



NEWSLETTER

Volume 08, Issue 01 | January 2022 | Magh, 1428 BS

www.momodafoundation.org

Editor's Corner

Another year has passed. Some more time and inspiration have been added to our path to build a well-educated and prosperous nation. Corona's eye redness has decreased, the rate of infection and the number of deaths has decreased. After a long stalemate have re-opened office, courts, Industrial factories, schools, college, and Universities Vitality has returned to public life. The economy has returned to normal but the Corona has not yet departed from the world, the new type of Corona is Omicron has invaded the whole world again. The Corona Virus is now running at a faster pace than it was slowing down our lives. MOMODa FOUNDATION has taken up many challenges during the Corona period by adhering to proper hygiene norms and has continued its activities to implement the project in the new year, new initiatives. MOMODa FOUNDATION has been working since 2016 with the vow to take society forward by continuing education, child marriage, birth registration, freelancing training, social safety-net, livelihood, capacity building, women empowerment, women financial inclusion, skills development and job placement for youths, health and hygiene, nutrition and various social activities. It is also working in a planned and dedicated manner as a part of the society keeping in view this adversity - with a sense of responsibility, liability, and concentration. It is our sincere hope that the MOMODa FOUNDATION will move towards its goal with the right and sound work plan in the new normal times. To stay healthy and normal, everyone must adhere to the rules of hygiene, including wearing a mask. In the end, stay healthy, stay well. At the same time, continue to work hard to meet the challenges of a changing world and new realities.

Editor
Jahangir Alam

Inside this issue

- Message from Chairperson
- Financing Virtual Migration
- Surveillance of People's Livelihoods Before and After COVID-19: A Case Study of Bangladesh
- End-line Data Collection Surveys for a RCT on a Virtual Job Fair and Job Preference Signaling in ICT Sector
- Information Nudges and Telephonic Remedial Sessions to Prevent Learning Decay During COVID-19 in Bangladesh
- 5th Annual General Meeting
- Dhaka & Gaibandha Tour of Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy

Message from Chairperson

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah!

I am delighted to write this message for the 1st newsletter of 2022. The last 21 months have been a challenging time for everyone, particularly those who have lost relatives and friends or struggled with the health effects of COVID-19. Despite these challenges, the MOMODa FOUNDATION has successfully completed 05 projects and has been awarded 04 new projects during 2021. I am amazed and proud that the FOUNDATION is speedily getting momentum to cope with unprecedented times and everyone contributing to organizational success. I am also glad that the MOMODa FOUNDATION is on track to publish its regular bi-monthly Newsletter along with other regular activities on social and other media platforms.

I am fully confident that the MOMODa FOUNDATION will continue to succeed and thrive in the future.

Ma'Assalam
Md. Jasim Uddin
Chairperson
MOMODa FOUNDATION



MOMODa Research

Financing Virtual Migration

Freelancing Incubation in North Bangladesh

The northern region of Bangladesh is not well-connected with the large, urban labor markets of the capital city and has the lowest participation rate in the labor market. Bringing employment growth and entrepreneurship creation to this area is a top priority for MOMODa FOUNDATION, especially for females, who have few job opportunities, particularly in rural areas, given patriarchal social norms, purdah restrictions, and family obligations that hinder active labor force participation. MOMODa FOUNDATION and researchers from Oxford, Florida International University, and IFPRI are currently trailing an online freelancing platform that can enable many rural youths, especially female, to enter into online-based micro-entrepreneurship—the freedom to work from home and access to global clients to earn a competitive wage. Sarah Institution of E-Generation, a local implementing partner, is executing this project period March 2021 to February 2022.

The project specific components are:

1. An intensive online freelancer training program on employment, earnings, and other household outcomes of rural youth in North Bangladesh;
2. An income-sharing contract, in which clients repay the cost of training via income-sharing during the post-training internship;



Ms. Rokaiya Munni, Head of Marketing, Outsource Experts Ltd., giving training on Freelancing

3. Creation of an "online freelancer incubator," which provides post-training further mentoring to students through an extended internship and in particular to assist them in navigating the online marketplace and building their 'reputation'; and
4. The research will be conducted based on a randomized controlled trial (RCT) methodology.

