



BRAC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE: A 5-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

BRAC Development Institute (BDI), established in 2008, is a resource center that promotes research and develops knowledge on practical solutions to issues of poverty, inequity and social justice. BDI provides a space for academics and practitioners to come together to raise critical questions on development; develop, examine and test new initiatives in the South; provide lessons on good practices; and advocate for pro-poor policies. It takes an inclusive, multidisciplinary approach to challenge conventional knowledge and advance a southern voice in the global development discourse.



BDI Staff

Academic Program

At the core of BDI's work are several academic courses, which include both classroom teaching and fieldwork experience:

1. *Masters in Development Studies (MDS)*

BDI's flagship graduate degree program, the MDS is an innovative, cross-disciplinary course that provides an in-depth understanding of development concepts and issues. On completion of the program, students are able to approach and analyse development issues in the context of globalization, economic transformation, and social, cultural and political changes. The MDS program currently has a total of 145 students.

2. *Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP)*

The only program of its kind in Bangladesh, the MDMP and seeks to create a cadre of professionals who have the conceptual clarity, analytical skills, and academic knowledge to effectively address practical challenges in development. Supported by the MacArthur Foundation, it is part of the Global Network of MDMP programs based at Columbia University's Earth Institute. The curriculum includes classes in contemporary development theory and practice; the natural and social sciences; and management. These in-class sessions are combined with hands-on field experience and internship opportunities at various leading national and international development agencies. 8 students are currently enrolled in the program.

3. *Postgraduate Certificate Course on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)*

BDI offers various levels of training for government officials, private sector land developers, development practitioners and postgraduate students to understand the issue of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation. A three-month postgraduate certificate course allows participants to design, implement and develop resettlement and rehabilitation strategies based on global best

practices. BDI also offers a 2-day workshop, a 5-day training course and an 8-week distance-learning course. 44 participants in Bangladesh and Japan have completed the post-graduate certificate course. Over 250 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh Bhutan Nepal, Pakistan and Uganda have received the short course.

4. *Microfinance: An Introductory Course*

This two-week introductory course on financial services for the poor is targeted primarily to an international audience, with little or no knowledge of microfinance. The course is grounded in the experience of Bangladesh but provides a global picture of the state of microfinance, its emergence and challenges, the diversity of financial products on offer and the need to have a strong focus on poverty. Taught by a team of senior academics across various fields, the course includes extensive field visits. To date over 150 participants from Japan, Italy, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Swaziland, Botswana, and Uganda have participated in the course.

5. *Applied Social and Marketing Communication: A Short Course*

Classes in this three-week course - designed for primarily development sector professionals - examine various ways to apply and use communication in development, providing specific tools such techniques to analyze consumer behavior, manage a brand and create marketing strategies for social media. 25 professionals have participated in the course since it started in 2012.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Student Exchange Program: University of Ottawa and BRAC University

The School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa and BDI established an undergraduate and graduate student exchange program. Since the program started in 2010 two BRAC University students have attended the University of Ottawa and ten students from the University of Ottawa attended BRAC University. A further four students of Ottawa University were placed as interns at BRAC and icddr,b.

Development Immersion Program for Colgate University Students and Faculty

BDI organized a 3-week development immersion program *The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Economic Development* for ten undergraduate students and two faculty members from Colgate University. The goal of the course was to study the role of non-governmental organizations in alleviating poverty and advancing the status of women in low-income countries. Using BRAC, Bangladesh as a case study, the program consisted of lectures and on-site visits to BRAC centers and other organizations working in the field of development.

RESEARCH

BDI hosts a number of national and international, multi-partner research projects, which are multidisciplinary and organized into five linked **themes**.

RESEARCH THEMES

- I. **Economic Transformation and the Lives of the Poor:** focuses on the vulnerabilities in the lives of those living in poverty, strategies for food security and social protection, and interventions to improve their economic conditions and build sustainable livelihoods.
- II. **Women's Empowerment:** investigates the factors that affect women's everyday lives and pathways to transform power relations and structures for greater gender equity.
- III. **Democracy and Governance:** explores how government reforms and citizen participation can lead to pro-poor development and social justice.
- IV. **Environment and Climate Change:** analyses the socio-economic impact of natural disasters and climate change on vulnerable communities and their coping strategies based on indigenous knowledge.
- V. **History, Politics and Development:** furthers the understanding of who we are and how we fit into the globalized world through an investigation into the roots of our secular culture and our history of struggles for freedom and economic emancipation.

Research Theme I: Economic Transformation and the Lives of the Poor

1. Towards New Pathways for the Poorest: Linking Social Protection and Financial Services

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Funded by MasterCard Foundation

BDI is the current secretariat for the CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation Program. The program is a global effort to understand how safety nets, livelihoods, and microfinance can be sequenced to create pathways for the poorest out of extreme poverty, adapting a methodology developed by BRAC in Bangladesh. The Graduation Program has implemented ten *Graduation Pilots* in eight countries – Haiti, Honduras, Peru, Pakistan, India, Ethiopia, Yemen and Ghana – in partnership with local organizations. Five pilots have been completed. BDI is conducting qualitative research in India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Haiti and Yemen to assess the impact of the program.

2. Sustainability of Ultra-Poor Program Outcomes

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researcher: Anasuya Sengupta

Funded by MasterCard Foundation

Qualitative research was conducted to gauge whether positive outcomes of the CGAP - Ford Foundation Graduation Pilots could be sustained in the medium to long term. Studies include pilots in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Ethiopia.

3. Social Protection in Asia

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researcher: Wamiq Umaira

Funded by Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex

Ethnographic research methods were applied to understand the lives of BRAC's *Targeting the Ultra Poor* (TUP) program and the process through which TUP members improve their living conditions and the factors that hold them back or intensify their poverty and insecurity. The TUP program provides grants for the consumption of small assets, skills training, health and social development assistance and two years of monitoring to help participants gain confidence and develop sustainable livelihoods.

4. Graduating Youth Out Of Extreme Poverty

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researchers: Anasuya Sengupta, Noara Razzak

Funded by MasterCard Foundation

A youth focused analysis to understand whether BRAC's TUP model is an appropriate or adequate intervention for moving extremely poor youth out of poverty.

5. 100-Day Employment Generation Program (EGP)

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi and Ferdous Jahan

This in-depth qualitative study provided feedback to the Government of Bangladesh on the implementation and results of the first phase of the EGP safety net program. In the first phase, the majority of beneficiaries - particularly women - reported positive impacts, including long term changes such as consumption smoothing and the lessening of loan burdens. Despite the lack of clarity in the selection criteria and limited preparation of field officials, the program was viewed as successful in targeting the ultra poor. BDI's study contributed to fine-tuning the modalities for the implementation of the second phase of the program.

6. Food Security for the Ultra Poor (FSUP)

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Funded by World Food Program, Dhaka

The World Food Program started its four-year *Food Security for the Ultra Poor* (FSUP) Project in January 2009 to contribute to eliminating extreme poverty and hunger amongst ultra poor households in disaster prone areas. Specifically it sought to achieve measurable and sustainable changes in food security and nutritional well being of 30,000 households by improving their livelihoods. BDI conducted several quantitative sample surveys in treatment and control households to determine the impact of the FSUP project. Changes were assessed on the economic lives of project beneficiaries, their levels of food security and their ability to withstand shocks to their lives and livelihoods.

