



Bangladesh Development Research Center (BDRC)

2012 Research Report

This 2012 Research Report summarizes the main research activities of the Bangladesh Development Research Center Inc. (BDRC) between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. The year 2012 constitutes the fifth full year of the BDRC existence, following its incorporation on January 5, 2007. The research undertaken in 2012 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. Publications of BDRC Research

In 2012, the following article was published based on multi-year research two book chapters were published based on research undertaken by the BDRC:

- Gunter, Bernhard G. and A. Atiq Rahman (2012) Bangladesh and the Copenhagen Accord: How Much Carbon Dioxide Might Bangladesh Emit in 2050?, *Environmental Economics*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2012), pp. 58-73; freely available at:
 - http://businessperspectives.org/journals_free/ee/2012/ee_2012_1_Gunter.pdf

A variety of research topics have also been undertaken and submitted in 2012 for the international conference on “Bridging the Policy-Action Divide: Challenges and Prospects for Bangladesh”, to be held on February 22-24, 2013, at the Center for South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley, California. Researchers associated with the BDRC have been invited to present a total of 4 papers at the conference.

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 14,500 in January 2012 to over 19,800 at the end of December 2012. This bibliography is updated regularly, and continues to be freely available via a searchable web-application, available at: <http://creator.zoho.com/bdrcproject/bibliography>).

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 2012:

- 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.

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 14 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 during 2012 as new information became available.

II.4. Bangladesh Development Researchers

While no new lists have been created on Bangladesh Development Researchers in 2012, most of the following seven lists (provided by the BDRC) have been updated regularly during 2012:

- 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).]

By December 2012, the BDRC had identified 55 researchers (reflecting an increase by 10 percent) in the list of [Bangladesh's Top Development Researchers of the Millennium](#), defined as persons who have (co-) authored and/or (co-)edited at least 25 studies/reports within this Millennium.

II. 5. News

The content within this BDRC project contains the following four lists or links, which have been improved and enhanced during 2012:

- 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 2012, the most extensive additions have been made in the following four 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 in 2012:

- **BDRWPS No. 14 (January 2012)**
Urban Local Government and Environmental Management in Bangladesh: A Study on Chunarughat Paurashava
by *Mohammad Shahjahan Chowdhury and Purnendu Deb*
Also available at:
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1989936>
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/14.html>
- **BDRWPS No. 15 (July 2012)**
Why Highly Educated Women Face Potential Poverty: A Case Study in Dhaka, Bangladesh
by *Syeda Umme Jakera Malik*
Also available at:
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=2114700>
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/15.html>

All papers of the BDRWPS are published on the BDRC website and are also available through the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) website (<http://www.ssrn.com/>) and the Research Papers in Economics (RePEc) website (<http://repec.org/>). Based on RePEc's access statistics, an abstract of this Working Paper Series has been viewed more than 900 times in 2012, while a paper of this Working Paper Series was successfully downloaded some 200 times in 2012. On June 3, 2012, the BDRWPS had surpassed more than 1,000 paper downloads via RePEc as well as more than 1,000 paper downloads via the SSRN website since its inception in April 2008. 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 2012, 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_public_of_day.html for further details.

III.3. Hot Topics / Features

Created at the end of 2008, the BDRC's task on "Hot Topics / Features" was continued throughout 2012, 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 2012:

- February 23, 2012: Selima Ahmad wins 2012 IDB prize
- March 01, 2012: Bangladesh and UK sign MOU on renewable energy research
- March 16, 2012: How Bangladeshis are tricked to sell their kidneys
- April 5, 2012: Walmart launches groundbreaking initiative to empower women
- April 25, 2012: Ameerah Haq Appointed UN Under-Secretary-General
- Bangladesh Conference in February 2013: Call for Papers
- May 24, 2012: Early Childhood Education is a Strategic Investment for the Future
- June 13, 2012: Bangladesh faces a protracted political crisis
- July 18, 2012: UNESCO calls for investigation into murder of Bangladeshi journalist
- September 6, 2012: Global food situation: A threat for Bangladesh?
- September 15, 2012: Rights group blasts new value added tax (VAT) law
- Jibon Tari - A Floating Hospital for the Poor
- October 3, 2012: ADB releases its 2013-15 Country Operations Plan for Bangladesh
- November 3, 2012: Women on bikes bring the Internet to Bangladesh villages
- December 1, 2012: New HIV/AIDS infections are falling in Bangladesh
- December 5, 2012: Bangladesh is finding new ways to adapt to climate change
- December 20, 2012: Preparing a launching pad for industrialization

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

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