

Talk by International Grassroots Activist

BIGD organized a Talk by Ms. Hayat Imam, international grassroots activist and Member of the Board, Grassroots International, on **Palestine: Perspectives from the field** at BIGD Conference Room, Dhaka on 15 Feb 2015.



Ms. Hayat Imam shared her experience based on her recent visit to occupied Palestine and Jerusalem, and interviews with the Palestinians. She also shared her thoughts and observation on the illegitimate occupation, human rights violation by Israel, apartheid wall built by Israel, increasing Israeli settlement, oppressive livelihoods, lack of water supply and resettlement issue after Israeli bombings, faulty and inequitable governance in the Palestinian cities. She also made a presentation with visuals which provided rare glimpses of the state of governance and miserable livelihood of the Palestinian people.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD chaired the talk. The programme was attended by, among others, BIGD Head of Research Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, staffs from BIGD Research, Academic and Operations divisions.

Workshop on Exploring Unpaid Work of Women Barriers, Implications and Opportunities

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and Oxfam in Bangladesh, jointly organized a workshop to on "Exploring Unpaid Work of Women: Barriers, Implications and Opportunities", disseminate the results of a research on Thursday 26th February 2015 at the BRAC Centre Inn Meeting Room, Dhaka.

The research report was presented by Maheen Sultan, Lead Researcher; Sahida Khondaker, Research Associate and Bayazid Hasan, Senior Research Associate of CGST, BIGD.

Snehal V. Soneji, Country Director, Oxfam in Bangladesh and M.B. Akhter, Program Manager, Oxfam in Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion. Simeen Mahmud, Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher, BIGD chaired the event.

The objective of the workshop was to present a research report on unpaid care work of women in rural area of Bangladesh which will help to design some interventions and strategies to reduce, redistribute, and recognize women's unpaid care work in the community. Unpaid care work is essential for an individual, family community

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and society. It is a social good and the “glue that holds societies together”. However the unequal distribution of unpaid care work along gender lines and its lack of support have severe negative consequences: for women’s rights, gender equality and poverty reduction initiatives.



The findings of the study show that women spent 8.8 hours on an average daily for care work, while men spend about an hour. For men this work is mainly looking after the children’s education and doing the groceries, which takes time because of the distance to the markets. On the other hand, men spend an average of 3 hours for paid work, 6.6 hours to produce products for sale and almost no time on production for own consumption. Women spend more time on production for own consumption (four hours a week) and about half of time given by men on producing products for sale (3.6 hours a day on an average for women). Women have 7.6 hours for sleep while men have 7.04 hours and women have 2.7 hours for personal activities while men have almost double (almost 6 hours per day on average). The main differences are the time men have for recreation and self-care (double that of women) and the time women spend on care activities (eight times as much as men).

The research was based on participatory research techniques and interviews with a total of 169 women and men residing in char areas of four districts (Faridpur, Gaibandha, Jamalpur and Nilfamari) in Bangladesh. It was carried out under the project ‘Scaling up Inclusive Dairy Markets’ funded by DFID.

Among others, Practitioners and experts from development NGOs, international agencies, women's groups, media and the research community attended the programme.

BRAC University Vice Chancellor visits BIGD

Mr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, VC of BRAC University visited BRAC Institute of Governance and Development on 23 February, 2015 and met the BIGD Researchers. Referring the latest Annual Report of BRAC University the VC said that so many activities have been done by different department and institutes; but, there is no collaboration among them to utilize their comparative strengths. He envisions transforming the university into a referred research based university and sought support and cooperation from each and every institutes and departments. To reach this vision he highlighted on three pillars namely, collaboration, innovation and social impacts.



In the meeting the Reserahers gave their opinion and share their ideas through a Q&A session. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD chaired the meeting. Dr. Rahman told that since his joining as Executive Director, he has been focusing on regional collaboration and in the current year he is planning to take initiatives in this regard. He also mentioned that BIGD has a multidisciplinary team and their capacity can be enhanced through exchange programs between regional centers of excellence. The State of Governance and State of City reports are becoming influential in creating debates in public domain (e.g. TV talk shows, OpEds, etc), he told. He urged that BIGD needs to have basic endowment fund to plan and implement its own research agenda.

BIGD Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) held several meetings in February 2015 with number of distinguished personalities such as Ministers, prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues of BIGD. Among others, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had meeting with State Minister of Finance and planning and had a discussion on BIGD and its programme. Dr. Rahman also had meeting with Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director and Mr. Rustam Pulatov, Assistant Country Director of UNDP at BIGD to discuss about one of our new initiatives under political governance portfolio called Areas for Research, Engagement and National Agendas (ARENA). He also met with Stuart David, Economist of DFID to discuss the activities which IGC have been undertaking in terms of research and policy engagement since IGC last March 2014, and Prof.Chitra and Farida Khan of University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Mr. Shama Prasad, Chief Engineer, LGED.

Dr. Rahman had also joined a Consortium plans meeting on local governance and development of Sharique and a working lunch in honor of Kaspar Grossenbacher, new Country Director of Helvetas Intercooperation-Bangladesh, Mr. Thirtha Sarathi Sikder and Ms Lilia Tverdun, Director, Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation.