In a previous pilot experience, MOMODa has developed expertise in implementing such a project, working with a local microfinance NGO and a local IT company with expertise in online-based freelance marketplace training.

The project will continue up to 30 April, 2022.

High-Frequency Data Collection

Surveillance of People's Livelihoods Before and After COVID-19: A Case Study of Bangladesh



Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy paid a visit to HFDC Project Field to Analer Chora in Gaibandha

to other times. Based on the data collected for this study, policymakers and researchers will determine new tasks that will help them overcome the vicious cycle of poverty. MOMODa FOUNDATION, as a research-oriented development organization, has been carrying out action research projects in association with the world's renowned institutions since 2011, with a vision of making the world a better place for all in which people irrespective of cast, creed, sex, color and religion could live in a society with reduced poverty and inequality.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented difficulties for human life around the world, the situation is much more severe in developing countries including Bangladesh. As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the changes and variations in the living standards of the poor people have been exacerbated since the onset of pre-and post-COVID-19 observation, especially those living on the banks of the river. The objective of this study is to provide ideas to the policymakers, various donor groups, and foreign non governmental organizations on the impact of year-on-year risks on the livelihoods of the poor people living other aim is to audit the use of consumer goods during the manga season so that people can save a portion of their income and get a double incentive during the manga season so that it can be equidistant.



Data collection of HFDC follow-up Survey

Specific components of the project are:

1. Sample Size: 180 households (HHs), 50% ultra-poor and 50% moderate-poor, in the Gaibandha district in Bangladesh.
2. Implementation of a follow-up survey: This bi-weekly survey is conducted in 6 villages. Of them, 3 from Char areas and 3 from the river basin.
3. Process of data collection: The HHs have been either visited or contacted via mobile phones repeatedly twice per month since September 2021. This will continue up to January 2022 to collect the detailed bi-weekly consumption data and economic shocks HHs face during that period.
4. Duration of the project: February 2022.

A team of researchers has launched a research project to assess the poverty and vulnerability of the poorest people in rural Bangladesh. The project is being implemented through the MOMODa FOUNDATION. The project is working to improve the living standards of rural poor agricultural households who are at risk of local survival due to seasonal hunger. To understand how their lives are changing, household data were collected twice a month in the 1st and 2nd phases of the HFDC project. Through more frequent data collection, this study seeks to understand more about how the changes in their income affect their consumption patterns. Moreover, this study observes how they deal with poverty during drought and flood seasons, and what steps they take at that time. Currently, the 3rd phase of the study is being conducted which includes a follow-up survey to collect data from the same household previously surveyed to capture the changes in their lifestyle due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The MOMODa FOUNDATION has been conducting research on the livelihood and risks of Char dwellers throughout the year. It is expected that the data collected in this research project and the scale-up of the subsequent project will help researchers and policymakers design possible interventions to help Char dwellers to escape from the vicious cycle of poverty.

End-line Data Collection Surveys for a RCT on a Virtual Job Fair and Job Preference Signaling in ICT Sector