7. Strengthening Social Protection of Informal Workers: Supporting Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Across Stable and Fragile Contexts

Research Director: Ferdous Jahan

Funded by ODI-European Union

The aim of the project is to inform and strengthen social protection policy to reduced poverty and increase social inclusion among marginalized workers and the vulnerable in the informal sector. The project was rolled out in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and India. In Bangladesh, the study investigated the nature, extent and drivers of social exclusion and vulnerability of informal sector workers and groups living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and on *char* land. The project examined two conditional cash and asset transfer programs: the *Char* Livelihood Program (CLP) and the Vulnerable Group Development program (VGD) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This three- year project started in May 2011 and will continue until May 2014.

8. Bangladesh Microfinance Review

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researcher: Subhi Shama and Tanvir Sobhan

BDI is conducting a multi-year review of the microfinance sector in Bangladesh. The review provides transparent supply-side information on the leading microfinance institutions in the country and analyses their financial performance on an annual basis. The review details industry-wide trend analyses on outreach, growth, profitability, sustainability and risk. The first edition of the report was published in August 2011. The second edition will be published by year's end.

9. Financial Education and Consumer Protection

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researchers: Noara Razzak and Subhi Shama

Funded by BRAC Microfinance

BRAC Microfinance and BDI are developing a multi-pronged strategy to address the financial literacy needs of the poor, enabling them to make more informed decisions and practice better financial behaviour. The program, currently being piloted in 5 sites across Bangladesh, seeks to disseminate key financial literacy messages on informed decision making, borrower rights and responsibilities, record keeping and reconciliation, over indebtedness, sudden shocks and emergencies, complaints handling and redressed mechanisms and income generating activities. BDI conducted a baseline survey for the program in 2012.

10. Older People's Access to Microfinance

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researchers: Olinda Hassan and Subhi Shama

Funded by HelpAge International

The objective of the research was to understand older people's access to and inclusion in mainstream microfinance programs in Bangladesh. The in-depth qualitative study examined whether microfinance could provide income security and a reduction in poverty for the elderly.

11. Poverty and Working Children

Research Director: Ferdous Jahan

Save the Children UK (SCUK) with the support of the European Commission launched the *Poverty and Working Children* project in 2004 to improve, monitor and understand the multidimensional complexities surrounding child labor. BDI, BRAC University and BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED)

conducted a series of research initiatives as part of the PWC project. *Poverty and Working Children* project has completed the following studies:

i. Changing Child Labor Practices in Bangladesh: Employers' Perceptions.

Researcher: Elma Kaiser

The study explores the change in labor practices and attitudes of employers in the northern district of Nilphamari and shows that there has been a marked change in child labor employment conditions.

ii. Livelihood and Survival Strategies of Dhaka's Urban Poor Working Children: A Case Study of Waste-Pickers.

Researchers: Reaz Mehedi, Omar Faruque Siddiki

This case study gives an insight into the lives of the collectors of recyclable-waste in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The study shows that the children involved in this industry lead fragile but sustainable lives.

iii. Children's Education and Labor: Effects of BRAC's TUP Program.

Researchers: Sakeeba Tasneem, Mamun Ur Rashid, Yashpia Salema, Omar Faruque Siddiki

This qualitative study analyses the effects of BRAC's TUP program on child labor and children's education in ultra poor households. It explores the reasons behind financial changes brought on by the TUP program.

iv. State of Child-Labor among the Rural Ultra Poor: A Case of CFPR/TUP Beneficiaries.

Researchers: Yashpia Salema, Mamun Ur Rashid, Omar Faruque Siddiki

This study explores the issue of child labor among the rural ultra poor of Bangladesh. It examines children working in different economic sectors such as poultry, livestock, nursery or day labor and how their lives have benefited from the TUP/CFPR programs.

v. Gender Disparity in School Access: An Assessment of Trends in Education

Researchers: Omar Faruque Siddiki

The report looks at access patterns of children belonging to extreme poor households – specifically how these children gain or denied access to education. At the same time, recent trends in primary school enrollment indicate that boys' enrollment and attendance has begun to slip at the primary school level, leading to greater gender disparity for those children who pursue secondary education- which has also been revealed in this report.

vi. Revisiting Child Labor Agenda: Reflections of PWC Project

Researchers: Rita Costa, Omar Faruque Siddiki

Save the children UK implemented PWC project through various partner NGOs. After successful completion of PWC project, this research was held to evaluate and learn good practices from the PWC project. One urban project area (Dhaka Lalbag) and one rural project area (Khulna- Koyra) was selected for the research.

12. Pathways for Children in BRAC South Sudan Non - Formal Primary Schools: A qualitative study

Research Director: Syed M.Hashemi

Researchers: Karishma Huda Farooq, Anasuya Sengupta

Funded by Comic Relief UK and BRAC UK

A short action research project to identify potential pathways for vulnerable children graduating from BRAC NFPE centers in South Sudan. The paper also identified key organizational strategies for BRAC South Sudan that need to be put introduced to achieve the objectives of its education program.

13. Urban Poverty Action Research Project

Research Director: Mirza Hassan and Ferdous Arfina Osman
Researchers: Sarah Taasnuva, Bayazid Hasan
Funded by Rockefeller Foundation

BDI conducted *Building Capacities and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-Sector Initiatives in Urban Slums of Bangladesh*, a multi-year, multi-site action research project in collaboration with two implementing partners, the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) project of UNDP and WaterAid Bangladesh. The project sought to: create sustainable livelihood pathways for the poor; construct more inhabitable built environments by providing access to basic services; and develop systems of collaboration and governance that empowered slum residents in urban Bangladesh.

RESEARCH THEME II: Women's Empowerment

1. Pathway of Women's Empowerment Research Program (2006-2013)

Program Coordinator: Maheen Sultan
Funded by Department for International Development (DFID), UK

This International Research Program Consortium is made up of activists and academics who explore and seek to bring about positive change in women's everyday lives. It involves research institutions located in universities in Ghana, Brazil, Egypt and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex as well as UN Women. The research programs undertaken by the project were:

i. Conceptualising Empowerment

National Discourses on Women's Empowerment: Enabling or Constraining Women's Choices

Lead Researchers: Sohela Nazneen, Naomi Hussain and Maheen Sultan

The project compared and contrasted concepts of women's empowerment used by women's organizations, development agencies, political parties and NGOs in Bangladesh. The findings were used as a means to challenge prevalent thinking on women's empowerment and to understand the deeper historical tendencies and underlying patterns of thought and action lead to particular concepts of women's empowerment.

ii. Exploring New Mediums for Understanding Empowerment and Reaching a Wider Audience

Lead Researchers: Firdous Azim and Sahida Khondaker

New mediums were experimented with to share stories of women's empowerment to a general public. The first was a 55-minute documentary titled *Stories of Change*, about the lives of five Bangladeshi women from different age groups, professions, regions and religions told in their own voices about the contributions they made to changing their own communities. The *Stories of Change Writing Project* writers were introduced to the craft of creating stories from research materials, the best stories of which were published in a book. A *digital story-telling workshop* method trained 20 men and women to document the experiences of growth and transformation in their lives from their own perspectives, in their own words and voices.

iii. Building Constituencies for Gender Equality and Justice

Women in Local Government in Bangladesh

Lead Researchers: Amena Mohsin and Zarina Rahman Khan

The project investigated the conditions enabling women's participation in local government and the whether this improved women's empowerment. The study explored the challenges faced by women councillors; how they negotiated these challenges; their interpretation of engagement patterns and processes; and whether new gender norms and roles were created for women in the public domain.

