDS

**Paper 2: Employment Outcomes of National University Graduates: Findings from Follow-up Tracer Study**

**Badrun Nessa Ahmed**, Research Fellow, BIDS

**S.M. Zulfiqar Ali**, Research Director, BIDS

Rizwana Islam, Research Associate, BIDS

**Paper 3: Firms, Skill and Productivity**

**Kazi Iqbal**, Research Director, BIDS

Session Chair: **Abdul Bayes**, Former Vice Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University

**Public Lecture 4**

**The Bangladesh Tax Structure: A Middle-Income Vision**

**Syed Moinul Ahsan**, Professor Emeritus, Economics, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Session Chair: **Mustafa K. Mujeri**, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM)

**Session 6: Unpaid Care Work**

**Paper 1: Valuing Unpaid Care Work in Bangladesh**

Binayak Sen, Director General, BIDS

**Tanima Ahmed**, American University, Washington DC, USA

Kazi Iqbal, Research Director, BIDS

Mohammad Yunus, Research Director, BIDS

**Paper 2: Valuing Unpaid Care Work in Sri Lanka**

**Dileni Gunewardena**, Professor of Economics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Session Chair: **Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

**Special Seminar 4**

**Changes in Urban Development and Industrial Location: Preliminary Findings**

**Ahmad Ahsan**, Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

Wasel Bin Shadat, Assistant Professor of IBA, University of Dhaka

Session Chair: **Nazrul Islam**, Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka; President, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies (CUS)



**Public Lecture 5**

**Evolving Global Order and Geo-economics: Implications for Less Developed Countries**

**Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Chairman, Economic Research Group (ERG) and Former Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka

Session Chair: **Zaidi Sattar**, Chairman and Chief Executive, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

**Session 7: Recent BIDS Works - III**

**Paper 1: The Progress of Rural-Urban Health Dynamics over Two Decades in Bangladesh**

**Abdur Razzaque Sarker**, Research Fellow, BIDS

**Paper 2: Women on the Move: The Role of Climate Risk in Economic Empowerment, Voice, Agency and Gender Inequality**

**Azreen Karim**, Research Fellow, BIDS

Session Chair: **Rumana Huque**, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka

**Session 8: Agrarian Change in Contemporary Bangladesh**

**Paper 1: Recent Changes in Agrarian Economy of Bangladesh: Some Evidence from Fields**

**M.A. Sattar Mandal**, Professorial Fellow, BIDS and Emeritus Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University

Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder, Research Fellow, BIDS

Geof Wood, Emeritus Professor, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK

**Paper 2: Choice of Tenancy in Rural Bangladesh: Evidence from BIDS-BARD Micro Survey**

**Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

Taznoore Samina Khanam, Research Fellow, BIDS

Shishir Kumar Munshi, Director, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

Sk. Mashudur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

Muntasir Murshed, BIDS

Panel Discussants:

**Quazi Shahabuddin**, Former Director General, BIDS

**Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)

Session Chair: **Geof Wood**, Emeritus Professor, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK

**Special Seminar 5: From MDGs to SDGs: Understanding Progress in Child Undernutrition in Asia**

**M. Niaz Asadullah**, Professor of Economics, Monash University, Malaysia

Session Chair: **Syed Abdul Hamid**, Professor, Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **Expert Panel on Economic Policy: Addressing Policy Challenges in the Context of Global and Domestic Uncertainty**

Moderator: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

Distinguished Panelists:

**Tapan Kanti Ghosh**, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Sharifa Khan**, Former Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Habibur Rahman**, Chief Economist, Bangladesh Bank

**Ainun Nishat**, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University

**Sajjad Zohir**, Executive Director, Economic Research Group (ERG)

**Tahmeed Ahmed**, Executive Director, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B)

**Ahsan H. Mansur**, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

**Masuda Yasmeen**, Professor and Chairperson of Economics, University of Dhaka

**Zafar Sobhan**, Editor, Dhaka Tribune

### **Public Lecture 6**

#### **Recent Trends in Urban and Rural Economy**

**Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)

Session Chair: **Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**, Chairman, Dhaka School of Economics

### **Closing Address: Public Lecture 7**

#### **The Returns to International Migration**

**Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak**, Professor of Economics, Yale University, USA

Session Chair: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

## 2. Dhaka Winter Conference in Economics 2023

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) hosted the first ‘Dhaka Winter Conference in Economics 2023’ on **23 December 2023** in the BIDS conference room. The event was co-hosted by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Bangladesh Economics Research Network (BERN), and the Association for Economic and Development Studies on Bangladesh (AEDSB)

## 3. Bids Research Almanac 2023

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a two-day long conference titled “**Development Prospects and Challenges: BIDS Research ALMANAC 2023**” on **May 17-18 2023** at Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan, Dhaka. This conference is one of the main annual flagship events of the institute.

## 4. Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2022

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a three-day long international conference titled “**Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2022: Post-Covid Challenges in an Uncertain and Divisive World**” which was held on **December 1-3, 2022**, at Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan, Dhaka. The conference, an annual flagship event of the institute, engaged the wider audience in charting the development agenda in the post-Covid period by bringing national and international scholars on a common platform through public lectures, academic presentations, book reviews, and panel discussions on the diverse socio-economic issues of Bangladesh.

### Day 1: Thursday, December 1, 2022

#### Inaugural Session: Macroeconomic Challenges in Post-Covid Bangladesh

Opening Remarks: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Keynote Speech 1: *Macroeconomic Management in Post-Covid Uncertain Global Environment* by **Sadiq Ahmed**, Vice Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

Keynote Speech 2: *Rethinking Socialism for Democratic Developing Countries* by **Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Chairman, Economic Research Group (ERG) & Former Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka

Keynote Speech 3: *Debates, Dialogues and Decisions: A Historical Look at Policy Making in Bangladesh* by **Syed Akhtar Mahmood**, Former Lead Economist, World Bank

Session Chair: **Rehman Sobhan**, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) & Former Director General, BIDS

## Session 1: Recent BIDS Works

Paper 1: **Livelihood Dynamics in the Haor Region of Bangladesh**

**Mohammad Yunus**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Paper 2: **Micro Savings, Poverty Reduction and Economic Empowerment: Evidence from ‘Amar Bari Amar Khamar’ Project**

**S. M. Zulfiqar Ali**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Paper 3: **Who are the Skilled Workers in Small Firms? Evidence from Bangladesh**

**Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Session Chair: **Sajjad Zohir**, Executive Director, Economic Research Group (ERG)

## Session 2: Recent Books on Bangladesh Economy

**The Odds Revisited: Political Economy of the Development of Bangladesh**

**K.A.S. Murshid**, Former Director General, BIDS

**Bangladesh’s Inclusive Development Journey: Past, Present and Future**

**Mustafa K Mujeri**, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) and Former Director General, BIDS

**Economy of Bangladesh: Fifty Years of Economic Development**

**Quazi Shahabuddin**, Former Director General, BIDS

**M. Mozammel Huq**, Former Professor, Department of Economics, University of Strathclyde, UK

Session Chair: **Salehuddin Ahmed**, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

Keynote Speech 4: *Mainstream Economics and Bangladesh’s Development: Some Issues*

**Ahmad Ahsan**, Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

## Day 2: Friday, December 2, 2022

Keynote Speech 5: *Resilience in Low & Middle-Income Countries: Lessons from Covid-19 Pandemic*

**Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak**, Professor of Economics, Yale University, USA

### Session 3: Women’s Work in South Asia

Distinguished Panelist 1: **Alaka Basu**, Visiting Scholar and Former Professor, Department of Global Development, Cornell University, USA

Distinguished Panelist 2: **Naila Kabeer**, Professor, London School of Economics, UK

Distinguished Panelist 3: **Sonalde Desai**, Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland, USA

Session Chair: **Sajeda Amin**, Senior Associate, Population Council, New York

Keynote Speech 6: *Transition in Japan’s View of Bangladesh: How Two Middle Powers Should Behave along Hegemons*

**Tatsufumi Yamagata**, Professor, College of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University & Director, Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies, Japan

Keynote Speech 7: *Rethinking Dams*

**David Hulme**, Professor of Development Studies & Executive Director of the Global Development Institute (GDI), University of Manchester, UK

Keynote Speech 8: *Learning Loss During Covid-19 Pandemic*

**Asad Islam**, Professor of Economics & Director, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability (CDES), Monash University, Australia

#### Session 4: Challenging Mainstream Ideas

Paper 1: **Disappearance of the Bengali Family Farm**

**Abdus Sattar Mandal**, Professorial Fellow, BIDS & Former Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Agriculture University

Paper 2: **Governance as it is: Critiquing Normative Epistemology**

**Geoff Wood**, Emeritus Professor of International Development, Department of Social & Policy Science, University of Bath, UK

Session Chair: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

#### Session 5: Informal Industries and Environmental Pollution: A Pathway to Inclusive Solutions

Paper 1: **Transforming Brick Manufacturing to Promote Clean Air and Better Health in Bangladesh**

**Moogdho Mahzab**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University, USA

Paper 2: **Governance and Business Model Innovations that Can Reduce Pollution from Lead Acid Batteries in Bangladesh**

**Erica Plambeck**, Professor, Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, USA

**Amrita Kundu**, Assistant Professor, Operations and Information Management, Georgetown University, USA

Session Chair: **A. K. Enamul Haque**, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, East West University, Dhaka

#### Day 3: Saturday, December 3, 2022

Keynote Speech 9: *Escaping the Family Shadow: Intergenerational Mobility in Developing Countries*

**Shahe Emran**, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, USA

#### Session 6: Growth, Employment & Poverty

Paper 1: **Adjusting Bangladesh's Growth Model to Sustain Progress**

**Nora Dihel**, Senior Economist, World Bank

Paper 2: **Import Tariff and Gender Difference in Employment**

**Gayatri Koolwal**, Consultant, World Bank

Paper 3: **Present and Future Climate Risk Across Bangladesh: Integrated Findings on Hazard Exposures & Poverty Vulnerability**

**Lander Bosch**, Geographer, World Bank

Session Chair: **Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)

Keynote Speech 10: *The Idea of Political Settlement*

**Mushtaq Khan**, Professor of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK

Keynote Speech 11: *Human Capital and Gender Inequality in Middle-Income Countries*

**Dilani Gunewardena**, Professor of Economics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

### **Session 7: Promoting Covid-19 Vaccine Take-up in Developing Countries**

Paper 1: **Identifying the Most Cost-Effective Way to Large Scale Covid-19 Vaccination in Rural Bangladesh**

**Diwakar Mohan**, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Paper 2: **The Role of Information and incentives on Covid-19 Vaccination in India**

