



BIDS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 Issue 2 December 2020

Remembrance Meeting Observing the National Mourning Day

BIDS organised an online remembrance meeting observing the National Mourning Day on 16 August 2020, at 11:30 am, paying heartfelt tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 45th anniversary of martyrdom. The memorial meeting was chaired by Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS. The keynote speaker in this meeting Dr. Binayak Sen (Research Director, BIDS) reflected upon “The four pillars of the Constitution: Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism” pledged by Bangabandhu in 1972.

Bangabandhu’s carefully considered thoughts on “Democracy” and “Socialism” blended together in these “fundamental principles” where “fundamental human rights,” “freedom of expression and thoughts,” and “secularism” came together to provide the high ideological plateau from which the country could proceed to embark upon its development story. Bangabandhu’s economic philosophy was different from both Capitalism and the New Economic Policy (NEP) of Lenin. He clearly understood the reality of the Bangladesh economy at that time, suffering from a shortage of a “managerial class” to operate the state affairs and the absence of a capitalist class that could work with the State. These two problems were clearly identified in the “New Industrial Investment Policy, 1974”, following the First Five-Year Plan. His Economic vision was based on a “sense of realism” within the context of a mixed economy (as stated in Section 13 of the Constitution)- providing the basic framework for the economic development of Bangladesh. BIDS remembers the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the architect of the country’s independence and economic development.

Dr. Murshid drew upon his personal experience with Bangabandhu and, and in particular with Sheikh Kamal, whom he knew well. He recounted the atmosphere of that troubled era, the threats faced by Bangabandhu from both the left and the right, and the continuous efforts of the ‘enemies’ to undermine the new nation. He also shared new insights into who the perpetrators of 15 August were, and the havoc that resulted from the sudden demise of the Bangabandhu. How history would have been shaped if Bangabandhu was able to rule for a few more years will remain an intriguing and recurring question forever.

The Director General also spoke briefly of his mother, Begum Nurjahan Murshid, who was a close associate of Bangabandhu and Hussain Suhrawardy, dating back from their Calcutta days, especially from the time of the Great Riots of 1945. The gathering opined that enemies of Bangladesh were numerous and remained active. It was therefore our duty to remain vigilant against any efforts that might undermine our founding principles.

The meeting was attended by the researchers, administration staff, publication staff, IT professionals and librarians working in BIDS. ■

From the Editor's Desk

The troubling time of the second half of 2020 battered by the surge of COVID-19 cases saw the completion of five important studies conducted by BIDS researchers. One of the studies titled “Prevalence, KAP and Heterogeneous Shocks under ‘General Holiday’- An Exploratory Study Based on an Online Survey” is the study highlights of this issue considering its relevance and rigour. One interesting feature of this study is the use of online survey to collect data which covers most of the socioeconomic groups and all districts. The survey was conducted during the period of the ‘general holiday’ in Bangladesh which is euphemistically a reference to lockdown. The study reveals that 10 per cent of the population displayed COVID-19 type symptoms and 1 per cent had comorbidities. Urban residents, divorcees, and members belonging to large households faced greater risk, while higher incomes usually corresponded with reduced risk. Income shocks were substantial, with nearly 50 per cent reporting income flows halted for younger age groups, whereas this was about a third for older groups.

In this period, BIDS organised one webinar on “Economic Impact of Rohingya Refugees: A Natural Experiment”. The paper was presented by Professor M. Emranul Haque from Department of Economics, University of Manchester. The BIDS researchers were also very productive in this trying time of Corona, publishing 12 articles in national and international journals. The list includes internationally reputed journals such as Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, The Lancet, PlosOne, The Nature, Medicine, etc. The researchers also presented their papers in globally recognised international seminars such as KDIS-3ie-ADB-ADBI Conference on Impact Evaluation, ADBI Annual Conference, to name a few.

In essence, the researchers of BIDS remained highly active in academic and policy research during the second half of 2020, warding off the menace of COVID-19. ■

Study Highlights

COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Prevalence, KAP and Heterogeneous Shocks under 'General Holiday': An Exploratory Study based on an Online Survey

Bangladesh reported the first confirmed COVID-19 case on 08 March 2020, and ever since, the number of cases and the death count have been increasing steadily. As of mid-October, there were over 384, 559 confirmed cases and 5,608 deaths although there is a general view that inadequate testing has resulted in serious under-reporting of both. Following the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, the government announced a lockdown billed officially as a 'general holiday' (citing absence of a legal framework that would allow a lockdown to be imposed short of declaring a state of emergency).