Women in Local Government in Pakistan

Lead Researcher: Saba Gul Khatak

The study investigated the criss-cross processes through which women in Pakistan become empowered, focusing on how larger institutions (whether military or non-military) assist women to

achieve their goals. It explored how major initiatives from civil society contributed to women's voices at the local government level. Individual case studies of women were undertaken to examine how societal pressures can be overcome.

Strategic Approaches to Building Constituencies by Women's Organizations

Lead Researchers: Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan

The research project documented and analysed strategies and approaches used by three national women's organizations in Bangladesh to mobilise and advocate for women's rights and raise demands to the state and other rights holders. The research led to a multi-country book project on the subject of Feminist Activism, to be published by ZED books in 2014.

Mobilising Resources for Women's Organizations

Lead Researchers: Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan

This comparative research study between Bangladesh and Ghana clarified conditions under which external financial support to women's organizations and groups had a positive impact on women's empowerment. It also examined the conditions in which successful mobilizing could be achieved without such support and the role of international development agencies in supporting women's organizations.

Sustainable Security and Peace Building as Pathways of Women's Empowerment

Lead Researcher: Amena Mohsin

The research explored indigenous women from the Chittagong Hill Tracts and their actual and perceived roles in security and peace building. It examined the role of their organizations and movements, major obstacles faced and strategies for overcoming them.

Women in the 'Right?': Women in Religious Political Groups in Bangladesh

Lead Researchers: Samia Huq and Sohela Nazneen

The research documented how and why women organise in religious groups and the political implications of such organising. The research was an exploratory study of women's engagement with religious political groups and their connections with mainstream political processes.

iv. Empowering Work

Paid Work and Women's Empowerment

Lead Researchers: Simeen Mahmud, Naila Kabeer and Sakiba Tasneem

A survey of 5,200 women aged 15 and above, from different socio-economic backgrounds in Bangladesh compared the impact of various kinds of work on women's lives. It compared the differences between paid and unpaid work, between paid work within and outside the home, and between economic activity and inactivity. Comparative analysis was carried out with similar research in Ghana and Egypt.

Women Health Workers in Bangladesh

Lead Researchers: Simeen Mahmud and Maheen Sultan

The research considered how the work undertaken by women health workers can lead to changes at the individual, family and societal level. The research explored how women health workers introduce new role models for women, challenge *purdah*, encouraged mobility, and create new pathways of empowerment.

Lady Health Workers in Pakistan

Lead Researcher: Ayesha Khan

This research investigated the relationship between women's paid work and empowerment by focusing on the government sponsored Lady Health Worker program. It explored how female community health workers challenged various social constraints and stereotypes by engaging in

regular employment, in coming out of their homes, being mobile in their communities and by fulfilling a socially valuable role.

Gendered Impacts of BRAC and WFW Microfinance Programing on Hazara Women in Kabul, Afghanistan

Lead Researcher: Naila Kabeer and Ayesha Khan

The study investigated the impact of work on women's status and identity in public and private domains, and on women's physical and mental health, their sexuality, mobility and physical security.

v. Changing Narratives of Sexuality

Religion and Women

Lead Researchers: Firdous Azim, Samia Huq and Perween Hasan

The project looked at resurgent Islam and its influence on the formation of female identities and sexualities. It sought to understand whether new spaces in Islam permit women greater freedoms than is perceived popularly. The research detailed lessons for the secular women's movement about how to organise women in these new spaces.

Media and Women

Lead Researcher: Firdous Azim

The project explored how Bangladeshi women engage with and the meanings, choices and subjectivities they derive from watching television. The research examined the changing representations of women and female sexuality on screen and explored how women in different sites and classes engage with television and attach meaning to the represented screen images.

Changing Narratives of Empowerment in Pakistan: Trajectories of Desire and the Mediation of Socio-Cultural Spaces

Lead researcher: Neelam Hussain

The research examined the discursive changes taking place in areas related to media - predominantly satellite television - and religion, via the global upsurge of religious fundamentalisms and resurgent patriarchies in Pakistan. The project identified and attempted to make visible the new pathways and sites of change in the area of media, religion and women's empowerment.

Social Change through Video Production in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Lead Researcher: Aanmona Priyadarshini

The project explored how indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts project identity, culture and change through video productions. The research examined the process through which stories, long unheard, are now retold through new technologies and reformulated by local artists and cultural activists.

Cultural History of Bengali Muslim Women

Lead Researchers: Firdous Azim, Perween Hasan and Samia Huq

The research explored identity formation of Bengali Muslim women by investigating the cultural and political history of Bangladesh throughout the 20th Century. It examined how women placed themselves in the anti-colonial nationalist movements of the early twentieth century; and the importance of language, culture and national identity for Bengali Muslims in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

Changing Images of Women: Photo Exhibition

Lead Researchers: Firdous Azim, Maheen Sultan and Samia Rahim

The project created a visual record of the diversity in women's journeys of change in the spheres of women's voices, bodily integrity and work in Bangladesh. A competition was held for amateur photographers from which fifty-five photographs were selected for a national touring exhibition. The

exhibition and accompanying slideshow brought public attention to the changing position of women in Bangladesh.

2. Women's Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Bangladesh

Principle Investigator: Sidney Ruth Schuler

Researchers: Shamsul Huda Badal

Funded by NIH through FHI 360, USA

BDI in collaboration with FHI 360, a US- based international organization, has implemented this project. The objective of the project is to clarify individual and community-level mechanisms by which women's empowerment is associated with the risk of experiencing IPV in rural Bangladesh. The research will strengthen the understanding of the correlation between various aspects of women's empowerment and the social dimensions and risks of women experiencing IPV.

3. The Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior

Research Director: Simeen Mahmud

Researchers: Lopita Huq, Kabita Chowdhury,

Funded by Institute of Microfinance, Dhaka

The research examines the nature and wider impact of microfinance institutions (MFIs) on gender norms and behavior. It focuses on the question of program duration and the diffusion of program impact in communities that differ in their experience of program intensity. It also focuses on particular modes of MFI programs and their interactions with the social dimensions and characteristics of communities. The main outcomes of interest in the study are how gender norms and behavior, characteristics of the community and recipients interaction with programs are important to understand the true impact of MFIs and what makes them work.