**Debayan Pakrashi**, IIT Kanpur, India

Paper 3: **Promoting Covid-19 Vaccination Take-up at the Last Mile: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Rural Indonesia**

**Armand Sim**, Monash University, Australia

Session Chair: **Shafiun N. Shimul**, Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka

### **Closing Session: Expert Panel on Economic Policy: Addressing Post-Covid Challenges**

Moderator: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

Distinguished Panelists:

**Atiur Rahman**, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank

**Tapan Kanti Ghosh**, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Mamun Al Rashid**, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Sharifa Khan**, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Md. Jashim Uddin**, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI)

**Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury**, President, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI)

**Syed Mainul Ahsan**, Visiting Fellow, BIDS & Professor Emeritus, Concordia University, Canada

**M. M. Akash**, Professor & Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka

**Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Director, BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE)

**Zaidi Sattar**, Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

**Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

**Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

**Imran Matin**, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance & Development (BIGD)

Keynote Speech 12: *Global Inequality*

**Branko Milanovic**, Senior Scholar, City University of New York

## 5. Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2021

Day 1: Wednesday, December 1, 2021

### Inaugural Session: Bangladesh at 50

Opening Remarks: *Bangladesh in a Comparative Perspective*

**Binayak Sen**, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

*Keynote Speech 1* by **Nurul Islam**, Emeritus Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) & Former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (1972-75)

*Keynote Speech 2* by **Rehman Sobhan**, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) & Former Director General, BIDS

### Session 1: Macroeconomic Policy, Covid-19 and Economic Recovery: Lessons and Future Pathways

Paper 1: **ICTs and Economic Growth in Bangladesh: Rethinking Digitalization Strategies for Faster Economic Recovery**

**Monzur Hossain**, Research Director, BIDS

Paper 2: **Covid-19, Public Expenditures and Fiscal Sustainability: Implications for Recovery**

Zahid Hussain, Ex-Lead Economist, The World Bank

Paper 3: **Covid Impact and Macroeconomic Policy in Asia**

Calla Wiemer, President, American Committee on Asian Economic Studies

Paper 4: **Migrant Labor and Remittances: Macroeconomic Consequences and Policy Responses**

Sokchea Lim, John Carroll University, Ohio, USA; A. K. M. Mahbub Morshed, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois, USA; Stephen J. Turnovsky, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

Session Organiser: **Monzur Hossain**, Research Director, BIDS

Session Chair: **Calla Wiemer**, President, American Committee on Asian Economic Studies

*Keynote Speech 3* by **S.R. Osmani**, Professor of Development Economics, University of Ulster, UK

### Session 2: COVID-19 and Firms

Paper 1: **How has COVID-19 Affected Micro Enterprises and Workers in Bangladesh?**

Asadul Islam, Monash University; Atiya Rahman, BIGD; Rafia Nisat

Paper 2: **The Performance of Value Chains During the Pandemic: Evidence from Bangladesh**

**Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS, Reshad Ahsan, U. Melbourne

Paper 3: **Have Clustered SMEs Performed Better than Non-clustered SMEs during the Pandemic in Bangladesh? Evidence from Three Rounds of Worker-Linked Enterprise Surveys**

**Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS; Tanveer Mahmood, BIDS and Mohammad Rezoanul Hoque, BIDS

Session Organiser: **Kazi Iqbal**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Session Chair: **Sajjad Zohir**, Executive Director, Economic Research Group (ERG)

**Keynote Speech 4: *Aspiration, Freedom and Economic Development*** by **Mohiuddin Alamgir**, Former Director, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN-IFAD), Rome & Former Research Director, BIDS

### **Session 3: Political Economy of Climate Change Adaptation**

Paper 1: **Digging in. Evolving Migration Preferences in Communities Affected by Climate Change: Evidence from Bangladesh**

**Arne Wiig**, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway; **Minhaj Mahmud**, BIDS; **Ivar Kolstad**, Norwegian School of Economics & Chr. Michelsen Institute; **Paivi Lujala**, University of Oulu; and **Sosina Beju**, Chr. Michelsen Institute

Paper 2: **How do Host-migrant Proximities Shape Attitudes towards Internal Climate Migrants**

**Päivi Lujala**, University of Oulu; **Sosina Beju**, Chr. Michelsen Institute; **Ivar Kolstad**, Norwegian School of Economics & Chr. Michelsen Institute; **Minhaj Mahmud**, BIDS and **Arne Wiig**, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

Paper 3: **Does Changing the Narrative Improve Host Community Attitudes to Climate Migrants? Evidence from Bangladesh**

**Ivar Kolstad**, Norwegian School of Economics & Chr. Michelsen Institute; **Sosina Beju**, Chr. Michelsen Institute; **Päivi Lujala**, University of Oulu; **Minhaj Mahmud**, BIDS and **Arne Wiig**, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

Session Organiser: **Minhaj Mahmud**, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Session Chair: **Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

**Keynote Speech 5: *Letting two good crises go to waste: the pandemic, climate change crisis & global solidarity*** by **David Hulme**, Professor of Development Studies, and Executive Director, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

### **Day 2: Thursday, December 2, 2021**

**Keynote Speech 6: *Left Behind? Economic Development, Social Protection and the World's Poorest*** by **Martin Ravallion**, Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics, Georgetown University, USA

### **Session 4: Spatial Dimensions of Development**

Paper 1: **Dhaka's Overgrowth and Its Costs**

**Ahmad Ahsan**, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh

Paper 2: **Convergence in Income, Poverty, and Inequality across Districts of Bangladesh**

**Mohammad Yunus**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Paper 3: **Risk, Poverty or Politics? The Determinants of Subnational Public Spending Allocation for Adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh**

**Azreen Karim**, Research Fellow, BIDS



**Paper 4: Rural Development in Bangladesh over Three Decades: Findings from Mahabub Hossain Panel Data and the Way Forward**

**Mohammad Abdul Malek**, University of Tsukuba; **Aiko Kikkawa**, Asian Development Bank; **Abul K Azad**, University of Dhaka; and **Yasuyuki Sawada**, The University of Tokyo

Session Organiser: **Mohammad Yunus**, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS

Session Chair: **Quazi Shahabuddin**, Former Director General, BIDS

**Session 5: Surviving and Thriving of Women through Major Shocks**

**Paper 1: Maternal Depression, Parental Investment, and Child Development**

**Victoria Baranova**, Sonia Bhalotra, Pietro Biroli, and Asia Maselko

**Paper 2: The Power of Lakshmi: Monetary Incentives for Raising a Girl**

**Laura Zimmermann**, Nabaneeta Biswas, and Christopher Cornwell

**Paper 3: Information Campaign and Marriage Market: The Case of Arsenic Exposure in Rural Bangladesh**

**Shyamal Chowdhury**, and Prachi Singh

Session Organiser: **Shyamal Chowdhury**, Associate Professor, University of Sydney

Session Chair: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

**Keynote Speech 7: Asia's Phenomenal Growth, Bangladesh Miracle, and Challenges** by **Yasuyuki Sawada**, Professor, University of Tokyo and Former Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

**Session 6: Human Capital and Public Policy**

**Paper 1: Student Performance in Online Education in Bangladesh**

Nazmul Hoque, Syed Basher, and Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque

**Paper 2: Global Value Chains and Public Policy Dilemma in Covid Times: Evidence from Bangladesh**

**Abeer Khandker**, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, East West University

**Paper 3: Impact of Floods on Education Outcomes: Evidence from Bangladesh Using Satellite and Census Data**

**Mohammad Mainul Hoque**, BIDS and Kazi Iqbal, BIDS

Session Organiser: **Dr. A. K. Enamul Haque**, Professor, Department of Economics, East West University, Dhaka

Session Chair: **Mohammed Farashuddin**, Chief Adviser, East West University, Dhaka

**Keynote Speech 8: The three faces of agency in feminist economics: capabilities, empowerment and citizenship** by **Naila Kabeer**, Professor of Gender and Development, Department of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science

**Session 7: Nutrition and Well-Being**

**Paper 1: Trends and Inequality of Childhood Undernutrition in Bangladesh: A Household Level Analysis (2004-2018)**

**Abdur Razzaque Sarker**, Research Fellow, BIDS

Paper 2: **Spatial and Social Dimensions of Poverty; A Multidimensional Approach**  
**S.M. Zulfiqar Ali**, Badrun Nessa Ahmed, Mathilde Maitrot, Joe Devine and Geof Wood

Paper 3: **Adolescent Motherhood in Bangladesh; Trends and Determinants**  
**Mohammad Mainul Islam**, Md. Kamrul Islam, Mohammad Sazzad Hasan, and Mohammad Bellal Hossain

Session Organiser: **S.M. Zulfiqar Ali**, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

Session Chair: **Atiur Rahman**, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank.

### Day 3: Friday, December 3, 2021

*Keynote Speech 9: Is Bangladesh a gender in development success story?* by **Sajeda Amin** Senior Associate, Population Council, New York, USA

*Keynote Speech 10: Looking at the Past to see the Future* by **Nazrul Islam**, Chief of Development Research, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), New York

### Session 8: Income and Employment Diagnostics and Drivers

Paper 1: **Bangladesh Rural Income Diagnostics**  
Maria Eugenia Genoni, Mansur Ahmed, Pablo Tillan, and Madhur Gautam

Paper 2: **From Jobs to Careers: Apparel Exports and Career Paths for Women in Developing Countries**  
Gladys Lopez-Acevedo and Mexico Vergara

Paper 3: **How Selling Online is Affecting Informal Firms in South Asia**  
Maurizio Bussolo, Akshay Dixit, Anne Golla, Ananya Kotia, Jean N. Lee, Prema Narasimhan and Siddharth Sharma

Paper 4: **Women's Employment and Safety Perceptions: Evidence from Low-income Neighborhoods of Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
Tanima Ahmed, World Bank

Session Organiser: **Maria Eugenia Genoni**, Senior Economist, Poverty Global Practice, World Bank

Session Chair: **S. R. Osmani**, Professor of Development Economics, University of Ulster, UK

*Keynote Speech 11: Social Mobility in Developing Countries: Pathways for Research and Policy* by **Kunal Sen**, Director, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

## Session 9: Contemporary Agrarian Transition (Panel Discussion)

*Keynote Speech 12: Towards a Revised Understanding of Agrarian Bangladesh* by **Geof Wood**, Emeritus Professor of International Development, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK

### Distinguished Panelists:

**Mahbub Ullah**, Former Professor of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

**Shapan Adnan**, Professorial Research Associate, Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London

**Abhijit Sen**, Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

**Arif Naveed**, Lecturer, Education and International Development, University of Bath, UK

**Ratan Khasnabis**, Director, Economics, Commerce and Business Management, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata

**Abdus Sattar Mandal**, Former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh

Session Organiser: **Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS

Session Chair: **Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC) and Chairperson, BRAC Bangladesh

## Session 10: Turning Points in 2020s: Analytical and Policy Challenges (Roundtable)

Session Chair: **Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Director, BIDS Graduate School of Economics.