The socio-economic impacts of the lockdown can be profound for developing countries like Bangladesh. Some recent estimates revealed that four out of five of the 'new poor' created by the COVID-19 pandemic would be living in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and a quarter of a billion people could be facing starvation. In Bangladesh, income of workers involved in informal occupations like day labourers, restaurant workers, maids, factory workers and rickshaw pullers, declined sharply during the lockdown. Considering the fact that around 85 per cent of the workforce is employed in the informal sector, the welfare consequences of the lockdown could be enormous.

This study explored the feasibility of generating large-scale, country-wide data that could enable researchers to generate useful information on the following COVID-19-related aspects. The intention was to assess and explain the extent of spatial and socio-economic distribution of the following outcomes: Prevalence of COVID-19-like symptoms and co-morbidities, the magnitude of socio-economic shocks and ability of people to cope, adoption of 'knowledge, attitude and practices' that could protect the population, and impact on domestic violence. Explanatory factors (variables) of interest are individual, household, socio-economic and locational profiles of respondents.

Netizens of Bangladesh, who had completed the Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSC), were eligible for the survey with respondents drawn from all 64 administrative districts, over the period 5-29 May 2020. The survey was advertised widely through Facebook. A total of 30,741 persons responded to our call by filling in the questionnaire, from which 832 observations were dropped due to duplication, leaving a total of 29,909 responses for analysis.

Most of the study participants were aged between 31 and 49 years (71.3 per cent). The majority were male (66 per cent), married (77.5 per cent), had tertiary education (65 per cent), were employed (60 per cent), and engaged in private-sector salaried work (48 per cent). The participants were from all administrative divisions of Bangladesh although an absolute majority was from Dhaka and Chattagram divisions (52 per cent). Around 56 per cent of the respondents lived in relatively big towns and city corporation areas, while 59 per cent lived in families with four to six members. During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, more than half of the respondents (53 per cent) worked from home. In general, one can say that the sample represents a younger, more urban and more affluent demographic, even though all socio-economic groups are represented.

The study found that 10.34 per cent of respondents suffered from some type of illness during the reference period while 7.34 per cent of respondents reported that they had at least two symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, dry cough, lost sense of smell, diarrhea, wet cough, headache, tiredness, breathing problem). Further, 2.6 per cent respondents reported displaying three or more COVID-like symptoms. Survey respondents also reported that 2.27 per cent of family members displayed COVID-19 type symptoms, whereas 0.61 per cent had a single comorbidity (e.g., asthma, blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, liver disease) and 0.57 per cent had two or more comorbidities, making them especially vulnerable.

The impact of the lockdown is not symmetric across socio-economic groups. Effective policymaking during a crisis like the current pandemic necessitates exploring this asymmetry. In order to explore the shocks and their influence on different socio-economic groups, as well as levels of preparedness of people to meet these contingencies, two shock related variables were generated from the survey: impact on monthly income and impact on food expenditures.

It was found that 13 per cent of the respondents became unemployed. The worst affected were the self-employed, followed by freelancers, and daily contract-workers. Around 44 per cent of the self-employed and 38 per cent of the freelancers reported that their earnings had actually come to a halt. Another 42 per cent – mainly from rural areas, reported that their income had substantially reduced.

Extent of impact varies by age - younger people are hit harder. Also, urban residents reported greater income losses compared to rural ones, while the relationship with education, as expected, was inverse. Better educated respondents tended to be less affected by income losses. As the income sources of the unemployed group are irregular and informal, they faced the biggest income shock. Almost all of them reported either reduction of income or stoppage of income flows. Even for those employed, half reported some negative impacts with those in the lower income groups suffering disproportionately. Thus, 80- 85 per cent of the respondents belonging to the two lowest income strata reported that their income flows stopped or reduced.

Coping was defined in terms of people's ability to face the lockdown successfully in terms of meeting their basic requirements for food and other necessities, including cleansing materials and disinfectants. Generally, the pattern that emerges quite clearly is that household ability to face long lockdown is closely related to income, employment and education most strikingly, while other factors also have some effect, especially age and household size. Generally, rural inhabitants are worse off – which is contrary to popular belief. A strong Dhaka-effect is also noteworthy: reduction or stoppage of income flows is more likely for respondents in Dhaka.