4. Assessing the Performance of the Gender Quality Action Learning (GQAL) Program in Changing Gender Norms and Behaviors

Research Directors: Simeen Mahmud and Maheen Sultan

Researchers: Kabita Chowdhury

Funded by Gender Justice and Diversity, BRAC

The research assessed the level of gender equality within households and in the wider community in GQAL program areas, and compared it with a similar non-GQAL area. Further, the project assessed the extent to which the wider community mobilized to take action against gender inequality.

5. Revisiting Devaluation of Daughters in Bangladesh: Continuity or Change?

Research Director: Simeen Mahmud in collaboration with Naila Kabeer, SOAS, London

Researchers: Lopita Huq, Kabita Chowdhury

Funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC), India

The 18-month research will explore why there has been a greater reduction in gender disadvantage in sex ratios, in Bangladesh, compared to India and Pakistan, in spite of higher levels of poverty. This research is expected to provide a better understanding of the gender dynamics of social change, particularly change that appears to promote more egalitarian gender relations.

6. Empowerment and Participation – Linking Local Realities to Global Action (Unpaid Care Work)

Research Director: Sohela Nazneen

Research tem: Lopita Huq, Iqbal Ehsan, Maheen Sultan, Simeen Mahmud

Funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

IDS, SMERU (Indonesia) and the Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BDI are collaborating on the IDS led project on *Gender, Power and Sexuality*. The collaboration focuses on research about women's unpaid care work. The aim of the project is to develop policy 'asks' regarding unpaid care work based on a review of existing research in key sectors; identifying allies among policy actors, development agencies and activist organizations; and promoting these in national and global forums.

7. Home Based Component of the Garment Sector in Bangladesh

Research Director: Simeen Mahmud

Researchers: Lopita Huq, Kabita Chowdhury, Iqbal Ehsan

Funded by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Although factory-based garment sector employment has featured prominently in academic research and activist arenas, not much is known about the situation of home-based workers in this sector. The purpose of the study is exploratory in nature, to undertake a situational analysis of home-based workers in the export garment sector.

RESEARCH THEME III: Democracy and Governance

1. Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Promoting Participation

Research Director: Simeen Mahmud

Researchers: Lopita Huq, Kabita Chowdhury and Saiful Islam

Funded by DFID through the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

The research addressed the paradox of democracy in Bangladesh, where despite inadequate and distorted democratic practices, a public commitment to improve the lives of those living in poverty exists. The research showed that membership in social mobilization organizations is most likely to enable people to have a deeper understanding of citizenship and rights and engage with the community, local government and the state to claim their rights. A strong link was also found between social mobilization strategies and poverty reduction. The research project was part of an 8-country program under the Development Research Center on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC), IDS. The Citizenship DRC partners are currently collaborating to build policy-relevant research agenda on the new challenges of democratization.

2. Improving the Quality of Social Provisioning within Competitive Clientelist Context: A Comparison between Bangladesh and Ghana

Research Co-ordinator for Bangladesh: Mirza Hassan

Researchers: Iqbal Ehsan

Funded by Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Program Consortium based at the University of Manchester funded by DFID

A two-year comparative research with Ghana exploring the politics of education reform, the project examined the make-up of the political actors behind education reform, and how bargaining between different social groups over reform shaped the quantity and quality of educational provisions. The aim of the research was to understand how successful reforms take place in clientelist contexts.

3. Gender and Political Settlement: Comparative Analysis

Research Director: Sohela Nazneen

Researchers: Iqbal Ehsan

Funded by Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Program Consortium based at the University of Manchester funded by DFID

A two-year multi-country research project to be implemented during 2013-2015, it will focus on the 'politics of inclusion' and how different types of gendered political settlements shape such a politics. BDI will coordinate the first phase of the global research project and examine the *quality* of women's inclusion and participation in formal political institutions, informal processes and women's movements, and their ability to negotiate gender equity concerns in legislative reform and policy formulation in the following areas: education, reproductive health and violence against women. The research will be conducted in Bangladesh, Ghana, Uganda and Rwanda. The key outputs are aimed to place gender in political settlement theories and develop policy recommendation for increasing political effectiveness of women.

RESEARCH THEME IV: Environment and Climate Change

1. Building Climate Resilience in Urban Poor Communities: Lessons from DSK – Shiree Project

Research Director: Syed M. Hashemi

Researchers: Noara Razzak and Mamun Ur Rashid

The research examines how informal and formal mechanisms enable households in urban slum populations to build resilience against unpredictable and changing weather conditions. Working with the participants of the DSK Shiree Program for the Ultra Poor (an asset transfer program focusing on economic empowerment, which provides a host of interventions aimed at holistic improvements in the lives of their participants) the study provides lessons from participants' experiences of the program. It explores whether and how the interventions enhance their capacity to cope with climate variability. Initial findings indicate that seasonal variability affects household economic stability, housing conditions, and health but poor households develop their own coping strategies and build resilience through DSK's interventions.

2. Community and Institutional Responses to the Challenges Facing Poor Urban People in Era of Global Warming in Bangladesh

Research Director: Ferdous Jahan

Researchers: Mamun Ur Rashid, Shamim Reza Khan

Funded by DFID-ESRC

Urban poverty continues to be neglected in research, policy and action for climate change adaption. This study of six low-income settlements in three cities - Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna - examines poor people's adaption practices to understand their agency, cultural resources and economic strategies in the face of climate change, and the structural factors that both support and constrain poor people's agency.

3. Impact Evaluation of Renewable Energy in Rural Bangladesh

Research Director: Ferdous Jahan

Researchers: Mamun-ur-Rashid, Niloy Biswas, Noara Razzak

Funded by World Bank

BDI conducted a qualitative research study in several rural areas in Bangladesh to understand the impact of renewable energy sources such as solar panels, bio-gas and improved cooking stoves on populations who do not have access to electricity.

RESEARCH THEME V: History, Politics and Development

1. Freedom Movements in Bengal

Researchers: Syed M Hashemi and Shakhawat Hossain

The project is an attempt to create, in an easily accessible format, informative texts about the rich history of anti-colonial movements and struggles for social justice in Bengal. Avoiding long analytical essays, the final output will consist of short stories on major anti-colonial movements and subaltern struggles and the significant figures associated with them. The project will correct the deliberate absence of these discussion in school textbooks and major media outlets in the last few decades

2. Transcending the Binaries: Islam and Politics in South Asia

Researcher: Samia Huq

Islam is often conceptualized in opposition to the West, and represented as inferior, backward and antithetical to modernity. This understanding of the religion can inform foreign policy, Western development discourse, popular cultural representations and academic knowledge production. In South Asia, the opposition is created between secular, progressive and rationalist forces and religio-political camps. At a conference organized by BDI, scholars, academics, activists and policy makers came together to reflect on the tensions between the two camps with regards to issues of modernity, secularism,

political mobilization and women's engagement with religion. The goal was to identify elements required to build new strategies of engagement – both in influencing discourse and in developing political practice.