### Distinguished Panelists:

**M Syeduzzaman**, Former Finance Minister

**Ahmad Kaikaus**, Principal Secretary to the Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Fazle Kabir**, Governor, Bangladesh Bank

**Abdur Rouf Talukder**, Senior Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty**, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Zaidi Sattar**, Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI)

**Asif Saleh**, Executive Director, BRAC

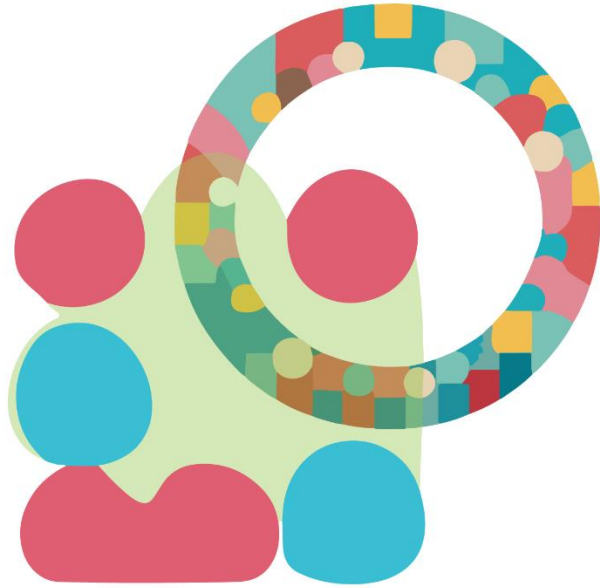
**Syed Akhtar Mahmood**, Former Lead Economist, World Bank

**Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

**Barrister Nihad Kabir**, President, MCCI

President, FBCCI

**Binayak Sen**, Director General, BIDS



## Chapter 8

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# Teaching and Training Activities



## H. Teaching and Training Activities

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has received affiliation from Dhaka University, allowing it to set up the BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE) with the purpose of offering a degree in Master's of Development Economics (MDE). BIDS, with its almost seven decades of development research experience, is an eminently suitable institution to conduct this academic programme with emphasis on applied development economics. The programme is fully supported financially by the Planning Division of the Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh. The programme, carefully designed to equip our students of multidisciplinary backgrounds and professional orientation with required skills to receive an international standard Master's in Development Economics with hands-on training on the subject. We offer courses on Inclusive Growth and Development; Development Microeconomics; Quantitative Methods for Development Economics; Environmental and Resource Economics; Econometrics; Theories of Growth and Development; Trade, Aid and Development; Institutional Economics; and Comparative Economic Development. In their last semester, students are required to choose a topic to write a thesis paper, which is formally supervised by both internal and external supervisors.

We take pleasure in announcing that the first batch is about to graduate and receive their certification from the University of Dhaka. The second batch is currently continuing their studies.

Besides teaching in the Master's programme, BIDS researchers regularly teach and train at different national and international universities, ministries, Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy and several government bodies and international agencies as experts and key resource persons in their particular fields. The details of these are available in our website in the Research Profile of our individual researchers.



## Chapter 9



## Op-eds



# I. Op-Eds

## Binayak Sen

১. ‘পথের শেষ কোথায়: ইউক্রেন যুদ্ধে রাশিয়া ও পাশ্চাত্য’, দৈনিক সমকাল, ০১ অক্টোবর ২০২২।

প্রবন্ধটিতে ইউক্রেন যুদ্ধকে ঘিরে ভূ-রাজনীতি ও বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক অস্থিরতার প্রাথমিক বিশ্লেষণ করা হয়েছে। এর মূল উপসংহার হলো, এই যুদ্ধ অতি শীঘ্রই থামবে না এবং যুদ্ধের ময়দানে এর পরিসমাপ্তি ঘটবে না। এজন্যেই অবিলম্বে শান্তি-আলোচনা শুরু হওয়া উচিত বিবাদমান পক্ষসমূহের মধ্যে। নইলে এই যুদ্ধের অর্থনৈতিক প্রতিক্রিয়া আরো নেতিবাচক হবে বাংলাদেশের মত উন্নয়নশীল দেশের ক্ষেত্রে।

২. ‘আকবর আলি খানের রচনাকর্ম’, দৈনিক সমকাল, ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২।

প্রবন্ধটিতে আকবর আলী খানের রচনাকর্মের প্রতি পাঠকদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা হয়েছে। ইতিপূর্বে আকবর আলি খানের ‘ডিসকভারী অব বাংলাদেশ’ এবং ‘পরার্থপরতার অর্থনীতি’ নিয়ে প্রবন্ধকার আলোচনা করেছিলেন। এই প্রবন্ধে তাঁর সুশাসন, দারিদ্র্য, জীবনানন্দ ও রবীন্দ্রনাথ নিয়ে চিন্তা-ভাবনার প্রতি দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ করা হয়েছে।

৩. ‘বাংলাদেশের ৫০ বছর: উন্নয়ন-বিস্ময়ের রহস্য সন্ধান’, পঞ্চাশের পথচিত্র: পাঁচ দশকের বাংলাদেশ বিষয়ে প্রবন্ধ সংকলন (সম্পাদনা: বদিউল আলম মজুমদার), সুশাসনের জন্য নাগরিক, জুলাই ২০২২।

এই প্রবন্ধে বাংলাদেশ কেন একটি ‘উন্নয়ন-বিস্ময়’ (অনেক ক্ষেত্রে যার নাম ‘বাংলাদেশ প্যারাডক্স’) তার একটি অনুসন্ধান তুলে ধরা হয়েছে। প্রবন্ধের মূল বক্তব্য হচ্ছে— স্বল্প আয়ের স্তরে থেকেও উচ্চ মানব-উন্নয়ন অর্জন করা যায় তার একটি সফল উদাহরণ বাংলাদেশ। এটি কোন একক প্রভাবকের কারণে অর্জিত হয়নি। এই অর্জনে ভূমিকা রেখেছে সরকারি নীতিমালা, বেসরকারি উদ্যোগ, এবং দেশের শক্তিশালী এনজিও প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ। এককথায়, রাষ্ট্র, বাজার ও এনজিও এই ত্রিাক্ষের সম্মিলনে উন্নয়ন-বিস্ময়ের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে।

৪. ‘রণজিৎ গুহ ও নিম্নবর্গ নিয়ে তাঁর ইতিহাস-চর্চা’, দৈনিক সমকাল, ১৫ জুন ২০২৩।

এই সুদীর্ঘ প্রবন্ধে নিম্নবর্গের ইতিহাস চর্চা বা সাব-অলটার্ন হিস্টরীর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা রণজিৎ গুহের ওপরে আলোকপাত করা হয়েছে। রণজিৎ গুহের গড়ে উঠা, তাঁর পারিবারিক জীবন থেকে শুরু করে লেখকের দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ হয়েছে তাঁর প্রধান প্রধান বইগুলোর প্রতি। এর মধ্যে বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য তাঁর চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্তের ওপরে লেখা বইগুলো। বিশদ ভাবে আলোচিত হয়েছে ‘এ রুল অব প্রপার্টি অব বেঞ্জল’, ‘এলিমেন্টারি আসপেক্টস অব পেজেন্ট ইনসারজেন্সি’, ‘ডোমিন্যান্স উইদাউট হেজিমনি’, ‘দয়া: রামমোহন রায় ও আমাদের আধুনিকতা’ গ্রন্থের প্রতি। রণজিৎ গুহকে অমর্ত্য সেন সজ্ঞাত কারণেই অভিহিত করেছিলেন ‘সম্ভবত: বিশ শতকে দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার শ্রেষ্ঠ ঐতিহাসিক’ হিসেবে। এই প্রবন্ধটিতে খুঁটিয়ে খুঁটিয়ে বোঝার চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে নিম্নবর্গের ইতিহাসচর্চার প্রতিনিধিত্বশীল লেখাগুলোকে।

৫. ‘বামপন্থী নজরুল’, দৈনিক সমকাল (ঈদ সংখ্যা), ২০২৩।

এই প্রবন্ধে কবি নজরুল ইসলামের আর্থ-সামাজিক চিন্তার প্রতি দৃষ্টি নিবন্ধ করা হয়েছে। অনেকেই সেরকম অবগত নন যে তিনি ছিলেন এদেশের প্রথম বামপন্থী প্রগতিশীল সংগঠন ‘শ্রমিক-প্রজা-স্বরাজ দল’-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সম্পাদক (ইংরেজিতে বলা হত, ওয়ার্কার্স পেজেন্টস পার্টি)। তাঁর সম্পাদিত ‘ধূমকেতু’ ও ‘লাঞ্জল’ পত্রিকায় তিনি স্বনামে ও বেনামে অনেকগুলো প্রবন্ধ লিখেছিলেন যেটি এই প্রবন্ধে বিস্তৃত ভাবে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। এসব প্রবন্ধ এদেশের প্রগতিশীল চিন্তার ইতিহাসের প্রেক্ষিতে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

৬. ‘হেঁড়াছাতা রাজহুত্র: নানা বইয়ের বিচ্ছিন্ন পাঠ’, দৈনিক সমকাল (ঈদ সংখ্যা), ২০২৪।

এই প্রবন্ধে লেখক তিনটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়ের ওপরে আলোকপাত করেছেন। প্রথম বিষয় হলো, অমর্ত্য সেনের লেখায় কার্ল মার্কসের বিভিন্ন রচনার সশ্রদ্ধ উল্লেখ ও বিচার। দ্বিতীয় বিষয় হলো, শহীদ কাদরীর কবিতায় বিটনিক কবি গ্রেগরি করসোর উল্লেখ এবং সেই সূত্রে করসোর কবিতার একটি সংক্ষিপ্ত পর্যালোচনা। তৃতীয় বিষয়টি হলো দেশবন্ধু চিত্তরঞ্জন দাশ-এর রাজনৈতিক জীবন। তিনি ছিলেন হিন্দু-মুসলিম মিলনের প্রতীক (তাঁর ঘনিষ্ঠ সহযোগী ছিলেন নেতাজী সুভাষ বসু ও হোসেন শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী)। চিত্তরঞ্জনের ওপরে লেখা নীতিশ সেনগুপ্তর ‘বেঙ্গল ডিভাইডেড: দ্য আনমেকিং অব এ নেশন: ১৯০৫-১৯৭১’ বইয়ের পর্যালোচনা করা হয়েছে প্রবন্ধটিতে।