A virtual meeting was held with the PI, Dr. Norihiko Matsuda

The ADB has chosen MOMODa FOUNDATION, which is a research-oriented development organization in Bangladesh, as the survey firm for its rich experience in project implementation in collaboration with international academic and research institutions. As the survey firm, the MOMODa Foundation, will conduct two end line surveys of employers and jobseekers. The project is now at Preparatory Phase. In this phase, an experienced survey team from the MOMODa is ready for a pilot testing for this study. Based on the pilot testing, the MOMODa Team will assess the procedure used for testing, check product readiness for full-scale implementation, better decision on time and resources allocation, target population's reaction to the study, and measuring success of the study. It will also give team a chance to practice activities they will use for usability test. Then 1st end-line survey (December 2021 -January 2022) and 2nd end-line survey (July-August 2022) will be conducted from 110 employers and 2560 jobseekers (1280 treatment and 1280 control) based on telephonic survey of the job seekers and in-person interviews of the employers. Project Investigator Dr. Norihiko Matsuda (left, top) from the Florida International University, USA joined in the discussion with Mr. Enamul Haque (middle, top) & Dr. Foyasal Khan (right, top) and Mr.H.M. Masudur Rahman (down) of the MOMODa FOUNDATION in one of the meetings at the preparatory phase for Online Job Fair End-line Surveys held on Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 5:45 pm through a virtual platform.

Despite several potential economic and social advantages especially during this Covid-19 pandemic time, virtual job fairs are rarely conducted in Bangladesh and other developing countries, and their effectiveness is unknown. Hence, by conducting a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) under the joint initiative between the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a Bangladeshi online job platform, Bdjobs.com, and a research team of Florida International University, this study aims to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of virtual job fairs in Bangladesh. Additionally, this study aims to evaluate the impacts of a job preference signaling mechanism that allows job applicants to credibly express their true interest to employers.

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

1. Objectives: The purpose of the study is to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of virtual job fairs and job preference signaling.
2. Sample Size: 110 employers and 2560 jobseekers who took part in the ICT virtual job fair organized jointly by Bdjobs.com, FIU and ADB.
3. Data Collection: 110 employers and 2560 jobseekers (1280 treatment and 1280 control) will participate in the study. 1st end-line survey will be conducted from December 2021 to January 2022 and 2nd end-line survey will be conducted from July to August 2022.
4. Outcome: this research will help improve future virtual job fairs and job search platforms.

Information Nudges and Telephonic Remedial Sessions to Prevent Learning Decay During COVID-19 in Bangladesh

COVID-19 has created unprecedented difficulties for the education sector in Bangladesh, as schools remain closed since March 2020. To tackle this crisis, Bangladesh has taken a multi-pronged approach—delivering education through the national terrestrial television. However, the uptake of these programs has been low among rural students. Through a randomized field experiment, this study aims to test the impact of regular and repetitive information nudges on televised programs' uptake—delivered by SMS (Short Message Service) and automated voice calls to households. A random sub-set of treated students will additionally receive regular telephone-based tutoring support. The learning impact will be measured utilizing exams and SMS-based spot quizzes with achievement rewards. This study will help understand effective solutions to reduce learning decay during the pandemic, which is scalable for both Bangladesh and other developing countries.



A training session at MOMODa project office, Gaibandha on the project understanding

MOMODa FOUNDATION, as a research-oriented development organization in Bangladesh, has rich experience in project implementation in collaboration with international academic and research institutions. The FOUNDATION has recently implemented 'Incentivizing School Attendance' project. In this continuation of success, a research team from the FOUNDATION will conduct this study coordinating with the local education department to connect with school headmasters to identify potential secondary schools and seek the agreements/consents from these schools to be part of the study. Then, the team will collect student details for this research before recruiting them and contact households over the phone to seek their informed consent for participation.

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

1. **Objectives:** This study aims to improve the learning outcomes or, at the least, prevent learning decay due to school closures during COVID-19.
2. **Sample Size:** This study sample will have 1,200 students attending grades 6 to 10 in four schools in the Gaibandha district in Bangladesh.
3. **Data Collection:** This study will implement simple information nudges through SMS and automated voice calls to increase viewership of Sangsad TV and live social medial classes for secondary school students.
4. **Outcome measures:** school continuation, attendance, and learning.
5. **Duration:** The project will continue up to September 2022.



