



# NEWSLETTER

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## Editor's Corner

May Day, an unforgettable day for the establishment of the rights of working people. The workers are the only source of strength to develop and enrich the society and the state from the existing situation. Workers play the most significant role in the economic movement of the state. We hope that the non-communal and humane consciousness of Bengalis irrespective of race, religion, and caste will spread all over the world. The recent situation in Ukraine & Russia, and Sri Lanka has given rise to new discussions and equations in the politics and economy of Bangladesh. Questions have also been raised about the economic future. But overcoming hundreds of obstacles, we have already achieved a 100% electricity milestone, and the much-criticized Padma Bridge is going to be opening. Such progress in the country will continue - this is our expectation. Along with the present government, the MOMODa FOUNDATION is working indirectly to lead this education, child marriage, employment through training of women, and deprivation of facilities in the country. In the ongoing competitive world, the MOMODa FOUNDATION continues to contribute to the advancement of society. After a long month of fasting, Eid brings joy to the Muslim community. Wish the atmosphere of self-purification, restraint, and harmony to prevail through the indescribable joy of Eid-ul-Fitr. I'm delighted that the MOMODa FOUNDATION continues to publish bi-monthly newsletters. This year's volume (V-10) has highlighted the activities of some of the implemented projects as well as the proper work plan for the new projects. This is our expectation that the MOMODa FOUNDATION will move towards its own goal. Finally, the inspiration of May Day, the duality of rights and festivities, let the divisions of friendship and sociability shine in the lives of all, rich and poor, irrespective of religion and caste. Hope everyone's safe, normal working life is developed!

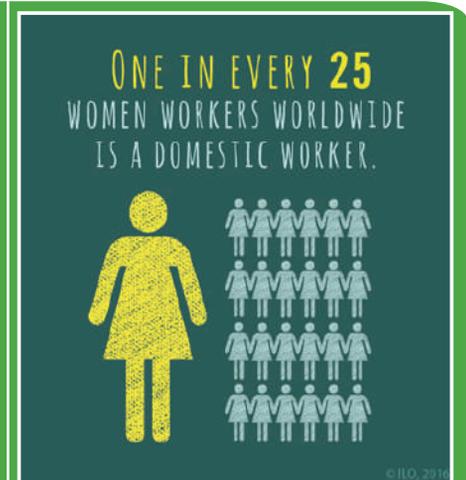
Editor  
Jahangir Alam

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## MOMODa Partnered with WB to Conduct Research on Digital Labor Platforms and Conditions

MOMODa FOUNDATION has become a partner with The World Bank (WB) very first time ever to work with a research project titled "Digital Labor Platforms and Conditions". The project seeks to understand the effects of a skills training program and access to a digital labor platform on the employment and well-being outcomes of female domestic workers in Bangladesh. This activity is part of an impact evaluation led by the South Asia Chief Economist Office (SARCE) examining the effects of participating in Oxfam's Securing Rights Women's Soft and Hard Skills Empowerment Training and/or information on how to sign-up for the HelloTask app that provides access to new employment opportunities. MOMODa agreed to provide consultancy services for the project. The objective of this consultancy is to conduct two rounds of quantitative surveys with approximately 4,000 female domestic workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The first round will be the baseline and the second round the endline, which will take place approximately 1 year after the baseline. The quantitative surveys will take place in person using surveyCTO digital platform.



MOMODa is preparing the survey protocol, data management protocol, questionnaire translation, training plan, and surveyCTO design. The baseline survey is scheduled from July to August 2022 and Endline survey from August to September 2023. Four members trained and experienced senior research team will work on this project. MOMODa will hire 36 female Enumerators and 06 female Supervisors to conduct baseline data collection. MOMODa FOUNDATION is optimistic to bring quality outcomes with its dedication and sincerity.



# MOMODa Research

## MOMODa will conduct a Collaborative Reserach with BRAC University on RMG Sector



MOMODa Foundation in collaboration with BRAC University aims to conduct a research project in RMG Sector. The basic objective of the project is to identify the dropout rates of RMG worker's and the reason behind them. Data will be collected from a total of 150 RMG factories about the workers drop out and related issues. A total of 300 RMG workers will be interviewed where 100 will be current RMG workers, 100 will be dropped out RMG workers and 100 will be potential RMG workers. Both the samples will be chosen from the following four districts: Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayangonj, and Chattagram. Prof. Dr. Shahidur Rahman, BRAC University is the Principal Investigator of the project. Mr. Enamul Haque and Mr. Bulbul Islam were assigned as Project Managers and Research Associates respectively. A total of 10 trained and skilled enumerators will work for data collection. The project planned for a three days training and test prior to starting the survey. SurveyCTO platform will be used for data collection. MOMODa Foundation will maintain standard survey protocol and COVID safety procedures while collecting data from factories and workers. At the end of the survey, MOMODa will submit clean data set to the Principal Investigator.