If the respondent's family earns 5,000 to 15,000 taka (BDT 5,000-15,000) monthly, there is a 0.5 per cent likelihood of reporting 'more than a month' category, whereas in the case of more than 100,000 taka group, this increases to 50 per cent. In terms of place of residence ('Divisions'), there is a positive likelihood of reporting additional days from Mymensingh while the opposite is for Chattagram and Rangpur divisions. Very little gender differences were found in terms of shocks on income and expenditure.

We also explore adoption behaviour with regard to good preventive practices as advised by WHO and the Government of Bangladesh. We also wanted to see what factors constrain observance of social distancing when outside the home. Our survey data shows that most of the participants used masks (94 per cent), and the percentage of those washing their hand 4-6 times was over 41 per cent and those washing 7-10 times was over 48 per cent. We also note that 70 per cent were able to maintain social distance, while 29 per cent reported that they were unable to maintain social distance although they wanted to.

A concern that is being increasingly raised in the context of COVID-19 is the effect that it appears to be having on domestic violence, especially during lockdown in conditions when people are forced to be confined indoors for prolonged periods. Around 25 per cent of respondents living with families stated that arguments and quarrels, including physical violence have increased under lockdown. In other words, quite a significant proportions have reported increasing violence although reported incidence of physical violence is low. However, bearing in mind that the reference period for these questions was one month prior to response, the frequency of violence, including self-reported physical violence (which itself is likely to be understated) is not low.

The conclusion, therefore, is that ordinary people were trying hard to fight back but their means were limited. The impact on the labour market was severe – clearly indicating that for a poor country, a longer-term lockdown would be untenable. Therefore, the government decision to avoid a hard lockdown and withdraw the 'general holiday' sooner, rather than later, was by far the better option. If public resources and government capacity to distribute food and cash was much better, a different strategy may have been feasible. ■

Completed Studies

Health Status and Healthcare-seeking Behaviour Assessment among Elderly Citizens in Bangladesh

Population ageing is one of the most important demographic trends in the twenty-first century. Due to lack of research evidence in this country context, particularly the accessibility of elder care, quality of life and health expectations of elderly citizens, healthcare service utilisation, and various factors associated with the healthcare-seeking pattern, such important public health issues are not well addressed in Bangladesh.

This study attempts to fill in this knowledge gap of these burning issues. In this regard, a community-based cross-sectional household survey was conducted in Tangail, Bangladesh. A mix-method

approach employing both the quantitative and qualitative research technique was used. A total of 478 households with at least one elder citizen (60 years or more) were surveyed between November 2019 and January 2020.

For breadth of understanding, a total of 12 in-depth interviews (IDIs) were also conducted with elderly citizens in the community. The qualitative data have been captured to supplement the data from the structured quantitative interviews. A total of 585 elderly individuals have been enrolled in the study.

In this study, 49 per cent of the respondents have come from urban area, the rest were from rural (51 per cent) areas. Approximately 93 per cent of elderly people had been suffering from illness in the last six

months preceding this survey, whereas most of them suffered from chronic illness (84 per cent). Among all the sick elderly people, 95 per cent have taken healthcare services from various facilities: from pharmacies (61 per cent), followed by public facilities (33 per cent) and private facilities (19 per cent). About 9 per cent of the elder citizen in the poorest quintiles did not seek care, while in the richest quintiles it was only 2 per cent. The average economic cost of treatment care of elderly people was BDT 7,714 (SD± 32,472) per case from household perspective, whereas direct cost i.e., out-of-pocket expenditure was 93 per cent of the total cost of illness.

The study observed that only 7 per cent of the total cost was borne due to loss of income or productivity of patients or caregivers during the treatment procedure per case. The average health-related quality of life for elderly citizens was only 0.51 (SD± 0.29) out of 1 ('1' means full health and '0' means death). The inequality results indicated that the poorest income groups often suffered more from hypertension, pain, and gastric/ulcer related diseases than higher-income groups while the incidence of diabetes was found more among higher income groups than the poorest. Indeed, elderly people from higher income groups always seek care from private facilities as the value of the Gini-coefficient is positive, which indicated that inequality was still present in terms of accessing private care during illness. From the qualitative study, it was revealed that the health condition of elderly people is very critical and they suffered from several diseases for a longer time. However, elderly citizen often felt and suggested that the government should prioritise affordable elder health-friendly care in public hospitals for the betterment of their health and wellbeing.