৭. ‘সমকক্ষতার জন্য লড়াই: রবীন্দ্রনাথ ও মুসলিম সমাজ’, দৈনিক সমকাল (ঈদ সংখ্যা), ২০২১।

প্রবন্ধটিতে লেখক বিভাগ-পূর্ব কালে হিন্দু ও মুসলমান সম্প্রদায়ের তথাকথিত স্বার্থের দ্বন্দ্বকে দেখেছেন ‘পলিটিক্স অব সেলফ-এস্টিম’ তত্ত্বের আলোকে। রবীন্দ্রনাথ তার বিভিন্ন লেখায় এই দ্বন্দ্বকে ইতিবাচক ভাবে দেখেছিলেন এবং একে অভিহিত করেছিলেন ‘সমকক্ষতা অর্জনের লড়াই’ হিসেবে। লেখক এই সূত্রে রবীন্দ্রনাথের বিভিন্ন প্রবন্ধের বিশ্লেষণ করেছেন এবং তিনি এই উপসংহারে পৌঁছেছেন যে রবীন্দ্রনাথ বিশ্বাস করতেন যে হিন্দু ও মুসলিম জনগোষ্ঠীর ভেতরে ‘সমকক্ষতা’ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হতে হবে সর্বক্ষেত্রে। তাঁর ভাষ্যে, ‘মুসলমানেরা যদি যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে পদমান লাভ করিতে থাকেন তবে অবস্থার অসাম্যবশত জাতিদের মধ্যে যে মনোমালিন্য ঘটে তাহা ঘুচিয়া গিয়া আমাদের মধ্যে সমকক্ষতা স্থাপিত হইবে।’

## Monzur Hossain

1. A Quest for Technology-driven Economic Development, The Business Standard, 26 March 2021.

Despite a notable progress in digitalisation, Bangladesh still lags far behind South Asian and Asia-Pacific comparators. This article discusses the importance of a technology-driven development strategy for Bangladesh backed by data and sectoral analysis from the last few decades.

2. Macroeconomic Performances of Bangladesh over the Past 50yrs, The Daily Star, 26 March 2021.

This article describes the fiftieth anniversary of Bangladesh as a proud moment for a nation, which was once termed as a development "basket case" has now emerged as a "development surprise" at its 50 with particular progress in per capita income as well as social and development sectors. The article discusses in brief the macro-economic performances of Bangladesh by a series of stabilization and adjustments as well as the major landmarks of macro-economic policies in Bangladesh.



**3. Extending Stimulus Repayment Moratorium Could be a Respite for RMG, The Business Standard, 10 January 2021.**

The ready-made garment sector has been going through a state of ups and downs during the pandemic. Being a prime export sector of Bangladesh, the government has given utmost importance to the recovery of this sector by providing stimulus credit support, and as a result the sector showed a recovery in the first quarter of FY21. This article emphasizes that a moratorium of interest payment and partial payment should be extended as well as devaluation of currency for the short term to restore the sector to its previous state. It is also argued that automation would benefit the sector in the long run.

**4. Micro, Small Enterprises Need More Support, The Business Standard, 3 June 2021.**

In December 2020 during the peak of recovery from shocks induced by the first wave of Covid-19, the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) were stuck at around 80% of their pre-Covid production level. The importance of facilitating CMSMEs' recovery and raise women-led SMEs (and all cottage, micro, and small enterprises) annual turnover ceilings to remain out of tax purview of 70-lakh were discussed in this commentary.

**5. Corona Casts Shadows on Bangladesh's LDC Graduation Progress, The Financial Express, 24 November 2021.**

The Covid-19 pandemic has shaken the entire world with waves of infections and deaths and disruptions to usual course of life and activity, leaving poorer countries' development efforts in grave uncertainty. The article mentions that The country had been faring well, until the start of the pandemic in March 2020, which made Bangladesh's position in terms of all the graduation criteria very promising. It is argued that the government has been able to make a balance between the 'life and livelihood' dichotomy with some luck, as the decisive decisions of the government to reopen the economy even with high infection rates has not become counterproductive in the end.

**6. 9% Deposit Rate and A 12% Lending Rate Would be Ideal. The Business Standard, 15 January 2023.**

The central bank has lifted the cap on bank deposits. This article argues that why it is good on one hand, but the central bank should have lifted the lending rate cap to control inflation, otherwise it would have been better if the deposit and loan rates of the banks were 9% and 12% respectively.

**7. How to Manage Exchange Rate in A Crisis. The Business Standard, 23 January 2023.**

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery process of the economies led to huge pressure on foreign currency reserves in developing countries leading to a potential crisis in exchange rate management for these countries. The two crises — the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war — have led to twin economic crises — the balance of payment (currency) and the banking crisis in developing countries. The article argues the probability of a debt crisis is increasing. In this critical situation, governments are struggling to find a solution to the problem.

Bangladesh is not an exception. In light of the experiences of the current crises in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the middle East during 1973 to 1996 this article suggests financial reform that may shield the economy from shocks arising from the particular currency regime.

**8. The Budget Should Focus on Inflation and Macroeconomic Stability.** The Business Standard, 31 May 2023.

Strong recovery from Covid-induced fallout created demand-pull inflation while the Russia-Ukraine war caused somewhat of a cost-push inflation due to supply chain disruptions. Both have caused inflation to spiral at a level that is difficult to control. This article argues the necessity of coordinating monetary and fiscal policies for addressing the detrimental impact of inflation on the welfare of the poor people in Bangladesh.

**9. Addressing Inflation Should Get Priority in The Budget,** The Business Standard, 7 June 2022.

In light of the present year's different inflation situation from that of other years for two reasons, this article discusses that strong economic recovery from Covid-induced fallout creates demand-pull inflation while Russia-Ukraine war causes somewhat cost-push inflation due to supply chain disruptions. Both cause inflation to spiral at a level that is difficult to control. According to the analysis fiscal policy has a big role to play in controlling inflation in Bangladesh.

**10. Domestic Production Should Be Boosted to Meet Aggregate Demand,** The Business Standard, 19 May 2022.

In the face of many challenges that the economy has been facing in the post-Covid recovery, this article discusses that how well the economy will recover in the future would be determined by how well the challenges, such as inflation, exchange rate pressure and forex reserves are being dealt with. It also argued for countries like Bangladesh, a freely floating exchange rate determined by the demand and supply of dollars in the market is not desirable. As the lower growth restrained income and employment, the government should create some additional employment under social protection activities to protect the livelihood of the poor.

**11. Inflation, Exchange Rate Causes for Concern,** The Business Standard, 10 May 2022.

In view of an increase of the inflation rate from the last fiscal year's (2020-21) 6.94% to this year's (2021-22) 7.25%, it was argued in this article that on account of our recovery economy, this is be expected. The imports of capital equipment have increased a lot and the exports have grown exponentially. It was mentioned since agricultural production was also good and industrial production did not fall too much as well as a bit high private investment (although we have had capital equipment over the past year) it is needed to focus on addressing some of the challenges of the coming year rather than worrying about the growth.

## Anwara Begum

1. **Healthcare For Persons with Disabilities: Coping with the Pandemic**, The Financial Express, 27 November 2021.

Bangladesh has suffered tremendously while trying to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The healthcare system faced unprecedented challenges in adjusting to the increased demand for medical care of COVID-19 patients. This article discusses people with disabilities who coped with COVID-19 were limited by constraints and inequality in accessing healthcare and public health information.

2. **Overseas Migration**, The New Age, 5 June 2021.

This discussion emphasizes on the burning issues of overseas migration and their contribution to the country.

3. **Challenges of International Migration for Bangladesh**, The Daily Star, 14 July 2021.

Migrant workers have contributed generously to our GDP by sending remittance. This discussion elaborates the challenges of international migration for Bangladeshi workers.

## Kazi Iqbal

1. **Pro-poor Spending by the Rich and Inclusive Growth**. The Daily Star, 13 March 2023.

According to the article, while the spending of the affluent class has cascading effects to generate income for many, there are scopes for making the impact of that spending broader. It is discussed that understanding the spending patterns of the country's citizens has profound implications for the country. Bangladesh is now in the process of crafting a tourism master plan. Its ultimate goal should be to make richer people spend within the country for higher pro-poor growth.

2. **Syndicate, Rationality and Price Expectation**, The Daily Star, 17 April 2022.

This article mentions that inflation is ubiquitous now, largely fuelled by the Russia-Ukraine war and the pent-up demand after easing of the Covid restrictions. The overheated economies along with the high import prices of commodities and gasoline have made the consumption basket dearer in almost all countries in the world. The author emphasizes the significance of understanding the power of "syndication" to influence prices, their collusion to set higher prices in "normal time" or all the time.

3. **Scale Effect of Domestic Market, Tipping Point and Paths of Industrialization**, The Daily Star, 27 February 2022.

The article discusses the importance of the size of the economy as it is significant as "scale effect" in growth theory to pave the path of a strong bearing as an industrialized economy. It is hypothesised that the size of the consumer class has crossed a tipping point or a threshold when

the growing local demand has started to support a large number of industries – the Malthusian curse may have turned into an opportunity. The author offers his analyses to this effect.

**4. Beyond RMG: Paths to Industrialization**, The Daily Star, 9 January 2022.

Mentioning the conventional textbook approach of export-led growth models rooted in export-oriented manufacturing and climbing up the value chain has been the canonical models for growth for the East Asian countries (e.g., Japan, S. Korea, Taiwan, and China), this article discusses the manufacturing sector in the country and argues that the thrust of the growth strategies should lie in both export-oriented strategies and domestic demand-led growth for the country like Bangladesh.

**5. This is an RFL-Walton Story Too!** The Daily Star 23 May 2021.

Mentioning the handful of TV commercials running in BTV in the decades of eighties and nineties as an example of how few a base of manufacturing industries was in the country to a staggering growth in household durables both electronic and non-electronic, this article argues that though the growth story of Bangladesh since the 1990s has been characterised by two major protagonists – apparels and remittances, riding on the back of the burgeoning middle class, even in the rural areas. The unique characteristics of this sector are discussed at length in this article.