Data collection of J-PAL Baseline Survey

MOMODa Events

5th Annual General Meeting

The Fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the MOMODa FOUNDATION was held at its corporate office in Dhaka on Thursday, 30th December 2021. Mr. Md Jasim Uddin, Chairman welcomed and inaugurated the 5th AGM. Mr. Enamul Haque, Executive Director discussed in detail the organizational progress of the last assessment year 2021 and apprised the plan for the year 2022. At the meeting, all ongoing and phased-out projects in the year 2021 were discussed. The Leads of each project also contributed to the discussion and briefly shared the activities and financial status of the project. In addition, the General Committee members discussed the success and failures of the organization in the past years. The FOUNDATION appreciated the "Best Performance Award 2021" for the commitment, hard work, and dedication of its Best Employees. In addition to the members of the Executive Committee, the members of the General Committee have joined the AGM both in-person and virtually. All stakeholders have promised to take the organization to the next level overcoming the present challenges. Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Vice Chairman, gave optimistic closing remarks and concluded the AGM.



Dhaka Tour of Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy

Sunday, 12 December 2021

The corporate office of MOMODa FOUNDATION in Dhaka hosted an exchange of views on Sunday, 12th December 2021 with Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Associate Professor of Economics at Florida International University. Mr. Jasim Uddin, the chairperson of MOMODa FOUNDATION welcomed him. On behalf of the MOMODa, Mr. Enaumul Haque, Executive Director, briefed Dr. Shonchoy on the current status of MOMODa FOUNDATION as a research NGO and its challenges. Dr. Shonchoy also shared his observations and gave some directions for future progress. Also, he spoke to each MOMODa Staff one by one and discussed how everyone from their respective positions could contribute to the progress of the MOMODa FOUNDATION.



Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, PhD. discussed some observations with the research team at the MOMODa FOUNDATION's corporate office, Dhaka

Monday, 13 December 2021

The corporate office of MOMODa FOUNDATION in Dhaka hosted an exchange of views on Monday, 13th December 2021 with Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor of Economics at University of Dhaka (on leave), and Professor, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Associate Professor of Economics at Florida International University. Mr. Jasim Uddin, the chairperson of MOMODa FOUNDATION welcomed them. They sat in a meeting with MOMODa Staff in the meeting room of the office and discussed on the upcoming project entitled "THRIFT" (Transforming Households with Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology) based on the clinical research Trial in which MOMODa FOUNDATION is an implementing partner. Dr. Shonchoy discussed the design of the project while Dr. Rabbani discussed in details how the trials will be conducted in Bangladesh. This project involves seven parties. Beside MOMODa FOUNDATION, others are: The Queen's University Of Belfast, Clearly Initiatives, Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation, James P. Grant School of Public Health, Visionspring, Good Business Labs, and University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

Monday, 3 January 2022

Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy delivered a seminar on "Research and Higher Studies Aspects in Applied Economics" on Monday, January 03, 2022 organized by the Institute of Health Economics - IHE, University of Dhaka. The seminar began at 2.30 with the introductory remark by Dr. Shafiun Shimul, Associate Professor of Health Economics at University of Dhaka. About 80 students took part in this interactive discussion. Dr. Shonchoy has inspired young students to work hard to make their mark in the world of research. At the end of the seminar, Dr. Shonchoy was given a crest.

The MOMODa FOUNDATION is currently implementing a randomized control trial (RCT)-based project on information nudges and telephonic remedial sessions to prevent learning decay during COVID-19 in Bangladesh. To this end, the MOMODa regularly collects the schedule of "Amar Ghore Amar School" that is Sangsad TV Online Class for School students from the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), Dhaka. Recently, Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy met with Dr. Prabir Kumar Bhattcharjee, Director (Training), DSHE at his office in Dhaka. During this exchange of views, Dr. Shonchoy spoke briefly about the results of his research on education in Bangladesh. Expressing his satisfaction to Dr. Bhattcharjee, he requested him to continue his cooperation with MOMODa FOUNDATION.