This study concludes that these findings can be utilised further for designing financial risk protection schemes targeting elderly citizen which is in line with the core objectives of the Healthcare Financing Strategy of Bangladesh to achieve universal health coverage within 2032.

The Determinants of Household Disaster Preparedness Behaviour in Bangladesh

Recent literature has widely portrayed natural disaster impacts on welfare and livelihoods. This literature largely focuses on the loss of physical capital (e.g., asset, livestock, and crop), household income earning opportunities, coping strategies (including migration), and health outcomes. The aspects that are extremely less understood are the role of human capital (i.e. direct and indirect effects of education) and its impact on disaster risk reduction policies through adoption of disaster preparedness

measures in lower and middle-income countries with high climatic risks.

This study investigates the possible determinants of household disaster preparedness behaviour, particularly focusing on knowledge and perception and prior damage and employment channels of disaster experience, using the BBS 2015 Impact of Climate Change on Human Life (ICCHL) survey, which is a unique and comprehensive large scale big data in Bangladesh. The study also looks at the effectiveness of the key government policies and responses in mitigating household loss and damage to sustain economic development at the household level.

Results show that, in Bangladesh, disaster risk perception explains around 1.5 per cent of formal education with nearly 7.4 per cent of female education compared to the mean. Similarly, climate change perception accounts for around 1.5 per cent of formal education, whereas education levels of female household heads explain almost 7.7 per cent compared to the mean, indicating the overwhelming importance of enhanced disaster education (formal and non-formal) for women in climate and disaster risk reduction policies in Bangladesh.

The study also found that household responses to the adoption of numerous forms of preparedness measures range between 2 per cent and 3.6 per cent due to an increase in remittances while ranging between 1.4 per cent and 2.4 per cent increase due to percentage increase in residing in better housing (i.e., resilient infrastructure). Access to safe drinking water, electricity and sanitation also influences preparedness behaviour significantly. Social capital is a robust determinant of adoption of preparedness measures. We identify disaster displacement as an important determinant of disaster preparedness behaviour of households. Displaced people are found to be better prepared due to their past disaster experience and actively respond to government interventions and policies. Wealth and salaried income are positively and significantly associated with disaster preparedness compared to net per capita income and daily wages. Per capita income (net) is found to have a negative relationship (but insignificant) along with daily wage which is also not found to be strongly correlated with disaster preparedness behaviour.

The study findings indicate that disaster preparedness is almost 76 per cent effective in mitigating net income loss (per capita) and nearly 81 per cent effective in mitigating salaried income loss (annual) arise via unemployment channel (i.e., loss of employment days due to climate disasters) at the household level.

The study recommends short-term and disaster-specific “72-hour early warning-based preparedness education programme” and/or “3-5-day flood forecasting model-based preparedness education programme” as potential solutions that require further research.

Monthly Gas Usage by both Metered & Non-metered Single and Double Burner Domestic Gas Consumers under Different Gas Distribution Companies in Bangladesh

In any country, energy is the driving force behind all economic activities. Productivity and efficiency in different economic sectors depend much on efficient supply and use of energy, which include mainly gas and electricity. Natural Gas is the most important source of energy in Bangladesh as about 70 per cent of energy demand is met from natural gas. It accounts for about 68 per cent of the commercial energy. Natural gas is used both for household and commercial purposes. The pricing is different for different types of connections.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) is responsible for creating an atmosphere conducive to private investment in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity; transmission and distribution of gas; transportation and marketing of petroleum products, ensuring transparency in the management, operation and tariff determination in the sectors, protecting consumers' interest and promoting the creation of a competitive market in the country. Gas transmission, distribution and supply/marketing entities/companies are the licensees of the Commission. All gas distribution utilities are also the licensees of the Commission.

The gas transmission and distribution companies sell gas to domestic consumers by the metered and non-metered process. In this connection, there is no recognised method to measure the real usage of non-metered gas consumers or to measure the real sell to the non-metered gas consumers by the distribution companies. As a regulator of the gas sector, BERC commissioned this study to measure the real gas use by the non-metered household gas consumers.