## Evaluate the Effectiveness of Virtual Job Fairs (ICT Sector) in Bangladesh

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 Bangladesh online job platform, Bdjobs.com, and a research team of Florida International University (FIU), 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 interests to employers. 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 job seekers. In the first phase of the project, an experienced survey team from the MOMODa is ready for 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 decisions on time and resources allocation, target population's reaction to the study, and measure the success of the study. It will also give the team a chance to practice activities they will use for a usability



test. The number of total 2560 employer surveys were completed which is 94.18% of the total sample. The ADB has extended this project's second phase by 2000 employers who took part in the ICT virtual job fair organized jointly by Bdjobs.com, FIU, and ADB. In this phase ,the 1st end-line survey has been conducted from July 2022 to August 2022 and 2nd end-line survey will be conducted from January 2023 to February 2023. The purpose of the study is to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of virtual job fairs, and job preference signaling. Project Investigator Dr. Norihiko Matsuda from the Florida International University (FIU), USA find out this research will help and improve future virtual job fairs and job search platforms.

## MOMODa Organized Session on "Key Role of Community Informant" under FLFP project



MOMODa FOUNDATION conducted six sessions titled "Key role of the community informant" for the community informant of the FLFP project. A total of 151 community informants from various Gaibandha district villages, or nearly 79 percent of the total community informants, participated in these sessions. Two of the six sessions were for the control group, while the remaining four were for the community informant of treatment groups. The entire meeting took place in the lecture room of the MOMODa project headquarters in Gaibandha. In these sessions, the MOMODa provides a comprehensive presentation on the role and responsibilities of the community informant. The attendees were also given information regarding two new training institutes in addition to GUK, Gaibandha especially Gaibandha Vocational Training Centre and Sarah Institute of E-generation, as well as their ongoing training programs. In addition, attendees were encouraged to ask any questions they had encountered while working in the neighborhood. Since 2019, MOMODa FOUNDATION in conjunction with IDE-JETRO and Florida International University has been conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in Gaibandha on "Whether and How Role Model Encourages Female Labor Force Participation (FLFP)?"



## THRIFT will Examine the Impact of Eyeglasses & Financial Inclusion for Older Adults in Bangladesh

THRIFT stands for Transforming Households through Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology. THRIFT capitalizes on the Bangladesh government's plan to digitize all social safety net payments to the elderly by providing free glasses and training to help older adults use smartphones and improve their financial independence. Research shows that 75 percent of potential recipients of old-age social safety net payments in Bangladesh cannot use a smart phone due to vision problems. The idea behind THRIFT is simply to provide glasses and basic smartphone training to elderly recipients of old age payments in Bangladesh. The trial will then compare the financial independence of people who receive a smartphone alongside glasses and training with a control group who receive a smartphone alone. It is a multi-stakeholder research project. The ENGINE studies is funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation. The chief investigator on the ENGINE studies are Professor Nathan Congdon of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in the UK. The co-investigators are Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientists, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH) in Bangladesh, Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Associate Professor of Economics, Florida International University (FIU),



and Professor Rohit Khanna of the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in India. All kinds of protocols, procedures and survey instruments already have been developed. We are ready to move to the field for a formative study first from July 2022. The tentative schedule of screening from November 2022 and baseline study from December 2022. The MOMODa Foundation estimates that we need to reach out to about 2000 households to select 480 eligible participants for the project.

## The Impacts of Climate Change Induced Salinization on Worker Productivity in Jute Mills in Bangladesh



The objective of this study is to understand the public health and economic impacts of climate change-induced salinization in Bangladesh by investigating the impacts of drinking saline water on the productivity of factory workers through the intermediating mechanism of hypertension. The study may help us to explore the consequences better—facilitating appropriate planning for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. We know from available

research that the sea level may be elevated by a meter or more by the end of the twenty-first century—potentially making one billion people vulnerable. While climate change research predominantly focused on inundation and damages from surges and hurricanes, slow and steady threats like salinity from seawater intrusion could be another vital terror worth consideration. Groundwater salinity has important consequences on livelihoods and could potentially create public health hazards through its impacts on agriculture, aquaculture, infrastructure, coastal ecosystems, and the availability of fresh water for household and commercial use. The project has been designed to conduct primary data from 12 Jute Mills, conduct a baseline survey of 600 (100 workers X 6 jute mills) Jute mills workers, high frequent data collection of workers blood pressure & pulse and salinity of workers drinking water. After 12 months there will be an endline survey to understand the variation of salinity and workers' productivity. The research team already have collected primary data from 12 jute mills located in the Khulna district. The research team has visited three jute mills and gained the understanding of the process flow of production. According to the plan a year-round high frequent data MOMODa FOUNDATION will be collected for comparative study to measure the variation of productivity and health status in comparison to salinity. The timeline of the study is July 2022 to June 2023.