Challenges of MOMODa FOUNDATION and Prospects of New Year

MOMODa FOUNDATION as a non-profit organization experiencing a pair of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, it goes without saying that funding is the toughest challenge to confront, especially with respect to the point that continuous funding sources for the sustainable growth of the organization. As well as funding, a subsequent category would be something like limited network or connections which cause not being successful in managing fund from both local and international donors. Another form of roadblock worth mentioning could be that we do not able to have a clear strategic plan and long term goals. However, MOMODa FOUNDATION started to develop its strategic plan to encounter future challenges and side by side we are putting our best to build a network in local and international arena. The unique aspect is that Executive Committee of MOMODa also working sincerely to revive a positive image of the organization. With this connection, we are developing a new resource pool, consultants, advisers, and connecting donors' network. We strongly believe that challenges become insignificant when passion is involved with our long time goal and achievement. We are highly optimistic and passionate to have the great year 2021 for MOMODa FOUNDATION.



Visit of Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy at Project Office, Gaibandha

Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Associate Professor of Economics at Florida International University (FIU) has made a four days long visit at the project office of MOMODa FOUNDATION at Gaibandha from 26 to 29 December, 2021. During this visit, several field visits have been organized by the project office where Dr. Sonchoy took part and observed the overall progress of the ongoing projects included J-PAL Project, HFDC Project, GCC Project, UDC Project, FLFP Project, and Freelancing Project. Dr. Sonchoy also participated in several group discussions with project's beneficiaries and exchanged views on different aspect of project. Some of the pictures of this trip have been provided in below-



The parents of the students took part in a group meeting with the Dr. Sonchoy and the research team of MOMODa FOUNDATION at Badiakhali, Gaibandha on December 27, 2021 under J-PAL Project.



Dr. Abu S. Sonchoy has visited the Vorotkhali UP and exchanged views with the UP Secretary and entrepreneur of the GCC project on 27th December 2021. Opinion of the participants has been taken regarding how birth registration process can be easier for the community people.

Dr. Abu S. Sonchoy and the research team of the MOMODa FOUNDATION visited Sadullapur Upazila, Gaibandha and participated in a meeting with 'parents' groups' of the participants of FLFP project on December 27th, 2021.



Dr. Sonchoy has visited Sarah Institute, Gaibandha for looking over the ongoing training program and collected the opinion of the trainee students on December 28, 2021. An exchanged view program also took place with the management of Institute.



Annual picnic of the MOMODa's Project office has been held on December 29, 2021 at SKS Inn. All the staffs of project office took part in this event with their family members. Dr. Abu S. Sonchoy was also present in this glorious event of MOMODa. A short cultural program has also been placed here.

A group visit has been organized at the Char Hasilkandi, Saghata Upazila for GCC project on December 27, 2021. Dr. Abu S. Sonchoy and the research team of MOMODa FOUNDATION have participated in this meeting and exchanged view with the beneficiaries and their parents.



A group meeting has been organized in the Ramnather Vita, Badiakhali with the participation of the beneficiaries of J-PAL Project on 27th December 2021. Dr. Sonchoy asked the participants about the problems related to their study during this COVID pandemic.



The project office of MOMODa FOUNDATION in Gaibandha hosted a field visit at Piarapur School under JPAL Project. Dr. Abu S. Sonchoy has taken part in a group discussion with the teachers of this school.



As the part of the picnic day, a cricket match has been held and the champion team celebrated their joys.

Editorial Body

Chairperson

Md. Jasim Uddin
MOMODa FOUNDATION

Members

Md. Enamul Haque (Enam)

Executive Director, MF

H. M. Masudur Rahman

Project Coordinator, MF

Dr. Fayasal Khan

Research Coordinator, MF

Md. Rahidul Islam

Manager (Research), MF

Jahangir Alam

Assistant Manager (Research), MF

Advisors

Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, PhD

Associate Professor of Economics
Florida International University (FIU)
&

Dr. ASM Shihavuddin

Chairperson, Department of EEE

Director, CETL

Green University of Bangladesh

Published By

Research Department
MOMODa FOUNDATION

Designed By

Farhana Islam

Web Address

www.momodafoundation.org

Email

momodafoundation@gmail.com

Mobile

+88 017 11 59 04 16