With a view to understanding the pattern of use of gas by different households, the study estimates the daily/monthly gas usage duration and monthly average gas usage of the represented non-metered single and double burner (based on small, medium and large family), domestic consumers. This study collected data from a sample of 1,054 households from 13 districts. Out of these surveyed households (HHs), 688 households were using non-metered gas burners, and 365 households were using metered gas burners. Again, the sample included both prepaid and postpaid metered households. For both metered and non-metered households, single and double burner stove users were covered.

The analysis of the survey data reveals that households with non-metered gas stoves consume more gas than households with metered gas stoves. Non-metered households pay a fixed amount monthly, and the payment does not vary according to the usages. It is also noted that the price, fixed for the non-metered gas users, is much higher than the monetary value of average cubic meter gas use by them per month. Though there are some wastages in gas use, the price appears to be too high even after considering the wastages (gas-use for drying clothes, commercial food production with household gas connection).

As the metered system ensures a more flexible and accurate payment system, we should move towards the metered system as early as possible. A road map should be developed for the implementation of a metered gas supply system for all consumers. In this regard, the study has found that prepaid meters are more efficient than postpaid meters as it is easy to estimate the individual-level use of gas, and consumers can purchase according to their needs.

Decent Wage Bangladesh (Phase 1)

The project Decent Wage Bangladesh phase 1, funded by Mondiaal FNV in the Netherlands and coordinated by WageIndicator Foundation, an NGO operating websites with information about work and wages in 140 countries, aimed to gain insight in actual wages, the cost of living and the collective labour agreements in four low-paid sectors (RMG, Leather and footwear, Construction, and Tea gardens and estates) in three regions of Bangladesh, in order to strengthen the power of trade unions. For this project WageIndicator collaborated with its partner Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Data were collected using a Wages and Work Survey conducted in Chattagram, Dhaka and Sylhet Divisions. Data on prices of food items (61), housing and transportation were collected using a cost of living survey, which results in 19252 prices.

Results show the females' median wage is 77 per cent of males, reflecting the gender pay gap noticed around the world. Workers hired via an intermediary have higher median wages than workers with a permanent contract or without a contract. Female workers participate more than males in all funds and facilities. Compared to workers in the other three sectors, workers in tea gardens and estates participate more in all funds (e.g., unemployment fund, disability fund or medical insurance, etc.) apart from paid sick leave. Social security is almost absent in the construction sector. Food and housing are substantially more often reported in the tea gardens and estates than in the other sectors.

In the case of living wages, it is observed that while in Chattagram, the living wage for a typical family is BDT 13,000 for a full-time working adult, in Dhaka it is BDT 14,400 for a full-time working adult, and in Sylhet, the living wage for a typical family is BDT 16,800. In Dhaka and Chattagram, the wages of the lowest-paid quarter of the semi-skilled workers are only sufficient for the living wage level of a single adult, the wages of the middle-paid quarter are sufficient for a single adult and a standard 2+2 family, and the wages in the highest-paid quarter are sufficient for a single adult, a standard 2+2 family, and a typical family. In Sylhet the wages of the semi-skilled

workers are not sufficient for the living wage level of a single adult, let alone for a standard 2+2 family or a typical family. Nevertheless, the wages in Sylhet are not sufficient for a living wage.

Whereas almost all workers in construction have no contract, in the leather industry workers have predominantly a permanent contract, specifically in Chattagram. In RMG, the workers in Chattagram mostly have a permanent contract, whereas in Dhaka this is only the case for four in ten workers. RMG workers in Dhaka are in majority hired through a labour intermediary. ■

Seminars/Conferences/Webinars

BIDS Webinar on "Economic Impact of Rohingya Refugees: A Natural Experiment" Held



Webinar on Economic Impact of Rohingya Refugees

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) hosted an online seminar titled "Economic Impact of the Rohingya Refugees: A Natural Experiment" on 5 August Wednesday, at 3.30 pm. In this seminar, Dr. M. Emranul Haque from Department of Economics, University of Manchester presented research findings of a natural experiment done by his team to examine

the impact of the sudden influx of Rohingyas on the food prices in the local areas.