3. Globalizing the Development Knowledge: Engagement with Scholars

Researcher: Syed M Hashemi

Funded by Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex

IDS' Globalizing Development Studies program seeks to create new 'globally constructed' knowledge on development through partnerships to include the experience of the South. BDI and IDS teamed up to organize several discussions and workshop with scholars. Workshop participants indicated that the North dominates conventional development thinking and practices while southern voices are muted, its narratives ignored, and new ideas from the region appropriated and re-packaged to suit Northern agendas. The workshop explored what a Southern voice or a Southern paradigm could mean, and how to move forward in creating an alternative global discourse with a southern core.

HIGHLIGHT OF EVENTS

2008

Launch of BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University, July 22, 2008

BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University, was officially launched on July 22, 2008 at the BRAC Center Auditorium and received prominence amongst media and relevant development partners. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, chaired the program. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Founder Center for Policy Dialogue was chief guest. Other guests included Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Advisor to Care Taker Government, Professor Nazrul Islam Chair UGC, Rashed Khan Menon, President, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Wahiduddin Mahmud, Professor, Dhaka University and Hameeda Hossain, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

BDI's Citizenship Research Program organizes a National dissemination seminar on *Building Citizenship from Below*, 2008

BDI organized the seminar to present the key findings of the *Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Promoting Participation* research group. The research found that regardless of the nature of mobilization strategy, organization at the grassroots can lead to greater economic agency, savings opportunities, access to skill training, space for participation, network building, awareness raising, solidarity and building horizontal social capital. The research further found that any form of group mobilization even for primarily micro credit provision, increases people's participation in voting and that there is a strong link between mobilization around rights and poverty reduction. It is mobilization specifically around rights, however, which raises peoples' expectation from the state for service provision and protection of rights and therefore has the most potential to pressure the state institutions to deliver and perform and therefore carries the greatest potential for citizenship practice and engagement with the state.

BDI organizes Participatory video workshops in the field and trains local people, 2008

The BDI Citizenship research group and a professional team of filmmakers provided a seven-day training workshop to female group members of *Nijera Kori*, ASA, Bangladesh *Sramajibi Kendra* and *Karmojibi Nari* in four districts, Khulna, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Khushtia. The participants of the workshops learnt to operate a camera, storyboard and shoot their own stories. The video stories focused on various problems in their community that resulted in the loss of rights. Eight videos were produced at the workshops.

BDI Roundtable on Climate Change, November 4, 2008 on Government of Bangladesh's report *Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008 (BCSSAP)*.

This roundtable engaged politicians, policymakers, civil society members and technical experts in a dialogue on climate change centered around the Government of Bangladesh's report *Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008 (BCSSAP)*.

BDI hosts the South Asia Launch of the Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09, July 24, 2008

An annual publication of the Chronic Poverty Research Center, the 2008-09 report focused on "Escaping Poverty Traps". BDI hosted the South Asia launch of the report. Professors Tony Addison of the Chronic Poverty Research Center and David Hulme of the Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester, presented the main findings from the report.

BDI organizes a Seminar on *Trends in Landownership and Livelihood: Two Decades of Rural Development in Bangladesh*, July 2008

BDI and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) at BRAC jointly organized the seminar to present findings from a series of longitudinal surveys conducted over the last two decades on landownership and livelihoods in rural Bangladesh.

BDI's Citizenship research group organizes a Seminar on *Promoting Citizens Engagement at the Local Level*, November 15, 2008

BDI organized the roundtable discussion with sixty-five delegates representing various NGOs, donor agencies and Union Parishads.

BDI hosts a Workshop on *Globalizing the Development Knowledge*, November 18, 2008
IDS' Globalizing Development Studies program seeks to create new 'globally constructed' knowledge on development through partnerships that highlight the experience of the South. The workshop addressed limitations of conventional development thinking and practices that is dominated by the North and examined why Southern voices are muted and its narratives ignored, and how new ideas from the South are often appropriated and re-packaged to suit Northern agendas. The workshop explored what Southern voice or a Southern paradigm could mean and how to move forward in creating an alternative global discourse with a southern core.

2009

BDI co hosts the International Conference on *Impact of Climate Change on Dhaka*, January 28, 2009
BDI and BRAC University Architecture Department co-hosted the international conference with academics and both local and international development practitioners to discuss ways in which climate change is affecting urban centers and what lessons can be gathered to create more climate resilient urban centers in Bangladesh.

BDI organizes a Public Lecture by Professor Bina Agarwal, May 2009
BDI in conjunction with the Pathways Program organized a lecture by Dr. Bina Agarwal, Professor of Economics at the University of Delhi, on *Agricultural Collectives: A Group Approach to Poverty Reduction and Women's Empowerment*.

BDI's Pathways of Women's Empowerment program organized a Panel on *Religion, Culture and Politics at the Biennial Conference on Cultural Studies and Asia: Past, Present and Future* in Tokyo, July 3-5, 2009

The Pathways Program organized a panel on *Religion, Culture and Politics: Women Negotiating Islam* at the conference *Cultural Studies and Asia: Past, Present and Future*.

BDI co-organizes a Workshop on *Supporting Local Coping Strategies through Adaption Planning*, August 25, 2009

The Department of Architecture of BRAC University and BDI organized the workshop in order to identify strategies to better prepare local governments to develop long-term climate change adaption programs.

BDI co-organizes a National Conference on *Extreme Poverty and Graduation Dynamics*, October 3, 2009

BDI and the Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC) jointly organized a conference to discuss the broad issue of extreme poverty and the challenges of scaling up success stories.

BDI's Pathways of Women's Empowerment Program organizes an International Conference on *'Voicing Demands: Feminist Reflecting on Strategies, Negotiations and Influence'* at The Rockefeller Center, Bellagio, Italy 2009

The 4-day conference organized by BDI brought together feminist activists and researchers from nine different countries in South Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America to Bellagio, Italy. The papers from the conference will be published from ZED Books as a part of a series on Feminism and Development in 2014.

Digital Story-Telling Workshop organized at BRAC University and produced 21 Digital stories, 2009

Pathways of Women's Empowerment Program organized three digital story-telling workshops to document creatively the experiences of growth and transformation in women's lives. The first and second workshops were held in Dhaka. The first workshop was an in-house training of 10 BDI researchers; the second had 10 external participants selected through a competitive application process. It included three female Vice Chairpersons of Upazilla Parishads, and seven university students. The third workshop trained 12 women's rights and peace activists, NGO staff and university students from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The accounts of struggle, identity, change, success and survival narrated by the women provided insights into life in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

2010

BDI's Citizenship Research Program Organizes the Nagorik Adhikar Mela (Citizen Rights Fair), January 22-23, 2010 **brought together to showcase works of 57 grassroots organizations in Dhaka** BDI spearheaded a unique, participatory communication event in partnership with 57 grassroots organizations from all over Bangladesh in the form of *Nagorik Adhikar Mela*. The purpose of the fair was to build an informal collaborative network among the rights based organization working on different citizen rights, and informing and engaging policy makers and the general public in the discourse of citizenship. The fair made visible the struggle of people for recognition as equal citizens and created a space where the general public learnt about how different grassroots organizations work to raise consciousness and awareness of citizen rights and how they facilitate mobilization of people for claiming and establishing these rights. The fair was attended by approximately three thousand people and was a culmination of 6 months of communicating, building networks and planning with the full participation and ownership of all the organizations.

