



Bangladesh Development Research Center (BDRC)

2010 Research Report

This 2010 Research Report summarizes the main research activities of the Bangladesh Development Research Center Inc. (BDRC) between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. The year 2010 constitutes the third full year of the BDRC existence, following its incorporation on January 5, 2007. The research undertaken in 2010 follows the decision made at the first meeting of the Board of Directors on March 02, 2007, that the BDRC's research program is initially comprised of three topics: (1) Aid, Debt, and Development, (2) Climate Change, and (3) Bangladesh Development Strategies. In addition to these three Research Topics, the BDRC has undertaken and improved a variety of projects and tasks that imply indirect research activities.

I. BDRC Research Topics

I.1. Aid, Debt, and Development

The BDRC's research on aid, debt and development started in summer 2007. There were two main outputs in 2010. First, a research paper entitled "Aid, Debt, and Development: Synergies or Contradictions in Bangladesh" was published in the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (2010).¹ Second, based on the Dr. Gunter's broader research on aid and debt issues, he was invited to make a presentation at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) "*Expert Meeting on the Contribution and Effective Use of External Resources for Development, in Particular for Productive Capacity-Building*", held in Geneva, 22-24 February 2010.

I.2. Climate Change

The BDRC continued with its research on climate change in Bangladesh. The two major outputs in 2010 within the BDRC's research topic of climate change were

- the fifth updated version of the annotated bibliography on Climate Change and Bangladesh, which was published on January 5th, 2010, jointly with Bangladesh's Climate Change Cell; and
- the publication of a part of a previous study on "The Impact of Development and Growth on CO₂ Emissions: A Case Study for Bangladesh until 2050" which was published in November 2010 within the BDRC's Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS).

Furthermore, a more comprehensive version of the latter paper, written jointly with Dr. Atiq Rahman at the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), had been submitted for publication in an academic journal.

I.3. Bangladesh Development Strategies

Based on the research that began in 2007, a revised and extended version of the 4th paper in the Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS) had been published in the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (2010). The extended

¹ A previous version of this paper had been presented at an International Conference on "Bangladesh in the 21st Century" at Harvard University (June 13-14, 2008).

version of this now published article had previously been presented by Dr. Gunter at the International Conference on “Ideas and Innovations for the Development of Bangladesh: The Next Decade”, at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (October 9-10, 2009).

II. BDRC Projects

The BDRC has improved and enhanced all five projects that were initiated in 2007 (i.e., the Bangladesh Development Bibliography, Resources for Researchers, Tracking Bangladesh’s Ranking and Progress, Bangladesh Development Researchers, and News).

II.1. Bangladesh Development Bibliography

The Bangladesh Development Bibliography continues to be the world’s largest collection of publications (books, journal articles, working papers, reports, etc.) relevant for Bangladesh’s development. The number of items in this bibliography has increased from about 12,000 in January 2010 to about 13,000 at the end of December 2010. This bibliography is updated regularly, at least every three weeks. The BDRC has been working on improving the search-ability of this bibliography across years by moving the whole bibliography to a new searchable web-application, which is expected to become operational in early 2011.

II.2. Resources for Researchers

“Resources for Researchers” was the BDRC’s first project, aimed at providing useful internet resources on Bangladesh, mostly targeted at the international development community and development economists. These “Resources for Researchers” are provided freely in the following six lists on the BDRC website, which were improved and updated in 2010:

- a list of professional journals that publish articles related to Bangladesh development issues;
- a list with links to online Bangladesh development reports and Bangladesh country briefs;
- a list with links of official data sources; and
- a list with links to research organizations working on Bangladesh development issues.
- a list of resources related to universities in Bangladesh, and
- a list of / links to forthcoming and past conferences / fairs.

All kind of researchers, policymakers, and even the general public interested in Bangladesh make frequently use of these free online resources.

II.3. Tracking Bangladesh's Ranking and Progress

The BDRC continues to provide information on Bangladesh's Ranking and Relative Progress within the following five categories:

- Bangladesh's Ranking and Progress with regards to 15 specific indices/indicators
- Bangladesh's CPIA Scores, Rankings, and Progress
- Bangladesh's record with regards to six governance indicators from 1996-2007
- Bangladesh's ranking (for which only one year of data is available)
- Additional information and links

The various indicators provided in these five categories were updated in 2010 as new information became available.

II.4. Bangladesh Development Researchers

While no new lists have been created on Bangladesh Development Researchers in 2010, most of the following seven lists (provided by the BDRC) have been updated regularly during 2010:

- Top International Awards received by Bangladeshi Development Researchers/Organizations.
- Most Popular Bangladeshi Development Researchers (based on returns from a general Google search).
- Top Bangladesh Development Researchers (based on SSRN downloads).
- Top Bangladesh Development Researchers of the Millennium [defined as persons who have (co-)authored and/or (co-)edited at least 25 studies/reports within this Millennium].
- Other Major Bangladesh Development Researchers of the Millennium [defined as persons who have (co-) authored and/or (co-)edited at least 10 (though less than 25) studies/reports within this Millennium].
- RePEc-registered Bangladesh-related Economists [which provides a list of economists who (a) are registered with the RePEc Author Service and (b) have published items specifically on Bangladesh (as listed in RePEc)].
- All Bangladesh-related economists with publications listed in RePEc (pdf) [This is a list (compiled by the BDRC) of all Bangladesh-related Economists (those who are registered as well as those who are not registered with the RePEc Author Service) based on Bangladesh-related publications as listed in IDEAS/RePEc database (as of October 13, 2008).]

