Editor's Corner
The latest issue of the Newsletter focuses primarily on the progress made by MOMODa FOUNDATION in the field of research and consultancy. It also highlights our activities and developments for the month of September and October, 2018. The first article of the “Global Research” part of this issue focuses on the exit from poverty through labor market activities like maid work, agricultural activities and livestock rearing. The 2nd article of this part focuses on how the social development indicators helped to improve the human development thorough low cost solution and social mobilizations in Bangladesh. The “case study” focuses on the motivation and struggle lies of becoming a future professional in the global marketplace. The last part of this issue covers the events those happened in the month of September and October, 2018.

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Global Research

Labor markets and poverty in village economies

To exit from poverty, labor is all that the poor have and employing it in productive way is very much crucial. To achieve this goal in Bangladesh, BRAC designed an evaluation program titled Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) - also sometimes referred to as a graduation Program. The program is to provide ultra-poor women in Bangladesh with livestock assets suggests one-off interventions can be effective in fighting extreme poverty. To know more about the study, (Click Here).

Pathways to human development: Explaining the Bangladesh surprise

Bangladesh has achieved remarkably rapid progress in many social and human development indicators during the past few decades, especially since the early 1990s. Cross-country comparisons show that, in relation to per capita income, the country has transformed itself from being a laggard to a clear leader in many of the indicators of health, education and demographic outcomes. This transformation has been most remarkable in respect of infant and child mortality, female school enrolment, and in the reduction of the population growth rate through the adoption of modern birth control methods. To know more about the study, (Click Here).
Case Study

Women are no way lagging behind in the Freelancing Career; a tale of future professional in the global marketplace.

"When I was 14 and studying in the ninth grade, my father wanted me to get married. But I was not ready anyway to get married in such an early age. My brothers opposed my father's decision on my marriage and the marriage match-making agent has been reprimanded by my brothers for his inconsiderate initiative. Since then I am looking for an opportunity to make myself financially independent being in my locality"—said Kumkum Khatun.

Kumkum Khatun, a 22 year old girl who is pursuing her Diploma Course on Computer Science at the Gaibandha Polytechnic Institute, dreams to be an independent online freelancer. To fulfill her dream to be a freelancer, Kumkum recently started a freelancing course in Gaibandha which is being initiated under an online freelancing project named ‘Skin in the Game: Micro-equity and Mentorship for Online Freelancing based Micro-entrepreneurs in Bangladesh’. The project is being funded by Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDLIC). This is an experimental intervention, carried out by Dr. Abu Shonchoy (with Dr. Simon Quinn Mehrab Bakhtiar and Muhammad Meki). The intervention aims to introduce an innovative new micro-finance product, based on the principles of equity financing, in which promising potential entrepreneurs are provided with capital, training and mentorship to help them become online freelancers.

Kumkum lives with her parents at Raiti Narail, a village of Gaibandha District. She is very fond of writing and singing and she used to take part in different stage performance in various cultural functions. She also has some fame regarding the writing and already published two poetry books under a publication house. “From the very beginning of my secondary studies, I came to learn about computer and started dreaming of becoming a computer engineer. I am still on the track of becoming a computer engineer as I am studying on Computer science”—Kumkum Said.

Kumkum explains that she is from a middle class family and her father is doing nothing but farming on own land. She has two brothers who are working at private organizations in Dhaka. They bear the largest portion of their family expenses including her educational expenses. She realizes that the family expenses are increasing gradually with the expansion of her brother’s family and other related expenses. Taking into account her skills and interests she was looking for an opportunity to engage herself with something like IT related self-employment. She also realizes her responsibility to the family and wants to make financial contribution. Her family also wants to see her dream materialized. Meanwhile, one of her teacher conveyed the information regarding the current freelancing training course, initiated in Gaibandha by MOMODa FOUNDATION, in co-operation with Creative IT Institute and Gana Unnayan Kendra. She thought it could be the greatest opportunity as she is very inclined to digital arts. She wants to make cover design of her next published book by own. She also found the offered course to be suitable, as the content of the course met her requirements and was conducted by one of the most renowned IT farm called Creative IT.