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

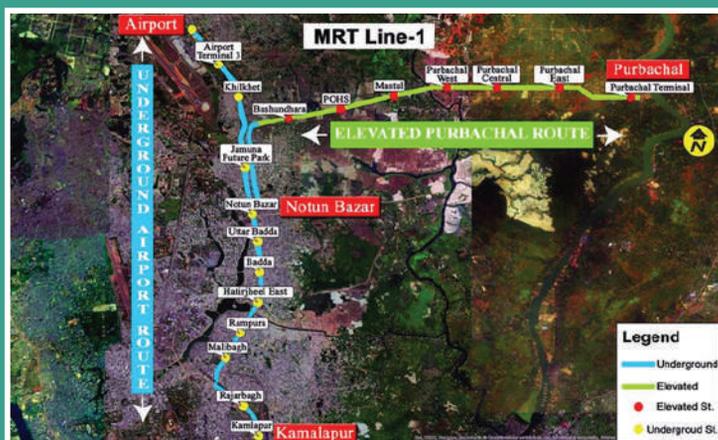
MOMODa FOUNDATION began sending weekly text SMS and voice calls to students or their parents over the Mobile phone from November 2021 as part of the project "Information Nudges to Prevent Learning Decay During Covid-19 in Bangladesh," funded by J-PAL (Jamil Poverty Action Lab), in order to overcome the Learning Gap and Learning Decay that resulted from the school closing for more than 500 days for COVID-19. 1200 students from four schools are getting SMS or/and quizzes as part of this initiative. 600 students were among the 1200 who got the weekly text SMS and phone call. The weekly text SMS and voice calls are related to (a) sharing their subjective teacher's phone number, as they can communicate with their teachers and solve their subjective problems by calling or sending an SMS to their phone numbers, and (b) sharing educational-related content links from Facebook, YouTube, and other sources. (b) presenting some prior study results that motivate pupils to attend school, and (d) presenting the Sangshad TV education program schedule as a grade. Aside from the weekly text SMS and voice contact, all 1200 students have been receiving monthly quiz SMS in English Grammar and Mathematics from their textbooks from December 2021. The goal of delivering text SMS, phone calls, and quizzes is to keep them studying and minimize the number of people who drop out of school. Students have received a total of 26 nudges SMS and phone calls till May 24, 2022. The project's midline survey, on the other hand, will be performed among students in June 2022. Prior to that, a total of 114 students from various grades (10 percent from each grade) would be awarded a reward under this initiative based on their performance on a monthly quiz on English Grammar and Mathematic sent to their mobile phone through SMS.

# Phone Call Survey Conducted for Cross Checking the Marital Status of the Respondents

A phone survey was done to verify the current marital status of GCC project respondents who were reported unmarried during the endline survey in November 2021. During the end-of-year survey, a total of 2090 girls were discovered to be unmarried. In that situation, six people were contacted to obtain information on the respondents' current marital status: one of their HHs, one of their neighbors, one of their teachers, and three of their friends. In addition, data on the respondents' current school enrolment status was gathered. The analysis is currently underway following the completion of the phone survey. MOMODa FOUNDATION and Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) created an intervention "to improve the system of surveillance and reporting of potential cases of child marriage in rural areas of Bangladesh through improving birth registration and community surveillance, support" that also aimed to improve the system of surveillance and reporting of potential cases of child marriage by involving primary school teachers. Grand Challenges Canada (GCC), a Canadian government initiative, is funding this research.

## Economic Impacts of Dhaka Metro Rail Project in Bangladesh

Metro Rail is basically a rapid transit system that is widely used in many major cities of the world. The Dhaka Metro Rapid Transit (MRT) is a new metro rail system in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The public transport system will aid in the economic and social development of the greater Dhaka area, which is facing traffic congestion and pollution issues. Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Associate Professor, Florida International University (FIU), USA, and Tomoki FUJII, Associate Professor, Singapore Management University planned to do a research project. The project title is "Economics and welfare impact of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit System (Metro Rail)". There are two types of transportation systems in the Dhaka Metropolitan area. One is affordable means of transportation, including public buses, Lagunas, and rickshaws. However, people struggle while using this type of transportation for a variety of factors, including excessive traffic congestion and overcrowding. On the other hand, CNG and taxi cab services are also available as public transportation, but they are pricey. Aside from that, many people use private vehicles for transportation, yet this is not an accessible option for everyone. Metrorail will provide a convenient transportation service for those who cannot afford the expensive public transit and are continually suffering due to the lack of affordable transportation.