**6. Apparel Exports: Resilience and Future Challenges**, The Daily Star, 14 March 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in over 114 million infections and a staggering 2.5 million deaths worldwide. It has crippled health systems, deteriorated living standards, and exacerbated inequality. This article discusses the recovery of the apparel industry in Bangladesh which was driven by three factors, i.e., the partial recovery of purchases from the Western markets, brief lockdown in Bangladesh and less stringent lockdown in the country, which provided a hopeful outlook for the future since there was evident resilience from both producers and workers.

## **S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury**

**2. “Creating New Opportunities”, ICE Business Times, 15 February 2022.**

This discussion explicates the necessary reforms required in our healthcare sector, the future of the agriculture sector and how Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can transform Bangladesh.

## **Harunur Rashid Bhuyan**

**১. “রেমিট্যান্স পাঠানো সহজ করতে হবে”, আজকের কাগজ, ২৮ অক্টোবর ২০২২।**

দেশের খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা, জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন, কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকের রিজার্ভ এবং দেশের রেমিট্যান্স কমে যাওয়া সংক্রান্ত বিভিন্ন ইস্যু নিয়ে এতে আলোকপাত করা হয়।

## Abdur Razzaque Sarkar

১. “সার্বজনীন স্বাস্থ্যসেবা ও বাংলাদেশে বীমার প্রচলন”, দৈনিক বণিক বার্তা, ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০২৩।

মানুষের মৌলিক চাহিদাগুলোর মধ্যে স্বাস্থ্য অন্যতম। এ স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে বর্তমানে ইউনিভার্সেল হেলথ কাভারেজের (ইউএইচসি) ধারণা বহুলভাবে স্বীকৃত। এ প্রবন্ধে জাতীয় স্বাস্থ্য বীমা বাস্তবায়ন করার জন্য আমাদের প্রস্তুতি জনবল এবং গণসচেতনতা আছে কিনা সে বিষয়ে আলোকপাত করা হয়েছে।

## Tahreen Tahrira Chowdhury

1. **Why the Offshore Tax Amnesty is Unlikely to Work?** The Business Standard. 05 September 2022.

This article argues that Bangladesh's recent offshore tax amnesty is unlikely to improve the depleted foreign exchange reserve, reverse capital outflow, or decrease corruption and money laundering since the income earnings through legal channels by Bangladeshi nationals in foreign countries can already be transferred to Bangladesh in the form of tax-exempt remittance. Therefore, Bangladeshis who have earnings and assets abroad may not find this 7% tax amnesty to be a lucrative incentive.

## Nahian Azad Shashi

1. **Illicit Tobacco & Industry Interference in Bangladesh**, Financial Express, 09 February 2022.

The commitment to make Bangladesh a tobacco-free country by 2040 raised our hopes about interference-free policy making opportunities in the arena of tobacco control. The political commitment has also been somewhat strong after the announcement resulting in increased efforts by the health authorities to control tobacco. This article argues that repeated tobacco industry interference is still flagged as the main stumbling block for effective tobacco control measure.

## Mahir A Rahman

1. **Economists and their Predictions: What Lies Beneath the Illusion of Simplicity?** The Daily Star, 7 August 2022.

The article argues that one of the most common shortcomings of the general art of prediction among economists is that the information we rely on draws on a theoretical framework based on past data and future expectations. For example, in focusing on economic factors of a proposed change, one may overlook the non-economic factors, such as the resilience and aspiration around an expected event. It discusses that predictions are fallible, and perhaps speaking in a language of intellectual humility would help in communicating that fallibility.

2. **Is Our Generation Ready for Future Challenges?** The Daily Star, 17 January 2022.

This article discusses that our history is filled with the tales of struggles against oppressors, and to a neutral observer, Bangladesh's momentous victory against Pakistan in 1971 may be viewed with no particular proclivity. To the wartime veterans, however, the sentiments, the memories,

and the embodiment of the spirit of the struggle in their own actions speak of a story that those who did not see the war would never comprehend. This article argues that the present generation, thus, must engage in soul-searching and ask: what does the spirit of Liberation War mean for us in performing our duties? And how can they nurture it within ourselves to help Bangladesh become the Sonar Bangla envisioned by its forefathers.

**3. “Morality in the Age of Social Media”** The Daily Star, 22 March 2022.

The evolution of morality and ethics in the 21st century has taken a whole new direction, owing to the mass awareness and participation made possible by the ubiquity of social media. This article argues that while there have been some positive developments in the evolution of public participation in shaping social justice through social media, one must exercise caution, and the role of social media must be carefully scrutinised.

**4. “Ramadan, Consumers and Just Pricing”** The Daily Star, 19 April 2022.

Price hikes of essential goods during Ramadan has become a regular occurrence in Bangladesh. This article discusses that though it is justified, from an economic point of view, that the prices will rise to some degree as demand for some particular goods increase during the holy month, the dominant reason seems to be that syndicates of opportunistic traders and importers raise the prices in several phases, before the government steps in to ensure fair prices. It is emphasized that relying on unfettered market prices during times like Ramadan is an ill-advised policy move, as consumers are not appeased by economic justifications.

**5. “Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka: A Comparative Anatomy”** The Daily Star, 27 April 2022.

South Asia has been one of the fastest growing regions in the modern world, driven mostly by India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. This article discusses the different trajectory of Sri Lanka and Pakistan in important ways, which implies that the challenges of Bangladesh are different. According to the article the important takeaway is to observe the dynamic trends of the indicators across these three countries. The striking feature of Bangladesh's trajectory is sustained improvement, while volatility and decline mark the trends in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

## Farhin Islam

**1. কেমন আছে থ্যালাসেমিয়া রোগীরা? দৈনিক বণিক বার্তা অনলাইন, ৮ মে ২০২৪।**

থালাসেমিয়ার প্রধান চিকিৎসা হলো নিয়মিত পরিমিত রক্ত গ্রহণ, কিন্তু প্রতি মাসে নিরাপদ রক্ত সংগ্রহ করা রোগীর পরিবারের জন্য অনেক চ্যালেঞ্জিং। ডোনার পেতে ও রক্ত নিতে দেরি হওয়ার কারণে রোগীর হিমোগ্লোবিন কমে গিয়ে মারাত্মক শারীরিক অসুবিধা সৃষ্টি করতে পারে, যা এ রোগীদের জীবনযাত্রার মানকেও প্রভাবিত করে। অপর্യാপ্ত চিকিৎসার পরিণাম হতে পারে ভয়াবহ যেমন দুর্বলতা, শারীরিক বৃদ্ধির হার কমে যাওয়া, স্নীহার আকার বড় হয়ে যাওয়া, হাড়ের বিকৃতি, এমনকি অকালমৃত্যু। শরীরের রক্তের চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য অধিকাংশ থ্যালাসেমিয়া রোগী এখনো এমন রক্ত (লোহিত কণিকা) গ্রহণ করছে, যা পর্যাপ্ত ও সঠিকভাবে প্রক্রিয়াজাত নয়। ফিল্টারকৃত লোহিত রক্তকণিকার পরিবর্তে বারবার হোল ব্লাড (অপ্রক্রিয়াজাত সম্পূর্ণ রক্ত) গ্রহণের কারণে সৃষ্টি হয় নানা শারীরিক সমস্যা ও দীর্ঘমেয়াদি ক্ষতি। শুধু

ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রামের থ্যালাসেমিয়া চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্রগুলোতেই সংগঠিত চিকিৎসা পাওয়া যায়। অতিরিক্ত আয়রন জমে যাওয়ায় দেখা দিতে পারে যকৃৎ বা হৃৎপিণ্ডের সমস্যা, যা রোগটিকে আরো কঠিন করে তোলে। আয়রন নিষ্কাশনের ওষুধ বাংলাদেশে পাওয়া যায়, তবে এগুলো বিনামূল্যে দেয়া হয় না এবং সব জায়গায় সহজলভ্যও নয়। জাতীয় পর্যায়ে স্বাস্থ্যবীমার সুবিধা না থাকায় বেশির ভাগ রোগী অপরিষ্পত্ত চিকিৎসা নিয়ে খুঁকে খুঁকে বেঁচে থাকে। পরিষ্পত্ত সহায়ক চিকিৎসা নিয়ে থ্যালাসেমিয়া রোগীরা অনেকটা স্বাভাবিক মানুষের মতো জীবনযাপন করতে পারলেও চিকিৎসা না করলে, বিশেষ করে স্বল্প আয়ের দেশগুলোয়, সাধারণত জন্মের পাঁচ বছরের মধ্যেই মারা যায় থ্যালাসেমিয়া আক্রান্ত শিশুরা। এখন পর্যন্ত থ্যালাসেমিয়ার একমাত্র প্রচলিত প্রতিকার হলো অস্থিমজ্জা প্রতিস্থাপন, যা অত্যন্ত ব্যয়বহুল। ন্যূনতম আদর্শ চিকিৎসা নেয়ার জন্য একজন থ্যালাসেমিয়া রোগীর মাসে প্রায় ২০ হাজার টাকা খরচ হওয়ার কথা। গবেষণায় দেখা গেছে, প্রকৃতপক্ষে একজন থ্যালাসেমিয়া রোগী চিকিৎসার পেছনে মাসে গড়ে মাত্র ২ হাজার টাকা খরচ করতে পারে। আনুমানিক খরচ ও প্রকৃত খরচের মধ্যে এ বিশাল ফারাকের ফলাফল হলো অপরিষ্পত্ত চিকিৎসা।

**2. Educating community About Managing a Lifelong Ailment, The Financial Express, 10 March 2024.**

Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder, is a lifelong issue requiring regular blood transfusions. WANA, the Bangladesh Thalassemia Patients and Parents' Welfare Association, recently hosted a significant event to raise awareness and advocate for policy reforms. The association aims to empower individuals and families affected by thalassemia through education, advocacy, and compassionate support. Addressing thalassemia requires collective action and unwavering commitment. Thalassemia may present daunting challenges, but with unity and determination, we can overcome them, illuminating the path towards a brighter tomorrow.

**3. What We Can Learn About the Current Crisis from the Works of the 2022 Nobel Prize Winners in Economics, The Business Standard, 29 November 2022.**

The Royal Swedish Academy has awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics to Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond, and Philip Dybvig for their contributions to the research on banks and financial crises. The prize recognizes research conducted in the early 1980s that improved understanding of banks and bank regulation, particularly in the current economic climate. The laureates' works, including theoretical contributions by Diamond and Dybvig and empirical contributions by Bernanke, laid the foundation for modern banking regulations to manage financial shocks like the Covid-19 pandemic. Banks monitor borrowers to avoid bankruptcies and reduce societal costs. They can monitor borrowers by diversifying loans and pooling funds from savers. Banks can avoid monitoring by ensuring a well-diversified portfolio of loans to distinct borrowers. However, this dual role raises concerns about potential economic problems, such as the Great Depression. Bernanke's work on preserving lending capacity and credit availability helped formulate policy during the 2008 global financial crisis.

