

BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED)

The research and evaluation division was established in 1975 as an independent unit within the framework of BRAC to provide necessary research support to BRAC programmes. Although RED concentrates its activities on BRAC programmes, it also undertakes multi-disciplinary studies on various development issues and subjects of national and global importance. These include poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, agriculture, nutrition, health, population, education, environment, disability, gender, and related fields. It also maintains strong linkages with government organisations, UN bodies, and a number of academic and research institutions at home and abroad.

Studies citing disability

Towards a profile of the ultra poor in Bangladesh: Findings from CFPR/TUP baseline survey (2004)

This report draws a comprehensive profile of the extreme poor in Bangladesh living in some of the poorest districts of the country where BRAC's targeting the ultra poor (TUP) programme is working. It is based on baseline survey carried out by RED on 2002 and 2003 cohorts, which look at the extremely poor nutritional status of the ultra poor population. Aiming to address knowledge gaps concerning the lives, struggles and lived experiences of the ultra poor, this study mentions finding that a significant proportion of the selected ultra poor (SUP) members were either blind or deaf. Many of them could not speak or walk. The extent of disability among the not selected ultra poor (NSUP) members, however, was relatively lower than SUP members.

Pathways out of extreme poverty: Findings from round I survey of CFPR phase II (2009)

This draws on baseline information collected in 2007 for the Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction (CFPR) II evaluation. While examining each household within the survey population, it was found that the presence of disabled members is very high among the TUP households in both specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) I and STUP II areas. It was also found that disability is more prevalent among the male members of various age groups. Only less than 0.5 per cent of the children aged up to five years were found to be disabled indicating that disability by birth was not prevalent at any significant extent among the surveyed households.

Exploring the marginalised: A study in some selected upazilas of Sylhet division in Bangladesh (2013)

Through a census RED collected information on various indicators related to population and demography, housing and land holding, occupation and income, poverty status, education, and water and sanitation in eight *upazilas* (sub-districts). The findings reveal that the study *upazilas* collectively lagged behind the divisional and national averages in almost every indicator. Marginalisation or social exclusion existed at various levels. The study dedicates an entire section on disability and education, specifically examining challenges regarding identification of persons with disabilities in the study population. Although this study could not identify all the persons living with disabilities in the *upazilas*, evidence show that the identified disabled persons were much behind the others in educational attainment.

An assessment of BRAC pre-primary schools environment (2013)

This study was the first attempt to assess the environment of BRAC pre-primary schools through an internationally recognised scale called the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R). While the study delineates various areas for improvement, an impressive incidence was observed in a study school where the teacher taught all the students to use sign language with students with disabilities. However, it was found that better training of teachers and programme organisers would help improve all the aspects related to students living with disabilities.

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