



BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
BRAC University

Monthly E-Newsletter

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Half of the total population of Bangladesh is woman who has all the potential to contribute to the national economy. But the prime barrier here is their lack of confidence. One of the key reasons of loosing their confidence is that they are being harassed by male in different public places like buses, markets, offices and other in different ways. Besides, women's unpaid contribution to the economy is also ignored. These observations were made by the specialist participated in a day long workshop programme titled "Women, Men and Labor Markets in Bangladesh: Constraints, Choices and Policy Challenges" organized by The Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University on December 2, 2017 at the city.

Prof. Naila Kabeer, Department of International Development and Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science; Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, CGST and Lopita Huq, Research Fellow of BIGD presented the findings of the research titled "Choice, Constraint and Gender Dynamics of Labor Markets in Bangladesh" in this workshop. The paper discussed on the issue of how choice and constraints interact to shape the labor market behavior of women and men using survey and qualitative data from 8 districts in Bangladesh.

Ms. Mahmud states that according to the latest survey of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS); only 36 percent of women in Bangladesh were involved in labor. But the two surveys conducted in 2008 and 2015, revealed 67 percent of women are involved in the labor market.



Workshop on Women, Men and Labor Markets in Bangladesh: Constraints, Choices and Policy Challenges

Chare of the workshop Prof. Ashwini Deshpande, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics thinks that it would be helpful to know about the women who are involved in labor. She also urged to think about what we can do for these women who engaged in labor market.

Prof. Kabeer, Dr. Shahidur Rahman, BRAC University and Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) presented preliminary findings from a collaborative research project on "Changes in the Governance of Garment Global Production Networks: Lead Firm, Supplier and Institutional Responses to the RANA Plaza Disaster" funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. The findings discussed about the assessment of employers and workers experience in Bangladesh RMG sector with the Accord/Alliance agreements that were put in place in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza disaster.

Talk on Community-Driven Development (CDD)

Ms. Serena Cociolo, Researcher of the University of Stockholm delivered a talk on her recent project research on Community-Driven Development (CDD) programmes at BIGD on November 9, 2017. The study focuses on the effectiveness of CDD as assessed through the quality and level of community participation and on the fairness norms guiding societal decision-making.

Serena states, Although CDD is believed to be the solution to information asymmetries and to correctly target the neediest members of society; findings from the study indicate the existence of two separate mechanisms behind the risk of elite capture. One is Endogenous participation into public consultations often causes an unequal representation of the interest of all social groups since agents are observed to positively self-select themselves into group decision-making. The second one is that there is the risk of existing inequalities exacerbating when contribution requirements are introduced that bring along sub-optimal incentives for voluntary contributions to the public good.

The project relied on a lab-in-the-field experiment conducted in rural Bangladesh in order to identify and examine these two mechanisms critical for the success of participatory processes. The findings have direct policy implications which is suggesting that implementation.

BIGD's researchers and staff attended the talk which ended with Q & A session.



BIGD's researcher attended the Second Training Management Committee Meeting

Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate of BIGD attended the second Training Management Committee (TMC) Meeting held on November 29, 2017 at Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM), Dhaka. The Committee was constituted to oversee Policy Analysis Course implemented by BIGM which is financial supported by the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP), Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. BIGD's Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman is a member of the committee.

In the meeting the committee expressed satisfaction about progress of implementation of the decisions made in the first TMC meeting held on July 15, 2017 at BIGM. In order to implement this highly needed course on Policy Analysis the committee made important

decisions including opening the course to all potential public and private agencies' officials, converting the current part-time course into the full-time, giving thematic emphasis on Sustainable Goals, and printing certificates after ensuring all security measures to be duly signed jointly by the MOPA Secretary and Director of BIGM. Finally, the committee endorsed the training calendar for 2018 and the proposal for inclusion of two members in the committee from the SEIP and the Cabinet Division.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and participated by all other members/representatives of committee including BPATC's Rector Dr. M. Aslam Alam.



BIGD's delegation made a study visit to Beijing for establishment of University Industry Linkage in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh there are 200000 foreign employees working in mid and higher level managerial positions of various garments industries. At the same time, Bangladeshi universities produce graduates who are not well-suited with the demand of the job market. In this perspective, The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is implementing the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) with an objective of up-skilling of workforce for productive and priority sectors, anchored in the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP), 2011 and for supporting government and private institutions, non-government organizations and industry associations achieve the above objective.

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University is going to establish Executive Development Centre collaborating with three other renowned public and private universities of Bangladesh with the support of SEIP and Ministry of Finance, GoB to produce world class manager in garments industry with the aim of gradual replacement of a large number of foreign nationals at top level of this sector and remitting US\$5 billion each year. One of the broad aims of the Executive Development Programme (EDP) is to successfully implement the University Linkage model in Bangladesh like China, India and Japan.