The baseline results of the study indicated that the sudden refugee influx increased the overall food prices of the host regions by 9 per cent. The prices of protein food items increased by 8 per cent, and vegetable prices increased by 36 per cent. However, aid-supplied food products like cereals did not have any significant increase in prices. Mr. Ashrafal Alam, an officer under Bangladesh Civil Service and Dr. Indranil Dutta, Faculty, University of Manchester were also involved in this study.

This online seminar was attended by researchers from the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and BIDS. Dr. K. A. S Murshid, Director General, BIDS chaired this webinar and Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS was the co-host of this seminar organised through zoom meeting. ■

BIDS Researchers at International Conferences/Meetings

Dr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow

- Discussed a paper titled "Short-term Impact of COVID-19 Lock-down Measures on Livelihoods and Food Security in Rural Bangladesh: Evidence from a Telephone Survey" by Abdul Malek Mohammad, Hoa T. Trung and Tetsushi Sonobe at ADBI Annual Conference, 1-3 December 2020.

Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow

- Joined as a panelist at the World Bank OneSouthAsia Webinar titled "Feeding South Asia in Times of Crisis: Building Resilient Agriculture Supply Chains" held on 23 November 2020.
- Presented a paper titled "Understanding the Gender Composition and Experience of Readymade Garment (RMG) Workers in Bangladesh" at the

Webinar Organised by ILO and UN Women, 30 September 2020.

- Presented a paper titled "Covid-19 and Readymade Garments (RMG) Industry of Bangladesh" at the Expert Workshop 2020 entitled "The World Trade System after COVID-19: Pathways towards Welfare-oriented Trade Policy" held at Duisburg, Germany (participated online) on 24-25 September, organised by Development and Peace Foundation, Germany.

Dr. Kazi Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow

- Attended the webinar titled "KDIS-31e-ADB-ADBI Conference on Impact Evaluation," held on 17 November 2020.

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow

- Participated in the webinar titled “KDIS- 3ie-ADB-ADBI Conference on Impact Evaluation,” held on 17 November 2020.
- Joined the webinar titled “Smart Containment Strategies for COVID-19 in Bangladesh,” held on 02 July 2020, organised by the International Growth Centre at London School of Economics.
- Participated in the webinar titled “60 Minutes on COVID-19: Managing Triple Crises–Economy, Health and Climate Impacts,” held on 14 July 2020, organised by University of Lincoln, UK.

Dr. Mohammad Mainul Hoque, Research Fellow

- Participated in the webinar titled “Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Conference, 2020 Annual meeting,” held on August 10-11, 2020, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

Dr. Azreen Karim, Research Fellow

- Participated as Panel Discussant in the webinar titled “60 Minutes on COVID-19: Managing Triple Crises–Economy, Health and Climate Impacts,” held on 14 July 2020, organised by Lincoln International Business School, University of Lincoln, UK.
- Joined as Panel Discussant and Speaker in the webinar titled “Climate Change and Human Migration,” held on 09 October 2020, organised by University College London (UCL), UK.
- Attended the training titled “COVID-19: How Can We Better Integrate Health and Disaster Management?” 16 July, 2020, organised by International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction (Elsevier) (IJDRR).

Dr. Abdur Razzaque Sarker, Research Fellow

- Presenter in the “Sixth Global Symposium on Health System Research,” held on 08-12 November 2020 at Dubai. Title: Cost-effectiveness of Cholera Vaccination in Urban Highrisk Population in Bangladesh.

Dr. Taznoore Samina Khanam, Post-doctoral Fellow

- Participated in the webinar titled “Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Conference, 2020 Annual meeting,” held on August 10-11, 2020, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.
- Attended the webinar titled “KDIS-3ie-ADB-ADBI Conference on Impact Evaluation, Challenges and Promise for Human Capital Development,” held on 17 November 2020.
- Participated in the webinar titled “Covid-19 and Farmer Livelihoods: Where are the Opportunities to Future-proof Our Agri-food Systems,” organised by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines, 16 October 2020.

Tanveer Mahmood, Research Associate

- Attended the online Symposium titled “COVID-19 Related Research in Developed and Developing Countries,” held on 20 November 2020, organised by Florida International University, USA.