Kukum added “Being an unmarried woman, it was obviously hard to convince my family about this training course. Since the training center is located almost 20 kilometer away from my home, my family members were concern about the traveling such long distance alone. I am so happy that I have been able to convince my family about this good thing. Now-a-days, many women in Bangladesh are coming forward to take freelancing as career. Women are no way lagging behind in this field. One of my acquaintances told me that if I prefer freelancing as my career, it will extend the opportunity to earn money by staying at home and it will create an opportunity to be self-independent”.

Kumkum further explains, “Every year the large number of people add themselves to the existing unemployed youths. This huge number of unemployed people exceeds the current job market demands lead to a higher unemployment rate. Freelancing would be the ideal platform for young people, who will not prefer 9 to 5 job as only form of employment. It also has greater potentials for young people living in the Northern part of Bangladesh. People are here sluggish and most of the time they are reluctant to work outside their home. Such kind of platform can create their earning opportunity staying at home. But it will require hard work and dedication. People, who are more inclined to technology, will find their earning opportunity easily using such kind of platform”.

Kumkum also added, “Many people are still against women's work. They can't imagine that women can make financial contribution to the family. But I do care only my family who also wants to see my dream of becoming an independent freelancer success. I believe in myself that one day people will praise me for my outstanding achievement as a freelancer”.

MOMODa FOUNDATION
Evidence • Advocacy • Action
To enhance the enforcement of child marriage laws in rural areas of Bangladesh, MOMODa FOUNDATION is implementing an intervention titled “Enhancing the Enforcement of Child Marriage Laws through Improved Birth Registration, Surveillance and Reporting”. This would be done by engaging primary school teachers to improve the system of birth registration, surveillance and reporting of potential case of child marriage. The project is being implemented in Gaibandha. MOMOMDa FOUNDATION, in this regard, recently organized a campaign on “Child Marriage Prevention Awareness and the Importance of Birth registration Certificate” at the three different secondary schools in Gaibandha.

A research team from Japan visited MOMODa FOUNDATION last month. The visit was scheduled from September 4-10, 2018. During the visit, the research team visited Foundation’s both Dhaka and Gaibandha office. The purpose of the visit was to carry out the feasibility study right before committing resources, time, or budget of the proposed project. Professor Kazushi Takahashi of Sofia University, was accompanied on this visit by Jun GOTO, Associate professor of Kobe University and two of their students. Their visit here in Gaibandha was generously co-ordinated by the Foundation’s Gaibandha team. This began with a productive meeting with SKS Foundation, a reputed NGO in Gaiabndha. In the following days, the team visited a number of fields in the Foundation’s operated area. They ended their Gaibandha visit by meeting with Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). On September 11, 2018 the research team visited Foundation’s Corporate Office in order to share their visit experiences in Gaibandha.

Dr. Momeo Makino visits MOMODa FOUNDATION

Dr. Momeo Makino is a Research Fellow of IDE-JETRO, Japan, visited the project area in Gaibandha. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the intervention on “Whether and How Role Model Encourages Female Labor Force Participation (FLFP)?” The intervention is being implemented in Gaibandha by MOMODa FOUNDATION, in co-operation with IDE-JETRO and Florida International University. Professor Momeo visited Bangladesh from September 22 to October 3, 2018. Her visit was scheduled for both Dhaka and Gaibandha. During her visit here in Gaibandha from September 23-28, Dr. Moomoeo visited several places like GUK garments training center, GUK engineering institute and Dariapur village to see whether the role model encourages FLFP in rural Bangladesh, and if so, how. During her visit, Professor Momeo also conducted a baseline questionnaire training to the Enumerators in MOMODa Gaibandha office. To share her visit experience to the FOUNDATION’s management team, Professor Momeo also visited MOMODa corporate office in Dhaka on October 2, 2018.