II. 5. News

The content within this BDRC project contains the following four lists or links, which have been improved and enhanced during 2010:

- Latest BDRC news/changes/additions
- Developmental Newsletters
- Some daily Bangladeshi newspapers
- Some Bangladeshi news websites

III. BDRC Tasks

Tasks are some combination of BDRC research and BDRC projects. Tasks were officially initiated on November 17, 2008, when the BDRC decided (in recognition of Universal Children's Day) to provide some information on Children of Bangladesh, though some parts of BDRC tasks had been created previously in other sections of the BDRC website. Within 2010, the most extensive additions have been made in the following three BDRC tasks:

III.1. Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS)

Following the successful launch of this Working Paper Series in April 2008, the following two papers have been added to this series:

- **BDRWPS No. 10 (November 2010)**

The Impact of Development on CO2 Emissions: A Case Study for Bangladesh until 2050

by *Bernhard G. Gunter*

Also available at:

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1721229>

<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/10.html>

- **No. 11 (December 2010)**

Needs Hierarchy, Motivational Factors and Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh

by *Mostofa Haque*

Also available at:

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1721232>

<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/11.html>

All papers of the BDRWPS are published on the BDRC website and are also available through the websites of the Social Science Research Network (<http://www.ssrn.com/>) and the Research Papers in Economics (RePEc, <http://repec.org/>). Within the last three years (April 2008 to April 2011), there have been 2,843 RePEc page views and 786 RePEc file downloads of the currently 11 papers. This implies that on average, each paper has been downloaded more than 70 times solely from the RePEc website count.² For further information on the BDRWPS, please see <http://www.bangladeshstudies.org/BDRWPS-home.html>.

III.2. Publications of the Moment

Recognizing some international days and events, the BDRC provided various lists with new publications related to the day/event and Bangladesh. These lists of publications were created before the day/event and are not updated. Like in previous years, in 2010, the BDRC recognized and provided lists of publications for the following days:

- Feb. 21: International Mother Language Day/ Bangladeshi Language Martyrs' Day
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 22: World Water Day
- April 7: World Health Day
- April 25: World Malaria Day
- May 3: World Press Freedom Day
- June 5: World Environment Day
- August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- Sept. 8: International Literacy Day
- Oct. 16: World Food Day
- Oct. 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Nov. 14: World Diabetes Day
- Nov. 20: Universal Children's Day
- Nov. 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Dec. 1: World AIDS Day
- Dec. 10: Human Rights Day

Please see http://www.bangladeshstudies.org/Biblio_publi_of_day.html for further details.

² This is about the same average download per paper (for the same period) as for the Working Paper Series of the Center for Global Development and the Working Paper Series of the United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs.

III.3. Hot Topics / Features

Created at the end of 2008, the BDRC's task on "Hot Topics / Features" was continued throughout 2010, highlighting some important events and/or developments, which are of interest to the development community of Bangladesh. Excluding the announcements of list of publications related to international days and the announcements of new papers in the Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS), the following were some of these features provided during 2010:

- December 21, 2010: Dhaka is one of the fastest growing mega-cities in the world
- December 8, 2010: Norway clears Grameen Bank
- November 18, 2010: Why Bangladeshis migrate
- November 5, 2010: Bangladesh had third highest average annual HDI growth rate
- October 6, 2010: The untold story of Bangladesh's turn-around
- September 19, 2010: UN recognizes Bangladesh's progress with MDGs
- August 21, 2010: Improvements in Bangladesh's Food Security Risk Index
- August 1, 2010: Noman Khan wins Ramon Magsaysay Award 2010
- July 20, 2010: Bangladesh exported a record US\$1.7 billion in June 2010
- July 8, 2010: World Bank proposes to double its aid to Bangladesh
- May 26-27, 2010: Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum 2010
- May 24, 2010: Hydro-electric project in Tibet could affect water supply in Bangladesh
- May 5, 2010: Bangladesh Development Data
- May 3, 2010: Solar Energy in Bangladesh
- April 23, 2010: Bangladesh serious about decentralization and corruption
- April 13, 2010: IMF mission projects real GDP to grow at 6 percent in FY2011
- April 5, 2010: Millions of Bangladeshi farmers gain access to bank accounts
- Regional conference on the role of religious leaders in advancing development
- The Threat from Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh
- Ensuring Debt Sustainability in Low Income Countries (LICs)
- Is there an emerging East-West economic divide within Bangladesh?
- February 16, 2010: Donors Endorsed US\$9.5 Billion Energy Investment Plan
- February 15, 2010: Campaign to Vaccinate Children Against Measles
- Dr. Mizanur Rahman won GDN Medal for Research on Development 2009
- Protecting Bangladesh from Natural Disasters
- An Analytical Approach to Bangladesh's Growth Agenda

Please see http://www.bangladeshstudies.org/task_features.html for further details on each of the above features.