In order to have first-hand exposure on university-industry linkage a SEIP Delegation comprising of SEIP team members, Chief Coordinators and Coordinators of four universities and led by Mr. Md. Khairul Islam, Deputy Executive Project Director, SEIP Project made a study visit to Beijing, China during 14-17 November 2017. BIGD's Research Fellow, Dr. Md Shanawez Hossain; Senior Research Associate, Mohammad Sirajul Islam; Senior Officer - Training,

Jannatun Naim represented BIGD, BRAC University during the visit and attended the China Education Development Experience Sharing and Partnership Training Series I, University-Industry Linkage Training Programme.

A day-long Seminar with participation of Bangladesh delegation and faculty members of Graduate School of Education, Institute of Economics of Education, Peking University was held on 14 November. Along with other professors from different Universities, Dr Md. Shanawez Hossain presented the Executive Development Plan for knitwear sub-sector. On the next day, another daylong seminar was held at Beijing Vocational College of Transportation followed by Industry inspection to get theoretical and practical experience about China's vocational education system. End of the day Bangladeshi delegate also visited an industry partner site.

The tour provided the opportunity to get the theoretical and practical knowledge about the University Industry Linkage (UIL) programme and a well-rounded foundation upon which to build knowledge for successfully implementing the UIL in Executive Development Programme (EDP). This visit also focused on the educational experiences with industry related research and training programme. As well as learning about various programme's history, model and research on UIL model and opened up the opportunity to collaborate with the top ranking university of China for the EDP programme. BIGD delegation was awarded with certificates from Peking University for successfully contributing on "Education Development Experience Sharing and Partnership Series I" training.



Training on Best Procurement Practices

A short training on Best Procurement Practices was held on November 17-18, 2017 at BIGD. A number of 14 participants from different organizations have attended the training. Participants were trained on the issues like reviewing selected best practices and principles of procurement; examining organisational purchasing concepts and systematic overview of modern procurement practice; understanding the

best procurement methods in both public and private sectors, examining steps of procurement for Open Tendering Method (OTM) including preparation of tender notice; ins and outs of tender documents; and preparing contract agreements, purchase orders and work orders. Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Senior Academic Adviser of BIGD awarded the participants with certificates at closing ceremony.

Researcher's other activities

- Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, CGST and Gender Cluster of BIGD attended as a panel member at the Dialogue on Reimagining Sustainable Pathways for Women's Economic Empowerment in Rural Bangladesh and Project launch organized by iDE and The Asia Foundation on November 28, 2017 at the city.

- Ms. Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate of BIGD presented a paper titled "Exploring the role of citizen engagement in public service delivery in South Asia: Trends, Challenges and Prospects" at the International Conference on Managing Change for Better Public Service Delivery: South and South-East Asian Experience organized by Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) on 5-6 November, 2017 at Savar, Dhaka Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) on 5-6 November, 2017 at Savar, Dhaka.

- Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow and Ms. Sahida Khondaker, Research Associate of BIGD attended the Triangulation Workshop: Reviewing Findings from Justice Needs and Satisfaction Survey organized by BRAC Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) on November 29, 2017 at the city. The aim of the workshop was to share the preliminary findings with lawyers, civil society organisations, judges and journalists. The aim of the workshop was to share the preliminary findings with lawyers, civil society organisations, judges and journalists.

- Ms. Maheen Sultan moderated a session on Promoting Women's Voice and Leadership at a roundtable discussion as a pre-launching activity as this year's 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Campaign. The discussion held on November 22, 2017 brought together organizations working on women's empowerment and combating Gender Based Violence across Bangladesh to share their challenges and experiences and to learn from each other. She also chaired a session titled "The Role of Gender Policy and Administrative Process" at the International Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in Politics, Administration and Development in South Asia and beyond organized by Public Policy and Governance Programme of North South University on November 18, 2017 at the city.

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in November 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC; Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Md. Atiqur Rahman Khan, Director General, of Anti Corruption Commission (ACC); Professor Frank Chaloupka, Director; Dr. Erika Siu,

Deputy Director; Dr. Maryam Mirza, Economist, of University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC); Mohammad Abdur Rab, Joint Director, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit; Mohammad Anisur Rahman, Joint Director, Foreign Exchange Operation Department, Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Golam Sarwar, Assistant Programmer, National Board of Revenue; Mr. Mohan Das Manandha, Executive Director, Niti Foundation, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Nepal; Ms. Nuzhat Jabin, Manager, Action Aid Bangladesh; and Tim Dobermann of International Growth Centre. He also attended several Skype and Dinner meetings.



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