BDI launches Four Bangla booklets based on their research at the Ekushey Book Fair, February 20, 2010

A set of four research reports titled *Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh: Debates and Possibilities* was launched. The publications were written in straightforward Bengali to make them accessible to a large and diverse audience. The goal was to get students, academics, general readers, women's rights organizations, and other institutions interested and invested in the insights and debates related to women's empowerment.

Seminar on *Community Health Workers as Agents of Change*, May 25 2010

Organized jointly by BDI and icddr,b, the seminar presented research findings on how women health workers have been instrumental in bringing social change in their communities. The seminar included panelists from the Government, icddr,b, *Ganoshathya Kendro* and BRAC.

BDI organized Panel on *Women and Popular Culture*, June 17-21, 2010 at the *Cultural Crossroads Conference* at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

The Pathways Program at BDI organized a panel about women watching television in Bangladesh at the *Cultural Crossroads Conference* at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

BDI organizes an International Conference on *Land Acquisition and Resettlement: Balancing Development with Social Justice*, June 29-30, 2010

The international conference was organized by BDI and funded by DFID, The World Bank and AusAid. The conference brought together delegates from South Africa, China, Thailand, Argentina, Afghanistan and Colombia who met with Bangladesh government officials, academics and civil society representatives to explore what a national resettlement policy should look like.

BDI-UPL Book Launch: *Mapping Women's Empowerment: Experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*, July 8, 2010

Published jointly by BDI and the University Press Limited the volume contains 11 articles by writers from the region discussing the enabling factors and barriers to women's voice, work and bodily integrity. The book is an important resource for activists and educators in issues of equal opportunity, gender discrimination and human rights.

BDI organizes an International Conference on *Islam and Politics in South Asia*, December 18-19, 2010

BDI organized a conference *Transcending Binaries: Islam and Politics in South Asia*. Issues such as the need of critical 'recontextualization' of secularisms in the face of the US war on terror on the one hand and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism on the other, nationalism, modernity and women's empowerment were examined. The conference brought together leading scholars on South Asia and Islam from Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Texas at Austin, University of Amsterdam, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA, Ryerson University in Toronto and BRAC University.

2011

BDI organizes a Workshop on *The Microfinance Sector in Bangladesh: Next Generation Challenges*, January 10, 2011

The BDI workshop showcased next generation challenges in microfinance including quality financial access to all poor households.

BDI cosponsors an International Conference on *Faith-Inspired Development*, January 10-11, 2011

BDI cosponsored a two-day workshop, held in Dhaka, on faith-inspired development in partnership with Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and the World Faith Development Dialogue. The consultation brought together over twenty practitioners from different faiths across South and Central Asia to brainstorm issues around education, gender and peace building. The workshop led to the publication of reports outlining critical actors, best practices, and ways forward.

***BDI dialogue on Climate Change and Bangladesh: Challenges and Solutions for the Urban Poor Dialogue*, February 19, 2011**

The dialogue was held with government officials, civil society members and academics in Khulna to discuss the problems faced by the urban poor due to climate change and what can be and is being done by the government and non-governmental organizations to alleviate and solve these problems.

BDI-Mowla Brother's BOOK Launching of *Ogni o Jol: Rupantorer Golpo & Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth*, March 12, 2011

BDI launched "Ogni o Jol: Rupantorer Golpo," a book of short stories on women's empowerment based on a unique collaboration between researchers and writers, as well as "Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth," a set of six Bangla booklets.

BDI organizes a Workshop on *Pakistan/Bangladesh/India: Building a Field of Scholarship and Dialogue on 1971*, March 16-17, 2011

BDI organized a two-day workshop on "Pakistan/Bangladesh/India: Building a Field of Scholarship and Dialogue on 1971." This closed-door workshop brought together academics and researchers from South Asia to move beyond the emotionally charged issue of national politics and created a space for a focused discussion on the genocide and violence of 1971.

BDI panel at the International Conference on *Impact of External Funding on Women's Organizing*, March 2011

Organized jointly by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam and the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research program at BDI the conference disseminated the final report of the comparative study between Bangladesh and Ghana on the impact of external finance on women's organizations.

BDI co-hosts the Second and Third Global Graduation Meeting, November 16-20, 2009 and March 24-25, 2011

BDI along with CGAP and the Ford Foundation organized the second and third Global Graduation Meeting in Paris. Since 2006, 10 pilots have been implemented in 8 countries in Haiti, Pakistan, Honduras, Peru, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Ghana and in three places in India. The 10 pilots involve diverse institutional forms, economic contexts, and cultures. The Global Graduation Meeting was a unique opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the more advanced pilots and challenges of ongoing implementation.

BDI organizes an International Workshop on *Missing Daughters in Asia: Trends and Challenges*, July 2011

Ten academics, activists, government officials and researchers from China, India, Vietnam and Bangladesh attended the BDI organized workshop. These countries share a pattern of gender discrimination that has resulted in excess levels of female mortality in most age groups, leading to higher than average ratios of men to women in their overall populations. The workshop was designed to facilitate a dialogue on missing daughters in Asia, providing a forum where research, strategies and ideas could be openly exchanged and analyzed.

BDI organizes a Conference on *Revisioning Women's Empowerment: New Horizons*, July 2011 to showcase its work as the South Asia Hub of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment for the last 5 years

The BDI organized conference showcased five years worth of work of the South Asia hub of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Program. The three-day conference generated debate and discussion around the findings of the research and the implications for different actors working on women's empowerment.

BDI Launches the *Bangladesh Microfinance Review*, August 25, 2011

BDI published the first edition of the annual Bangladesh Microfinance Review. The report analyzed the financial performance of the top ten-microfinance institutions in the country in 2009 and presented institutional and industry wide trend analysis regarding outreach, growth, profitability, sustainability and risk.

BDI organizes an International Curriculum Development Workshop on *Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)*, October, 2011

In collaboration with the World Bank, BDI organized a three-day International Curriculum Development Workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) with academics and resettlement specialist from China, Uganda, Colombia and Bangladesh and World Bank officials. The goal of the workshop was to develop a standard curriculum of MLARR courses and expand collaboration among participants.

BDI organizes a National Dissemination Workshop of the three year action research program in urban slums titled *Building Capacity and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-Sector Initiative in Urban Slums of Bangladesh*, December 29, 2011

BDI organized a national level dissemination workshop based on the lessons learnt and findings from a three-year action research conducted in five slums to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of slum life. The research explore tenure security, nature of community mobilization, child labor and education, built environment, access to finance and livelihood, access to utility, and access to health services in slums. The workshop brought together slum level community leaders, local government representatives, national urban experts as well as local and national level officials of UPPR and WaterAid Bangladesh.

BDI co-hosts the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Biennial Conference*, December 2011

Inter Asia Cultural Studies Association is the premier Asian network for scholars engaged in literature, cultural studies, anthropology, sociology, history and the arts. BDI along with ENH organized the 3-day biennial conference of the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Association, winning the conference bid against the National University of Singapore. The conference, hosted at BRAC University, brought together a number of academics and researchers from different universities in Asia. BDI researchers presented 5 papers on women's empowerment and rights in various panels.

