



## **Bangladesh Development Research Center (BDRC)**

# **2011 Research Report**

This 2011 Research Report summarizes the main research activities of the Bangladesh Development Research Center Inc. (BDRC) between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. The year 2011 constitutes the fourth full year of the BDRC existence, following its incorporation on January 5, 2007. The research undertaken in 2011 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 2011, the following four items were published by the BDRC and/or BDRC staff:

- Al-Hossienie, Chowdhury Abdullah (2011) “Socio-Economic Impact of Women Entrepreneurship in Sylhet City, Bangladesh”, Falls Church, VA: *Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS)*, BDRWPS No. 12 (July).
- Gunter, Bernhard G.; M. Sarwar Jahan; and A. F. M. Ataur Rahman (2011) “Papermaking from Jute: A Win-Win Solution for Bangladesh”, in Munir Quddus and Farida Khan (eds.) *Bangladesh Economy in the 21st Century: Selected Papers from the 2008-09 Conferences at Harvard University* (Dhaka: University Press Ltd.), Chapter 4.
- Gunter, Bernhard G.; A. F. M. Ataur Rahman; and Jesmin Rahman (2011) “Aid, Debt, and Development in Bangladesh: Synergies or Contradictions”, in Munir Quddus and Farida Khan (eds.) *Bangladesh Economy in the 21st Century: Selected Papers from the 2008-09 Conferences at Harvard University* (Dhaka: University Press Ltd.), Chapter 10.
- Sultana, Tamima (2011) “Expectations, Realities and Coping Strategies of Elderly Women in a Village of Bangladesh”, Falls Church, VA: *Bangladesh Development Research Working Paper Series (BDRWPS)*, BDRWPS No. 13 (December).

## 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 13,000 in January 2011 to about 14,500 at the end of December 2011. This bibliography is updated regularly, at least every three weeks. The BDRC has been working on improving the searchability of this bibliography across years by moving the whole bibliography to a new searchable web-application. This searchable web-application (now available at: <http://creator.zoho.com/bdrcproject/bibliography>) became fully operational on July 25, 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 2011:

- 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 2011 as new information became available.

## **II.4. Bangladesh Development Researchers**

While no new lists have been created on Bangladesh Development Researchers in 2011, most of the following seven lists (provided by the BDRC) have been updated regularly during 2011:

- 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 2011, the BDRC had identified 50 researchers 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 2011:

- 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 2011, 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 2011:

- **BDRWPS No. 12 (July 2011)**  
Socio-Economic Impact of Women Entrepreneurship in Sylhet City, Bangladesh  
*by Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Hossienie*  
Also available at:  
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1890681>  
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/12.html>
- **BDRWPS No. 13 (December 2011)**  
Expectations, Realities and Coping Strategies of Elderly Women in a Village of Bangladesh  
*by Tamima Sultana*  
Also available at:  
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1967283>  
<http://ideas.repec.org/p/bnr/wpaper/13.html>

All papers of the BDRWPS are published on the BDRC website and are also available through the Social Science Research Network 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 962 times in 2011, and 244 times a paper was successfully downloaded in 2011. 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 2011, 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](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 2011, 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 2011:

- Bangladesh in the 21st century: Democracy, Education and Economy
- HDI 2011: Despite progress, falling behind in relative terms
- December 1, 2011: Bangladesh makes progress with reducing corruption
- November 30, 2011: Germany wants stronger relations with Bangladesh
- October 12, 2011: Bangladesh makes large progress in reducing hunger
- Why do more girls survive in Bangladesh than India?
- August 25, 2011: World Bank approved a US\$300 million credit for PEDP III
- July 25, 2011: BDRC launches fully searchable Bibliography
- Tell Walmart: Intervene Before Labor Activists Are Sentenced to Death
- Domestic prices for rice grew by 21 percent since June 2010
- Bangladesh can teach us how best to adapt to rising sea levels
- March 25, 2011: Bangladesh judiciary is the top most corrupted sector
- March 13, 2011: Microfinance helped to reduce poverty in Bangladesh
- Feb. 24, 2011: World Bank approved a US\$1.2 billion credit for Padma Bridge
- February 12, 2011: Bangladesh on track with MDG5
- January 22, 2011: Opening of Banglabandha Land Port
- January 8, 2011: Energy experts vouched for alternative energy solutions

Please see [http://www.bangladeshstudies.org/task\\_features.html](http://www.bangladeshstudies.org/task_features.html) for further details on each of the above features.

#### **III.4. Bangladesh's Solar Powered Floating Schools**

In June 2011, the BDRC added a new Task on *Bangladesh's Solar Powered Floating Schools*, recognizing the innovation of solar powered floating schools in Bangladesh, which is credited to Mohammed Rezwan, a Bangladeshi architect who is known to have said: "if the children can't go to school, why can't the school go to them?"

This task also recognizes a documentary film, entitled "Easy Like Water", which promotes floating schools and educates the general public on the climate change related issues. In addition to the Task homepage, this task contains four sub-task websites on:

- Website links related to the documentary film "Easy Like Water"
- Mohammed Rezwan / Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha
- Other media on floating boats in Bangladesh
- Floating schools in other countries

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