**4. Time to Focus on Women's Sexual Health and Rights, The Daily Star, 14 May 2022.**

Bangladesh has made progress in improving women and girls' lives over the past two decades, with decreasing maternal mortality rates, fertility rates, and increasing gender parity in school enrollment. However, significant gender disparities persist, including access to healthcare, economic opportunities, political engagement, financial access, and decision-making ability.

Key issues include child marriages, adolescent fertility, unintended pregnancies, and gender-based violence. Addressing these issues requires a massive push to end child marriage by 2030. The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey shows that 36.2% of women aged 15-49 cannot make informed decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive healthcare. The country lacks a comprehensive policy for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR), with fragmented laws and inadequate implementation. Addressing patriarchal conceptions and promoting positive practices is crucial to ensure SRHR in Bangladesh.

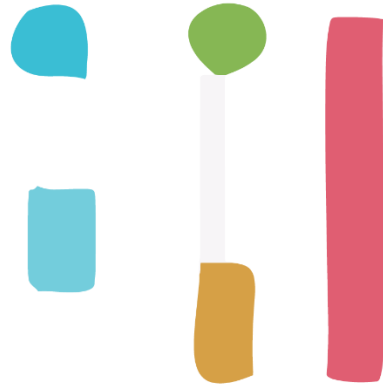
**5. থ্যালাসেমিয়া প্রতিরোধে রক্তপরীক্ষা, দৈনিক সমকাল, ৮ মে, ২০২২।**

প্রতি বছর বাংলাদেশসহ সারা বিশ্বে ৮ মে আন্তর্জাতিক থ্যালাসেমিয়া দিবস পালিত হয়। প্রতি বছর এই দিবসকে কেন্দ্র করে বিভিন্ন আলোচনা ও অনুষ্ঠানে প্রতিরোধের ওপর জোর দেওয়া হলেও এখন পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশে থ্যালাসেমিয়া প্রতিরোধের কোনো সার্বিক কর্মসূচি নেই। থ্যালাসেমিয়া প্রতিরোধের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় কর্মসূচির মধ্যে রয়েছে বাহক সনাক্তকরণ, বাহকদের জেনেটিক কাউন্সেলিং, বাহকদের রোগের সমস্যা ও ঝুঁকি সম্পর্কে অবহিত করা এবং সমাজে ব্যাপকভাবে সচেতনতা তৈরি করা। একটি গবেষণায় দেখা গেছে, থ্যালাসেমিয়ার প্রতিকারের চেয়ে প্রতিরোধ অত্যন্ত চার গুণ কম ব্যয়বহল। তাই দেশে থ্যালাসেমিয়ার বোঝা কমাতে প্রতিরোধই সবচেয়ে কার্যকর কৌশল। কিন্তু এই প্রতিরোধের পদে পদে রয়েছে বেশ কিছু চ্যালেঞ্জ।

**6. People with Thalassemia in the Time of Covid-19, The Financial Express, 7 April 2021.**

Thalassemia, the most common genetic disorder in Bangladesh, affects around 10% of the population and affects around 60,000 patients. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the scarcity of iron-chelating medicines, making it difficult for patients to continue treatment. The cost of treatment, including blood transfusions, is high for low-income families. Undertreated patients face slowed growth, enlarged spleen, and bone deformities, which can lead to liver or heart disease. Bangladesh needs over 1.4 million units of blood each year for thalassemia patients. Thalassemia patients should be prioritized in the national vaccination program due to their vulnerability to COVID-19. However, the Bangladesh government has not recognized their need for vaccines. Mental health issues are often overlooked, and supportive treatments are crucial. Thalassemia traits can be prevented through blood tests before marriage, and the government aims to eradicate it by 2028.





## Chapter 10



# Brief **Profile** and **Correspondence** of BIDS Researchers

## Brief Profile of BIDS Researchers

### Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

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#### Director General

Dr. Binayak Sen

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#### Brief Profile

Binayak Sen obtained M.Sc. in Economics from Moscow Lomonosov State University, Moscow (the premier university in Russia) in 1982 with distinction and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow in 1985, with development economics as the chosen area of specialisation. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Research Administration Department of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. during June-August 1992, and a Visiting Fellow at the GDI of Manchester University in 2012. He was a Senior Economist at the World Bank in Washington, DC during 2004-2009 as a regular World Bank staff and also served as a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) during 2016-18 in Washington, DC. He joined BIDS as a Research Associate in September 1986; subsequently, he became a Research Director of BIDS in 2010. He has led a number of research projects over the years, especially in the areas of inclusive growth, poverty, income inequality, women's empowerment and human development.

Binayak has served in various commissions and committees under successive regimes. This includes Economic Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Finance (1997-2001); Task Force Report on Poverty Alleviation by the Planning Commission (1991); Citizen Task Force Report 2001 on Poverty by CPD (2001); Lead Consultant for preparation of I-PRSP (2001-2003); Public Expenditure Review Commission (2002-2004); Pay and Services Commission (2013-2015); and Monetary Policy Committee (November 2023 till date).

Binayak has expertise in the broad area of development economics and has more than 75 published papers in peer-reviewed journals and books. He has published in notable academic journals such as Economic Development and Cultural Change, World Development, Asian Development Review, and Bangladesh Development Studies. He has collaborated with famed researchers; the list includes Martin Ravallion, Rehman Sobhan, Mahabub Hossain, Suresh Tendulkar, Wahiduddin Mahmud, S. R. Osmani, Paul Dorosh, and Abu Abdullah.

To his credit, he has authored 1 book (Bangabandhu and Democratic Socialism: The 1972 Constitution and Aspiration for an Equitable Society (Kathaprakash, forthcoming); co-authored 2 books (Social Dimensions of Adjustment: World Bank Experience, 1980-93 (World Bank, Washington, D.C; e-book, 1996), and Poverty and Vulnerability in Rural Bangladesh (University Press Ltd, Dhaka, 2015); and co-edited 1 book (Microfinance for Entrepreneurial Development: Sustainability and Inclusion in Emerging Markets (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

## Professorial Fellow

**Dr. M.A. Sattar Mandal**

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### Brief Profile

Professor Mandal, an agricultural economist, has been involved in teaching, research and policy planning in agriculture and rural development for over four decades. Professor Mandal had his bachelor and masters in agricultural economics from BAU in 1973 and 1974, respectively. He did his PhD from the University of London in 1979 and post-doc studies from the University of Oxford in 1986-87. Major areas of Professor Mandal's academic interests include agriculture and rural development, food and agricultural policy planning, irrigation and water resource management, agricultural technology, rural mechanisation and agribusiness development. His extensive research works on irrigation institutions and water market significantly contributed to the consolidation of the privatisation policy for minor irrigation development of Bangladesh during 1990s. He is currently a member of the syndicate of Bangladesh Agricultural University and Sylhet Agricultural University. He has been advising the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as a member of its Expert Pool. He is currently a member of the Board of Governors of BRAC-Bangladesh. Professor Mandal has been a member of the Independent Steering Committee (ISC) for the new CGIAR research program on Fish AgriFood Systems (FISH) of the WorldFish, Penang, Malaysia. He has 86 published papers and book chapters, 72 conference papers and research reports and 13 books and monographs. He has received many prestigious awards. Professor Mandal has been affiliated with BAU as its Emeritus Professor of agricultural economics since 2017.

## Director (BIDS Graduate School of Economics)

**Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**

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### Brief Profile

Sultan Hafeez Rahman, PhD, started his professional career with the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in 1975. He obtained his PhD in Development Economics from Stanford University in 1980. He has published research papers on a wide range of economic and policy issues and served as the Executive Editor of the Bangladesh Development Studies at BIDS. He was a Professorial Fellow at BIGD. Formerly, he was the Executive Director of the institute. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University and the Asian Women's University. His research interests are in the areas of economic growth, macroeconomic policy, governance, international trade and regional integration. Before BIGD, He worked at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and was the Director General of its largest regional department—South Asia. He led policy dialogue with high-level officials and political leaders in ADB's member countries and with OECD development partners; led and supervised the strategy, planning and implementation of the country, sector and regional assistance programs, as well as thematic and sector studies. He also served as a member of several high-level governments, regional, and international expert panels, task forces, and committees. These include the expert panels of the 3rd, 4th and 7th Five Year Plans of Bangladesh. In addition, he was an Adviser/Consultant to the Ministries of Jute, Industry, Commerce, Finance, and Planning. He also served on the boards of two banks. He has worked in a wide range of developing countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and 14 Pacific Island Countries.

## Research Directors

**Dr. Monzur Hossain**

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### Brief Profile

Monzur Hossain obtained his Ph.D. in International Economics in March 2007 from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan. His area of interest mainly concentrates on the macro-financial domain, with an extensive research focused on evaluating and analyzing development interventions and economic policies. In particular, his core areas of interest are Macroeconomics, International Trade and Finance (Trade, Regional Integration, Exchange Rate, Aid Effectiveness, Capital Flows), Financial Economics (Banking and Finance), Applied Econometrics. He also has an interest in some emerging development issues pertaining to SME development, ICTs and knowledge economy, green finance, renewable energy, local Government finance and impact evaluation. He has participated and served as a team leader in numerous professional research projects. He has held several visiting positions, such as Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Japan (in 2010) and visiting Research Fellow at IDE-JETRO, Japan (from January to March 2020). Currently, he is a member of the Executive Board of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (an U.S. based Committee). He is a member of the Editorial Board of some reputed journals. Prior to Joining BIDS, he worked for the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Bangladesh Bank and taught as an adjunct faculty in some Universities. Dr. Hossain has published extensively in nationally and internationally accredited reputed journals. He also has to his credit numerous other publications in the forms of research reports and edited books. His book " Digital Transformation and Economic Development in Bangladesh" was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan in September 2022.

**Dr. Anwara Begum (ON PRL)**

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### Brief Profile

Dr. Anwara Begum obtained her Ph. D. from the University of Liverpool for her thesis on "Poor Rural Migrants to the City of Dhaka" in 1995. She published "Destination Dhaka-Urban Migration: Expectations and Reality", in 1999 and "Engendering Garment Industry" in 2006 from the University Press Limited, Dhaka. She is basically an urban planner specialising in housing and migration issues (internal and international) and she has delved intensively into development issues including theoretical frameworks on migration for developing countries. She has considerable experience of quantitative and qualitative data compilation and analysis. For the last 19 years, she has been an active researcher on rural, urban and international migration, having a wide interest in development issues: female entrepreneurs, gender equality and empowerment of women, employment and income programmes, rural and urban area development priorities, formal and informal industry worker conditions, informal service sector and poverty issues, housing and settlements and the problems of social and economic deprivation of urban and rural poor dwellers, formal and technical education, human resource development and rural-to-urban migration.