MOMODa Foundation is an implementation partner of this project. Now MOMODa Foundation was going to start a data collection pilot test for this project at end of the May 2022. To understare the data collection nature, time-consuming level, and find out the project implementation challenges the project. After the complete pilot test MOMODa Foundation will go to the main project work.

# MOMODa Events

### IFPRI Country Representative Visits MOMODa FOUNDATION



Mehrab Bakhtiar is an Acting Country Representative, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) visited the MOMODa FOUNDATION Project Office, Gaibandha on May 21, 2022 and talked to the participants of the Freelancing (Financing Virtual Migration for High-growth Microentrepreneur) project about various income related issues.

### ENGINE Research Collaboration Meeting

MOMODa FOUNDATION has become one of the partners of Queen's University of Belfast to implement the THRIFT (Transforming Households through Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology) research project. Again, THRIFT is a part of ENGINE (Eyecare Nurtures Good-health, Innovation, drivinG-safety, and Education) is the first research project to explore how eyecare can drive progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Supported by the Wellcome Trust and the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation, ENGINE will deliver four novel trials in four countries through the work of 29 organizations. Knowledge gathered from these trials has the potential to improve the lives of millions of children, teens, adults, and elders. ENGINE will apply a single low-cost intervention, glasses, to overcome the largest unaddressed disability in the world, vision loss. ENGINE will transform lives by creating safer roads for all, financial independence and healthy ageing for the elderly, and smart schooling for children. Since this is a multi-stakeholder project, all PIs, Researchers, and Project Management personnel are meeting virtually once a week to keep updated about the project's progress. Besides, bidirectional learning sessions are also taking place fortnightly with a view to the joy of learning from each other and together.

## MOMODa Organized a Capacity Development Workshop on Communication and Management

Workshops are a great way to learn new skills that can be applied in everyday life. They offer a variety of topics that can provide the knowledge needed for a person's career or business. The workshops also have a component of group sessions that allow participants to share their experiences with others and learn from each other. The Capacity Development Workshop offers a number of workshops and group sessions to help you achieve your goals. These workshops are designed to help you develop your skills in various areas. Whether it is in career, family, or business. As a part of regular capacity development, MOMODa FOUNDATION organized a workshop on 25 May 2022 titled Communication and Management. Mr. Enamul Haque, Executive Director presented as the keynote speaker in the workshop from Corporate Office in Dhaka. All management-level officials have joined the workshop physically from the corporate office and virtually from the project office. The speaker outlined the role of communication and how to make the effective communication. He also explained the relationship between communication and management. After the keynote presentation, Mr. Jasim Uddin, Chairman made his valuable speech about his lifelong experience and emphasis to improve communication. There was a general discussion followed by a questioning and answering session. Then the program ends with a vote thanks to and from the keynote speaker.

## Meeting with BRAC University Research Team

That Readymade Garment (RMG), the country's largest foreign currency-earning sector, has so far been running without a precise and dependable set of data on its workforce and other relevant information is most unfortunate. Happily, a belated attempt has been made to get over the inadequacy. MOMODa research team had a meeting with BRAC University Research Team on 26 April 2022 at BRAC University Office with an aim to take part in a collaborative research project. At first, Prof. Dr. Shahidur Rahman briefed the potential research project opportunity. He mentioned the basic objective of the project is to identify the dropout rates of RMG workers and the reason behind it. The income of at least one-third of the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) workers interviewed for a study dropped 53% due to the Covid-19 pandemic, compared to 2019. The findings were revealed as part of rapid analysis of Bangladesh's RMG sector. The purpose of the study was to know the extent to which Covid-19 affected workers' empowerment through the RMG factories in Bangladesh. Specifically, key inquiries were employment, working hours and earnings, access to social protection, workplace safety, women's voice, and representation. Thereafter, Mr. Enamul Haque, Executive Director contributed to the discussion. Mr. Bulbul Islam, Research Manager explained how MOMODa conducts surveys using surveyCTO and quality assurance matters. The meeting has come to an end with a commitment that MOMODa and BRAC University will work together on the RMG Employers and Workers Survey Project.

## Meeting with BJSa Secretary General

A high official MOMODa team had a meeting with the Secretary-General of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJSa) at his office on 09 May 2022. Mr. Jasim Uddin, Chairman greeted the Secretary-General Mr. Pranab Chakraborty and informed him about MOMODa research activities. Later, Mr. Enamul Haque, Executive Director discussed elaborately salinity and productivity research. He explained the involvement of the jute mills and how they will be benefitted from the project. BJSa Secretary-General appreciates MOMODa for taking the research initiative. He is also hopeful that this project will be able to develop a productivity measurement system which will certainly help management decisions for production planning.

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