2012

BDI and CUP organizes a National Dissemination Workshop on *State Policies and Legal Framework for Pavement Dwellers: A Review of Present Situation and Interventions*, January 2012

BDI and Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) jointly organized the workshop to disseminate the findings of the study which examined the living conditions, legal rights, economic opportunities and access to services of the pavement dwellers and the status of the pavement dwellers in government policy and how they are perceived by wider society.

BDI Launches a new Research Center: *Center for Gender & Social Transformation (CGST)*, January 2012

The CGST, established at BDI in January 2012, is a regional center whose mission is to research, teach and advocate policy in South Asia on gender and social transformation. It will develop alternative ideas and new analyses in the area of gender and social change and generate debate and discussion with a broad audience of policy makers, practitioners, academics, donors and the wider public. CGST has partnerships with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex; the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University; the Social Research Center, American University Cairo, Egypt, Institute of Social Sciences Trust, India and the University of Ghana and will contribute a strong southern voice to the theory and practice of gender and development.

BDI co-hosts the Seminar on ‘Responsible Finance: What’s Relevant for Bangladesh from the Global Movement?’ February 2, 2012

At the BDI and Credit and Development Forum (CDF) organized seminar, discussion were held about the seven Client Protection Principles included in The Smart Campaign and the tools which the campaign uses to assess and improve microfinance practices, products and policies. The seminar also explored the case for financial education and consumer protection and the evolution of group lending and product diversification in Bangladesh could serve as a lesson for other countries.

BDI cohosts the Fourth Annual Global Network of Masters in Development Practice (MDP) Summit, February 5 – 10, 2012

Representatives from 22 MDP programs and 5 universities that were interested in developing BDI’s MDP program - Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakstan; Birla Institute of Management Technology, India; Lund University, Sweden; Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan; and Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia – attended the summit. Jeffrey D. Sachs, the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the co-chair of the International Advisory Board program provided an overview and vision of the summit.

Launching of the South Asian Regional Secretariat for Women Parliamentarian which will be hosted by CGST, BDI, July 9 – 11, 2012

The Secretariat will serve as a regional coordination center for activities supporting women MPs from participating countries and be based at CGST. The Secretariat supported by the Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices program of the Asia Foundation in partnership with the State University of New York’s Center for International Development (SUNY-CID) and sponsored by USAID and UKaid.

BDI Co-convenes the ‘Reaching the Poorest: Global Meeting’ 2012, July 17 – 19, 2012 in Paris

Over 90 practitioners, donors, researchers, and policy makers gathered in Paris to share operational know-how and results of research on an innovative approach to help households graduate out of extreme poverty. The meeting was convened by CGAP, Ford Foundation, the MasterCard Foundation, BRAC USA and BDI.

BDI provides Training on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR), in Uganda September 17 - 21, 2012

Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Academic Coordinator of BDI carried out the training for 44 Ugandan government officials, consultants and academics. The objective of the training was to provide hands-on tools related to resettlement planning and implementation.

South Asian Regional Secretariat for Women Parliamentarian arranges a Consultation on Gender Responsive Budgeting between women MPs and civil society experts, November 2012

A consultation between women parliamentarians and civil society organizations was organized on gender responsive budgeting and priorities for the health and education budgets of 2013/14 as part of a national action plan formulated by Bangladesh MPs of the South Asian Network of Women Parliamentarians. The South Asia Regional Secretariat of Women Parliamentarians based at CGST organized the consultation.

BDI- ESID Research Program, University of Manchester organize a Public Lecture on *Evolution of State Capacity in a Challenging Governance Environment*, December 2, 2012

BDI co-organized the lecture by Professors Lant Pritchett of Harvard and Kunal Sen of the University of Manchester with the Daily Star and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling.

CGST, BDI organizes an International Writeshop on *Methodological Lessons of Researching Women’s Empowerment*, December 18 -20, 2012

CGST organized this writing workshop to examine various methodologies used for studying women’s empowerment in different research studies by Pathways Programs. Participants from five different countries shared lessons learnt from the use of qualitative, quantitative and participatory methodologies. Workshop papers were published as a special issue of the Women’s Studies International Forum Journal, titled *Researching Empowerment* brought out by Oxford University Press.

BDI and BRAC Joint Programs

- 1. Financial Literacy and Consumer Protection**
BDI and BRAC Microfinance are developing a multi-pronged strategy to address the financial literacy needs of those living in poverty, enabling them to make more informed decisions and engage in better financial behaviour. The program, currently piloted in 5 sites across Bangladesh, seeks to disseminate key financial literacy messages to *dabi* borrowers. BDI conducted a baseline survey for the program in 2012.
Contact person at BRAC: Shameran Abed, Associate Director, BRAC Microfinance
- 2. Young Professionals Training Program**
BDI and BRAC International are designing a training program for young professionals to enhance their management, conceptual and communications skills with a view to address the complex problem solving challenges of BRAC International. The 12-week program, including a morning plenary, interactive classes, case studies and exercises, will be targeted at young professionals recruited for different BRAC International country programs.
Contact person at BRAC: Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director, BRAC International
- 3. Property and Land Rights Initiative Research**
BDI conducted the baseline and follow-up research for BRAC Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) initiative. The initiative developed a scalable program in Bangladesh to enable those living in poverty, especially women, gain awareness about property rights as well as make them capable of ensuring these rights. The study examined the impact of the program, the barriers to the success of the program, solutions to the barriers and how to scale up the program.
Contact person at BRAC: Faustina Periera, Director, Human Rights and Legal Aid Services
- 4. Short Course on Advocacy and Social Communication**
BDI and BRAC developed a short course based on the social communication component of the Masters in Development Studies offered by BRAC University. The two-week course introduces various aspects of communication for non-profit and for-profit organizations such as application and utilization methods, tools development, quality testing, brand protection etc. 22 BRAC employees participated in the course in 2013.
Contact person at BRAC: Afsan Chowdhury, Senior Adviser, Communications
- 5. Proposed Study on Advocacy and Social Communication**
The primary aim of the study is to identify the most effective Advocacy and Social Communication (A&SC) models, practices and tools that have been implemented in Bangladesh. The study will find out whether the existing practices receive required attention of policy makers or need further review of these practices incorporating innovations in creating effective A&SC models.
Contact person at BRAC: Afsan Chowdhury, Senior Adviser, Communications
- 6. Research on Gender Quality Action Learning (GQAL)**
BDI conducted a study for BRAC's Gender Justice and Diversity Section on GQAL: Assessing the Performance of GQAL in Changing Gender Norms and behavior.
Contact person at BRAC - Sheepa Hafiza, Director, Gender Justice and Diversity and Safe Migration Facilitation
- 7. Pathways for Children in BRAC South Sudan Non-Formal Primary Schools**
BDI has conducted a qualitative study on the long-term livelihood opportunities for children completing three years of BRAC schools in Southern Sudan.
Contact person at BRAC – Susan Davis, President, BRAC International
- 8. Rapporteurship**
BDI collaborated with the Gender Justice and Diversity of the Commonwealth Foundation's 10th Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting Partners' Forum, (10WPF) on June 2013 to rapporteur the meeting.
Contact person at BRAC: Suman Ahsanul Islam, Program Head, Gender Justice and Diversity