**Dr. Mohammad Yunus**

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**Brief Profile**

Mohammad Yunus obtained his M.S.S. in Economics from University of Chittagong, Bangladesh in 1990, M.Sc. at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK in 1997 and M.Phil. from the same University in 1998. He was awarded PhD in 2006 by the Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA, for his thesis on Essays on Optimal Mix of Taxes, Persistence and Spatiality under Tax Evasion. He joined the BIDS in 1992 as a Research Associate and was promoted to Research Fellow in 2000. His current research interests include taxation, state and local government fiscal policies, fiscal decentralisation, food security and poverty alleviation, exchange rate issues, tobacco consumption and knowledge about its health hazards, applied econometrics (time-series and panel data). He has published extensively in both nationally and internationally accredited journals. He has also to his credit numerous other publications in the form of research reports, and contribution to various other edited volumes.

**Dr. S.M. Zulfiqar Ali**

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**Brief Profile**

Dr. S. M. Zulfiqar Ali obtained his Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Bath, UK in 1998. He also completed the Advanced Training Program (which is M.Phil equivalent) in Economics and Quantitative Techniques from BIDS in 1991. Earlier, he obtained B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.Sc. in Economics from Jahangirnagar University in 1989 and 1990 respectively. Later, he completed a course on "Economic Theory and Poverty Reduction: Theory, Empirical Evidence and Implication for South Asia" organized by the World Bank Institute in 1998, and another course on "Human Development: From Theory to Practice" from the Queen Elizabeth House of the University of Oxford in 2000. He joined BIDS in 1992 as Research Associate and was promoted to the position of Research Director in 2023. He has published in both nationally and internationally accredited journals. He has also contributed to several edited volumes. His areas of interest include growth, inequality and poverty; human and social development; human wellbeing; applied economics; social protection; natural resources and environmental economics; and climate change adaptation.

**Dr. Kazi Iqbal**

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#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Kazi Iqbal received his Ph.D. in economics from University of Washington, Seattle, USA in 2006. After completion of Ph.D., he worked for World Bank Institute in Washington DC for three years as a consultant in Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Division. He also taught at University of Washington and Macalester College, Minnesota. He also worked at UNDP, University of Western Australia and Institute of Microfinance. His research interest lies in development economics and applied econometrics. He has been serving the editorial board of Bangladesh Development Studies, Journal of Bangladesh Studies and Lahore Journal of Economics. He has numerous journal articles in nationally and internationally reputed journals. He is also a member of a number of technical committees of different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh.

### **Senior Research Fellows**

**Dr. Nazneen Ahmed**

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(On Lien as Policy Advisor at Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) New York)

#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Nazneen Ahmed has specialisation in conducting research in the areas of international trade and regional trade issues, value chain analysis, general equilibrium modeling, institutional, industrial, gender and labour issues. Dr. Nazneen holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands, a Master's in Development Economics from University of Sussex, UK and a Master's and Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Dhaka. She joined BIDS in 1998 as a Research Associate and became a Research Fellow in 2003. All throughout her student life she has proven her excellence and secured outstanding results in all public examinations and has been awarded a number of national and international scholarships. She has experience of working with a number of donors and international development organisations including the World Bank, DFID, UNCTAD, ILO, IFC, EU, AED, Action- Aid, IFPRI, etc. She has also worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh.

**Dr. Minhaj Uddin Mahmud**

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(On Lien as a Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manilla, Philippines)

#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Mahmud obtained a Masters from University of Manitoba in Economics in 1999. He got his PhD from University of Gothenburg in 2005. He was a Faculty of University of Reading, United Kingdom and Queen's University of Belfast, United Kingdoms. Minhaj's research areas include behavioral economics, health economics and development economics, with a focus on field experiments and impact evaluation in health, education, labor, gender, welfare, and climate change issues. He works in the teams supporting economic analysis of health and social sector projects as well as impact evaluation of ADB projects.

## Research Fellows

**Dr. S. M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury**

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### Brief Profile

Dr. S.M. Zahedul Islam Chowdhury obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from Istanbul University, Turkey under Turkish Government Scholarship. He completed B. Sc. (Hons.) and M. Sc. in Economics from Jahangirnagar University. He joined BIDS as Research Associate in April 2004. He has published articles in domestic and international academic journals. He has completed several training programs in various issues at home and abroad. Recently he has participated in training on "China-Bangladesh Capacity Building Program" operated by Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS) sponsored by Chinese Embassy to Bangladesh. He has completed studies in several issues like Demography and Population Studies, Health Economics, Health and Environment issues, Social Security, Human resources development, Women's empowerment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Poverty alleviation, Agricultural Technology, Access to Information, Financial liberalisation, Child development and adolescents' issue, Youth development, social security, Infrastructure development, Skills gap analysis, Special Economic Zones, and Trade issue etc.

**Dr. M. Harunur Rashid Bhuyan**

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### Brief Profile

Dr. Mohammad Harunur Rashid Bhuyan, a Fulbright scholar, completed his Master of Arts in Sociology from the New School University of the United States of America in 2007. He obtained his PhD from Monash University Australia in 2015. His doctoral studies at Monash University, Australia, as an Endeavour scholar, examine peasants' perceptions and responses to natural disasters in light of economics and politics of resilience. He has been working in BIDS since April 2004. Dr. Bhuyan published many journal articles, research reports, and research monographs on various issues such as social power structure, food security, child rights, women empowerment, labor and skills development, good governance and human well-being etc. He served as a reviewer in several national and international journals. He taught courses at Bangladesh Cooperative Academy for BCS Cooperative Cadre Service Students and also for graduate students at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Bangladesh, and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. His areas of specialisation include Climate Change and Natural Disaster, Agriculture, Poverty, Skill-gap and Labor Issues, Social Safety-nets, Social Power Structure and Good Governance.

**Dr. Md. Mainul Hoque**

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(On Lien to obtain a Post-Doctoral Degree from University of Cornell, USA)

#### **Brief Profile**

Mohammad Mainul Hoque received PhD in Economics from Iowa State University, USA in 2015. He also received MSc. in Economics from the same university in 2009 under Fulbright Scholarship Program, and before that he did BSS in Economics from University of Dhaka in 2005. He is trained in applied microeconomics with specialisation in Labor Economics, and Environmental and Resource Economics. His research interests extend into the field of Health and Development Economics. While working on his dissertation research, he spent one year at Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) as a pre-doctoral associate in an interdisciplinary environment. He has hands-on training on issues related to valuation of non-market goods, interlinkages between agricultural practices and environmental degradation, payment for ecosystem services, behavioral issues with climate change adaptation, essentials for technology adoption, labor market issues, importance of childhood health for lifetime human capital accumulation, and quality of education for inclusive growth.

**Dr. Azreen Karim**

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#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Azreen Karim is an Applied Development Economist and currently working as a Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka, Bangladesh. She holds a Masters in Economics from York University Toronto, Canada and a Ph.D. in Economics from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. In 2015, she was awarded the prestigious Jan Whitwell Prize for best presentation of work undertaken by a doctoral student. Her current research interests include environmental, climate and disaster economics, international and development economics. Azreen's articles have appeared in international reputed journals, namely World Development, Journal of International Development, Natural Hazards, The Singapore Economic Review, and Review of Economics and Institutions. She has contributed Book Chapters in the book(s) titled Economics of Natural Disasters (World Scientific Publishing), Global Pandemic and Human Security: Technology and Development Perspective (Springer Nature), and Pandemics Risk, Response and Resilience (Elsevier). Before starting a research career as a Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dr. Azreen Karim served as a Teaching Fellow (Lecturer and Course Coordinator) at VUW (New Zealand) from 2014-17 and had taught 2nd and 3rd year core economics courses on International Trade and Open-Economy Macroeconomics, Monetary Economics, Building Economics and Project Management. She has professional practice involvement with the American Economic Association (AEA), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), New Zealand Association of Economists (NZAE) and the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA). Her areas of specialisation include Applied Economics/Econometrics, Economics of Disasters and Climate Change, International and Development Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Public Economics/Policy, Impact Analysis of Risks and Shocks and Research Methodology/Meta-Analysis. Details of her published work can also be found in her personal website: <https://sites.google.com/view/karimazreen>.



**Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque Sarker**

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#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Sarker obtained his Ph.D. in Health Economics and Management Science from the University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom. Dr. Sarker completed two postgraduate degrees: Master of Health Economics and Master of Economics. Earlier, he worked for the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom; Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Thailand and Health Economist Consultant at International Vaccine Institute (IVI), South Korea. Earlier, he has worked as an Associate Scientist and Health Economist at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR'B). His research and academic skills have significantly focused on health system research, including economic analysis, economic evaluation of public health programs including the economics of vaccine-preventable diseases, the economics of non-communicable diseases, mental health and quality of life research, the economics of elder health and healthcare financing related research.

**Dr. Badrun Nessa Ahmed**

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#### **Brief Profile**

Dr. Badrun Nessa Ahmed obtained a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Leibniz University of Hannover (LUH), Germany in 2019. She was awarded distinction for her dissertation on 'The Economics of Aquaculture Production and Consumption Emphasising the Nutritional Benefit of the Poor in Bangladesh'. Before that, she completed her MA in Development Economics in 2013 from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands with specialisation in Econometric Analysis of Development Policies. Dr. Badrun also holds a B.S.S. and an M.S.S in Economics in 2007 and 2008 from the University of Dhaka. Dr. Badrun worked as a graduate instructor at the LUH from 2015-2019. She joined at BIDS as a Research Associate in March 2010. Prior to joining BIDS, she worked as a Research Associate at the Institute of Microfinance (InM). Her primary research interests and area of specialisation include development economics, macroeconomic policy issues, health and population economics, theoretical and applied econometrics and international trade especially trade policies and regional cooperation.

**Dr. Mohammad Golam Nabi Mozumder**

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#### **Brief Profile**

As a sociologist, Dr. Mozumder studies the details of the processes that make socio-cultural realities as they appear to be at a certain time and space. Having an in-depth understanding of the intricacies, apparent contradictions embodied by social artifacts is what characterizes his research interest. He was awarded a PhD in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh (USA). He was one of the few sociologists who received the Cultural Studies Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Besides researching, he taught sociology at the University of Pittsburgh and Shippensburg University. He presented papers at the annual conferences of American Sociological Association, Cultural Studies Association, and Asian Studies Association. His areas of specialisation are Science, Technology, and Society; Vulnerability and Precarity; Technology of the Body/Self; Religiosity and Post-Secularism.