Nahian Azad Shashi, Research Associate

- Attended the online Symposium on COVID-19 Related Research in Developed and Developing Countries–by Organizing Decentralized Resilience in Critical Interdependent-infrastructure Systems and Processes (ORDER-CRISP). ■

Publications in Peer-reviewed Journals by BIDS Researchers

- (i) Ahmed, N. 2020. “COVID-19 Hit Readymade Garment Sector of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Economy: Surviving the Odds”, *AmCham journal*, 14(2).
- (ii) Islam, A., C. M. Leister, M. Mahmud, & P. A. Raschky. 2020. “Natural Disaster and Risk-sharing Behavior: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh.” *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 61(1): 67-99.
- (iii) Lujala, P., S. Bezu, I. Kolstad, M. Mahmud, and A. Wiig. 2020. “How Do Host-migrant Proximities Shape Attitudes toward Internal Climate Migrants?” *Global Environmental Change*, 65: 102156.
- (iv) Sarker, A. R., and M. Sultana. 2020. “Cost-effective Analysis of Childhood Malaria Vaccination in Endemic Hotspots of Bangladesh.” *Plos one*, 15(5): e0233902.
- (v) Reiner Jr, R. C., K. E. Wiens, A. Deshpande, M. M., and P. A. Baumann, et al. 2020. “Mapping Geographical Inequalities in Childhood Diarrhoeal Morbidity and Mortality in Low-income and Middle-income Countries, 2000–17: Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017.” *The Lancet*, 395(10239): 1779-1801.
- (vi) Wiens, K. E., P. A. Lindstedt, B. F. Blacker, K. B. Johnson, M. M. and L. E. Baumann, et al. 2020. “Mapping Geographical Inequalities in Oral Rehydration Therapy Coverage in Low-income and Middle-income Countries, 2000–17.” *The Lancet Global Health*, 8(8): e1038-e1060.
- (vii) Kinyoki, D. K., J. M. Ross, and A. Lazzar-Atwood, et al. 2020. “Mapping Local Patterns of Childhood Overweight and Wasting in Low-and Middle-income Countries between 2000 and 2017.” *Nature Medicine*, 26(5): 750-759.

- (viii) Mozumder, M. G. N. 2020. "Aristotelian Habitus and the Power of the Embodied Self: Reflections on the Insights Gained from the Fakirs in Bangladesh." *Bangladesh Sociological Society*, 17(2): 23.
- (ix) Akram, R., A. R. Sarker, N. Ali, M. G. N. Mozumder, M. and Sultana 2020. "Factors associated with Unmet Fertility Desire and Perceptions of Ideal Family Size among Women in Bangladesh: Insights from a Nationwide Demographic and Health Survey." *PLoS ONE* 15(5): e0233634
- (x) Uddin, M. R., and R. Murshed. 2019. "Parental Education and Schooling Choice: An Empirical Study from Bangladesh." *Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42 (1): 77-105.
- (xi) Murshed, R., and M. R. Uddin, 2020. "Testing the Intergenerational Persistence in Stream of Schooling: Evidence from Bangladesh." *Journal of School Choice*, 1-36.
- (xii) Ahmed, Maruf and Tahreen Tahreema Chowdhury. 2019. "Total Factor Productivity in Bangladesh: An Analysis Using Data from 1981 to 2014." *Bangladesh Development Studies*, 42 (1): 23-75. ■

BIDS Publications (forthcoming)

Readings in Bangladesh Development (Vol. 1 & Vol.2)

Editors: KAS Murshid, Minhaj Mahmud and Kazi Iqbal

BIDS is going to publish a book titled "Readings in Bangladesh Development" in two volumes. The book is edited by Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, and Dr. 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.

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. ■

Bangladesh Agricultural Transformation and Rural Poverty, 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.

Bangabandhur Gonotantrik Somajontro: Bahatturer Songbidhan o Somotamukhi Somajer Akankha (Democratic Socialism of Bangabandhu: The 1972 Constitution and the Aspirations of an Equitable Society) by Dr. Binayak Sen.

This book is forthcoming in 2021 February from Kothaprabakash Publishing House, Dhaka. ■

Call for Journal Articles

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

■ **Editor**
Kazi Iqbal

■ **Editorial Team**
Md Meftaur Rahman

■ **Published by**
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)
E-17, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar
G.P.O. Box No:3854, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Phone: 880-02-58160430-37, Fax: 880-2-58160410
E-mail: publication@bids.org.bd
Website: www.bids.org.bd
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bids.bd
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bids74455379>