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Books

1. F. Azim and M. Sultan, eds. (2010), *Mapping Women's Empowerment: Experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan* (2010), UPL and BDI: Dhaka
2. Azad, S. ed. *Ogni o Jol: Rupantoror Golpo (Fire and Water: Stories of Transformation)*, Mowla Brothers and BRAC University Press: Dhaka (A collection of short stories about the real-life journeys of change in women's lives was published in March 2011).
3. Nazneen, S and M. Sultan, (forthcoming) *Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*, edited by Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan, ZED books :London

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1. Jahan, F. and Shahan, A.M. (2008). *Unveiling the Invisibility Cloak: Political Participation of Women in Bangladesh*. Critical Half, Spring 2008, 4455 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC, USA.
2. Kabeer, N and Mahmud, S. (2010). 'Microfinance and Social Mobilization: Alternative Pathways to Grassroots Democracy?' in Coelho and von Lieres (eds.) *Mobilizing for Democracy*, Zed Books, London, UK; NY, USA. 2010.
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8. Nazneen, S., (2013) *Men Aboard? Movement for a Uniform Family Code*, in *Legal reform and Feminist Activism: Global Processes*, edited by Mulki Al Sharmani, Zed books
9. Azim, F. (2013). *Islam, Culture and Women*, in F. Azim, ed., *Complex Terrains: Islam, Culture and Women in Asia*, , Routledge: London
10. Azim, F. (2013) *Women, Islam and nation in Bengal*, in F. Azim, ed., *Complex Terrains: Islam, Culture and Women in Asia*, Routledge: London
11. Huq, S. (2013). *Piety, Music and Gender Transformation: Reconfiguring Women as Culture Bearing Markers of Modernity and Nationalism in Bangladesh*, in F. Azim, ed. *Complex Terrains: Islam, Culture and Women*, Routledge: London
12. Huq, S. (forthcoming) *Women and Religion in Changing Narratives of Sexuality*, edited by Charmaine Periera. ZED books: London
13. Rahim, S and Priyadarshani, A. (forthcoming) *Women and Media* in book on *Changing Narratives of Sexuality*, edited by Charmaine Periera, Zed Books: London
14. Nazneen, S, Ehsan, I and Hasan, B. (forthcoming) *Exceptional Women? Reserved Councilors in Municipalities in Bangladesh*, in M. Tadros, ed. *Women's Pathways to Political Power*, Zed Books, London
15. Nazneen, S. and Mahmud, S. (forthcoming) 'Gendered Politics of Securing Inclusive Development' in S. Hickey et al. eds, *Does Politics Matter for Inclusive Development?* Oxford University Press: Oxford

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1. Jahan, F. (2008). *Islamic Fundamentalism in Bangladesh: A Quest for the Root*. Asian Profile, Canada, vol. 36, No. 2.
2. Jahan, F. and Shahan, A.M. (2008). "The Vicious Cycle of Administrative Politicization in Bangladesh." *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, vol. 10, N 2. Bangladesh Development Initiative, USA.
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19. Azim, F. (2013) Women, Islam and nation in Bengal, in Special issue on *Complex Terrains: Islam, Culture and Women in Asia*, *Inter Asia Cultural Studies journal*, Vol. 12, no 2.
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9. Mirza Hassan and Wilson Pritchard (forthcoming), Negotiating the Politics of Tax Reform in Bangladesh, IDS working paper, University of Sussex and BDI.
10. Mirza Hassan, Selim Raihan and Wilson Pritchard (forthcoming) Political Economy of Tax Exemption in Bangladesh, IDS working paper, University of Sussex, SANEM and BDI.

Bengali Booklets

1. *Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth*, March 2011
 - *Narir Khomotayon Bishoiok Dharona: Rupantorer Pothey?* by Sohela Nazneen, Maheen Sultan and Naomi Hossain
 - *Nari Shathokormi: Shomajhota o Noboddeg* by Simeen Mahmud and Maheen Sultan
 - *Andhor thekey Bahirey: Sthaniyo Shorkarey Narir Uposhteti* by Amena Mohsin
 - *Bideshi Onudannitir Poribortoney Bangladesher Nari Shongothoner Obostha* by Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan
 - *Pahari Media o Nari* by Aanmona Priyadarshini and Sahida Khondaker
 - *Shomokaler "Kotho-Promito" Bhasha Bitorker Poriprekhotey 'khun' bitorko* by Aanmona Priyadarshini and Sahida Khondaker
 - *Shomokaler "Kotho-Promito" Bhasha Bitorker Poriprekhotey 'khun' bitorko* by Iqbal Ehsan
2. *'Bangladeshy Narir Khomotayon: Bitorko o Shombhabona'*
 - *Narir Chokhey Media: Shombhabonar Notun Dar* by Aanmona Priyadarshini
 - *Kormokhetre Nari: Akankha o Shimaboddhota* By Sakiba Tasneem
 - *Nari o Dhormo: Akti Poribortonsheel Shomporko* by Sahida Khondaker & Samia Huq
 - *Nari Andolon abong Shomorthon Toirir Koushol: Akti Porjalochona* by Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan

Newspaper Articles

1. The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Program at BDI published a series of articles in the *Samakal* newspaper during the month of December, 2009:
 - The article on "*Ghorer bou, shomajer 'apa'*" by Mohammad Kamruzzaman about Women Health Workers was published on 8th December.

- "Narir Chokhe Media" by Aanmona Priyadarshini highlighted the Women and Media research was published on 18th December.
 - The article 'Putro naki Konya' by Sakiba Tasneem based on the Empowering Work research was published on 30 December, 2009.
2. On occasion of International Women's Day, the leading English daily, *The Daily Star*, covered the work of the South Asia hub as their special feature in the March 6, 2009 issue:
 - The Meaning of Empowerment, by Firdous Azim
 - Agents of Change, by Sheikh Tariquzzaman
 - New forms and Challenges, by Samia Huq and Sohela Nazneen
 - New Spaces, New Choices, by Aanmona Priyadarshini and Samia Afroz Rahim
 3. Dr. Amena Mohsin (2010) Trinamoole Narir Agrojattra, in the *Bangla daily Samakal*, on 11 July, 2010.
 4. The weekend magazine of the leading English daily, *The Daily Star*, featured the article "Stories from the Hill Tracts" on 11 June, 2010.

Audio Visual Outputs/Video Documentary

1. *Stories of Change*: A 55-minute documentary produced by the Pathways Program features the stories of five Bangladeshi women who are of diverse ages, professions and religion and who have significantly contributed to change in their communities.
2. 'Building Citizenship from Below'. 2008. Collection of participatory videos made by members of grassroots organizations.
3. Digital Stories of 20 women and men.
4. Documentary on *The CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation Program: Linking Safety Nets to Financial Services in Ethiopia*.
5. A 15 minutes documentary on *The Challenges of Resettlement*.