**Tahreen Tahrira Chowdhury**

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**Brief Profile**

Tahreen Tahrira Chowdhury joined BIDS as a Research Associate in April, 2011. She completed her M.S.S. in Economics in 2010 from University of Dhaka. Prior to joining BIDS, she served as a lecturer in Department of Economics at BRAC University. Tahreen's areas of research interests include microeconomic theory, mathematical economics, theoretical and applied econometrics, applied economic research, macroeconomic policy issues, financial economics and international trade.

**Siban Shahana**

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**Brief Profile**

Siban Shahana joined BIDS as a Research Associate in May 2011. She has also completed MA in Policy Economics from Williams College, Massachusetts, USA. Prior to that she obtained MSS & BSS in Economics from University of Dhaka. Before joining BIDS, she worked as a lecture in East West University and also served Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) as Research Associate. Her main area of interest includes public policy.

**Dr. Jinnat Ara**

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**Brief Profile**

Jinnat Ara was awarded PhD in Economics from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia in 2021. She joined BIDS in 2022 as a Research Fellow. Prior to joining BIDS, she led the research of Universal Research Care (URC) Ltd., Bangladesh as a Research Director during 2021-2022. Much of her work is based on impact evaluations of the development programming on income, employment, food security, gender dynamics, asset ownership, health, and financial market participation. She has several publications in internationally accredited journals. Her areas of specialisation include Health Economics Development Economics, Labour Economics and Behavioural Economics.

**Dr. Taznoore Samina Khanam**

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**Brief Profile**

Taznoore Samina Khanam obtained her Ph.D. degree from University of Philippines Los Banos jointly collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines. She is trained in applied microeconomics with specialisation in agricultural economics, agricultural policy and development and environmental economics. Earlier, she has worked as an Assistant Scientist at International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Bangladesh. She has particular interest in applied econometrics, Impact assessment/evaluation with experimental and non- experimental method, environmental policy, poverty analysis, agriculture policy analysis and gender study. Her areas of specialisation include Agricultural Economics, Applied Econometrics, Individual Risk preferences, Impact Assessment, Poverty Analysis and Environmental Economics.

## Research Associates

**Humayra Ahmed**

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### Brief Profile

Humayra Ahmed has completed her B.S.S (Honors) in 2004 and M.S.S. in Economics in 2005 from University of Dhaka. She has postgraduate research training from Queen's University of Belfast, United Kingdom. Prior to joining BIDS, she worked in Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Her area of research interest includes environmental economics, macroeconomic issues, trade policies, regional trade, sustainable development, public policy and health and population economics. Ms. Ahmed's area of specialisation is in behavioural economics, environmental economics, health economics and gender issues.

**Mitali Parvin**

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### Brief Profile

Mitali Parvin completed M.Sc. in Environmental Sanitation, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University, Belgium in 2014. She completed her B.Sc (4 years) and M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Khulna University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. She joined as Research Associate of BIDS in March 2010. Before joining BIDS, she served as Assistant Officer at Environment and Safety Division of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited of Petrobangla-Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation. During her professional career, she also served as Senior Scientific Officer of Air Quality Management Project under Department of Environment of Ministry of Environment and Forest financed by World Bank. She has research experience in Air Pollution, Air Pollution modeling, Odour Assessment, Black carbon measurement, Environmental resource management, Eco-tourism and Eco-village development in coastal areas. Her area of specialisation includes multidisciplinary approaches in environmental science and technology and combine preventive and remediation instruments to support a sustainable exploitation of the environment.

**Md. Atiqur Rahman**

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(On Leave to Pursue his PhD in USA)

### Brief Profile

Md. Atiqur Rahman joined BIDS as a Research Associate in February, 2014. He has completed BSS (Hons.) and MSS in economics from the University of Dhaka in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Prior to joining BIDS, he has worked as an Assistant Director at Research Department in the Bangladesh Bank. He is interested in the macroeconomic issues, theoretical economics, mathematical economics, international trade and finance, theoretical and applied econometrics, development economics and public policies. Also, he is proficient in the operation of STATA, a widely used statistical software.

**Mohammad Riaz Uddin**

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(On Leave to pursue his PhD in UK)

**Brief Profile**

Mohammad Riaz Uddin joined BIDS on November, 2015 as Research Associate. He has obtained his BSS and MSS degrees from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Prior to joining as a Research Associate, he worked as an Abu Abdullah Fellow at BIDS. His primary research interest lies in agricultural and applied microeconomics issues especially in poverty, inequality, nutrition, human development, education and labor market issues. He is also interested in experimental and quasi-experimental economics.

**Rizwana Islam**

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**Brief Profile**

Rizwana Islam completed her B.S.S. and M.S.S. in Economics from University of Chittagong in 2013 and 2015 respectively. In July, 2015 she attended the 2nd NSE Summer School at Peking University, Beijing. She joined BIDS as a Research Associate in November, 2015. She is interested in research in a number of fields, including Macroeconomics, Industry and Trade, Development Economics and Policy research, International Economics and Econometrics.

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**Brief Profile**

Md Nahid Ferdous Pabon joined BIDS as Research Associate in 2017 and was promoted to Research Fellow in 2022. He obtained his master's in Economics from Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA in 2021. Earlier, he obtained bachelor's in Economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to joining BIDS, Pabon worked with the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, Bangladesh as a Research Associate. Pabon's research interest is in applied microeconomics with focus on labor and development issues. Pabon is currently on leave for his PhD study in Applied Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.

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**Brief Profile**

Mr. Maruf Ahmed joined BIDS as a Research Associate in November, 2015. He obtained his MSS and BSS in Economics from University of Dhaka. Prior to joining BIDS, he has served as a Lecturer (Adjunct) in Eastern University Bangladesh. He began his career as a Staff Researcher in BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED). His area of interest lies in the field of Macroeconomics, Political Economy, International Finance, Trade Policy and Labor Economics.

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**Brief Profile**

Kashfi holds a Master's degree in Sustainability, specialising in Corporate Environmental and Sustainability Management, from Monash University, Australia. Prior to that, she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Economics at the esteemed University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Kashfi's research contributions have been significant, particularly in the fields of labor economics, development economics, trade, and sustainability. Her published works reflect her expertise and interests, addressing important topics such as the impact of migration on child nutrition, the role of social security programs in eliminating child labor, and the effects of climate change on rice productivity. Kashfi's research extends beyond these areas, encompassing subjects like sustainable development, social safety nets, and private sector engagement for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Her research interests and specialisations include Labor Economics, Development Economics, Sustainability and Trade, Private Sector Engagement for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Impact Evaluation.

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**Brief Profile**

Shahidul Islam joined BIDS as a Research Associate in March, 2017. He completed B.S.S. (Honors) and M.S.S. in Economics from the University of Dhaka respectively in 2014 and 2015. Prior to joining BIDS, he served as a Lecturer in the Department of Economics, Stamford University Bangladesh. Shahid's area of interest lies in Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, and different Development Economics issues.

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**Brief Profile**

Nahian Azad Shashi joined BIDS as a Research Associate in February 2019. She completed B.S.S (Honors) and M.S.S in Economics from the University of Dhaka respectively in 2016 and 2017. Her research interests include macroeconomics and labour economics.

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**Brief Profile**

Mahir A. Rahman joined BIDS as a Research Associate in May, 2019. He completed B.S.S. (Honors) and M.S.S. in Economics from the University of Dhaka respectively in 2016 and 2017. Prior to joining BIDS, he served as a Lecturer in the Department of Economics, East West University. Prior to that, he worked as a Programme Associate at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Mahir's research focuses on Labor and Development Economics as well as Health Economics. He also takes a keen interest on behavioral and experimental economics, areas which attracted him since his student days. His areas of specialisation are Labor Economics; Development Economics and Health Economics.

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**Brief Profile**

Jayed Bin Sattar joined BIDS in February 2022. He completed his BSc & MSc in Economics from Jahangirnagar University respectively in 2017 and 2018(exam held in 2018 & 2020). Prior to joining BIDS, he worked as a research assistant in Data & Design Lab. His main focus is on computational aspects and applications of economics. His research interest is in applied microeconomics, econometrics, & Political economy.

**Md. Nadim Uddin**

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**Brief Profile**

Md. Nadim Uddin joined as a Research Associate in BIDS in October 2023. He completed his BSS and MSS in Economics from Dhaka University in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Prior to joining BIDS, he was a lecturer of Economics at Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona. Prior to that, he was a Research Associate at SANEM. He has previous experience working with microdata in the areas of education and poverty. His research interest is in applied microeconomics.

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**Brief Profile**

Farhin Islam completed her BSS and MSS in Economics from the University of Dhaka in 2019 and 2020 respectively. She joined as a Research Associate at BIDS in October 2023. Prior to joining here, she was a lecturer at the Dhaka School of Economics. She also worked at the World Bank Group Education Global Practice. Her research interests are in Development Economics, especially in Health and Education economics.

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**Brief Profile**

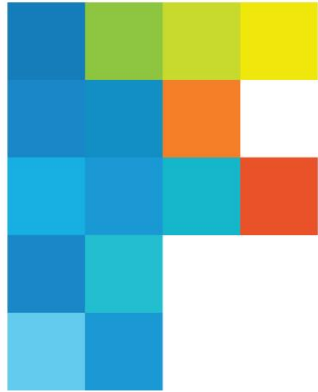
Papri Das joined as a Research Associate in BIDS in October 2023. She completed her Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) and Masters of Social Sciences (MSS) in Economics from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka in 2020 and 2021 respectively and topped her class on both occasions. Prior joining to BIDS, she worked as a research associate at South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Her area of interest in research includes labor economics, international trade, development economics and environmental economics.

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Mahmudul Hasan joined as a Research Associate in BIDS in October 2023. He completed his Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) and Masters of Social Sciences (MSS) in Economics from Department of Economics, University of Dhaka in 2020 and 2021 respectively. He topped his class in his masters and was the second in merit list in his bachelors. Before joining BIDS, he worked as a research associate at the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). His research interests encompass Environmental Economics, Natural Resource and Energy Economics, International Trade, Development Economics, and International Economics.



This publication captures in brief the policy studies and research activities of BIDS conducted during the period between January 2021 and June 2024.



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