

MOMODa FOUNDATION

March, 2024

VOLUME
17



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Editor's Note

As we embrace the vibrant colors of spring and commemorate the spirit of independence, I am delighted to welcome you to the 17th edition of our newsletter. March marks a significant period for celebration and reflection, as we honor our nation's Independence Day on March.

In this edition, we pay homage to the resilience and determination that characterize these historic occasions. Just as the blooming flowers of spring signify renewal and growth, so too do these moments of remembrance remind us of the progress we have made and the challenges we continue to overcome.

Over the years, MOMODa FOUNDATION has been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive and equitable society. We have collaborated with numerous partners to conduct extensive research on a wide range of issues, including climate change, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, gender equality, entrepreneurship, and many more. Through our research, we aim to drive meaningful change and improve the lives of individuals and families across our region.

At MOMODa FOUNDATION, our commitment to positive change remains unwavering. Through research-driven initiatives and partnerships, we continue to address critical social issues and empower communities. From supporting women's empowerment programs to promoting education and economic opportunity, we strive to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

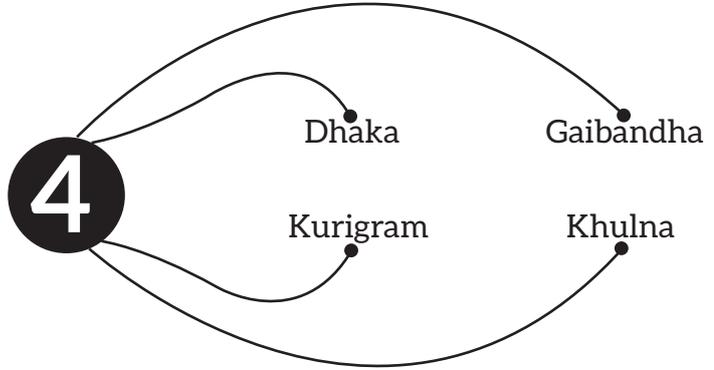
As we reflect on our journey and look to the future, let us seize the opportunities that spring offers us for growth and transformation. Together, let us honor the legacy of those who came before us and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.



Shanzida Faisal
Editor

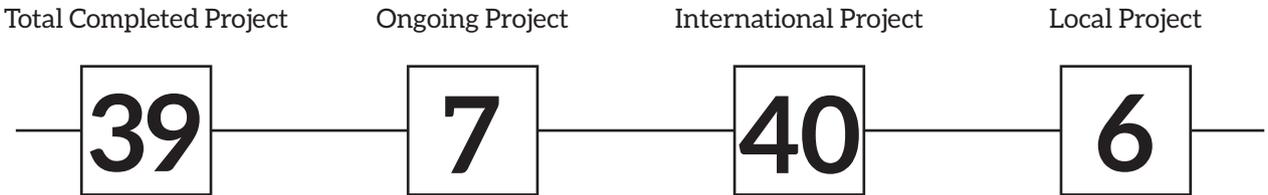
MOMODa AT A GLANCE

MOMODa Office



Employees

- 37 Research team members
- 25 Full-Time Surveyors
- 200 Freelance Surveyors



Affiliated funding organizations

15

Affiliated academic institutions

18

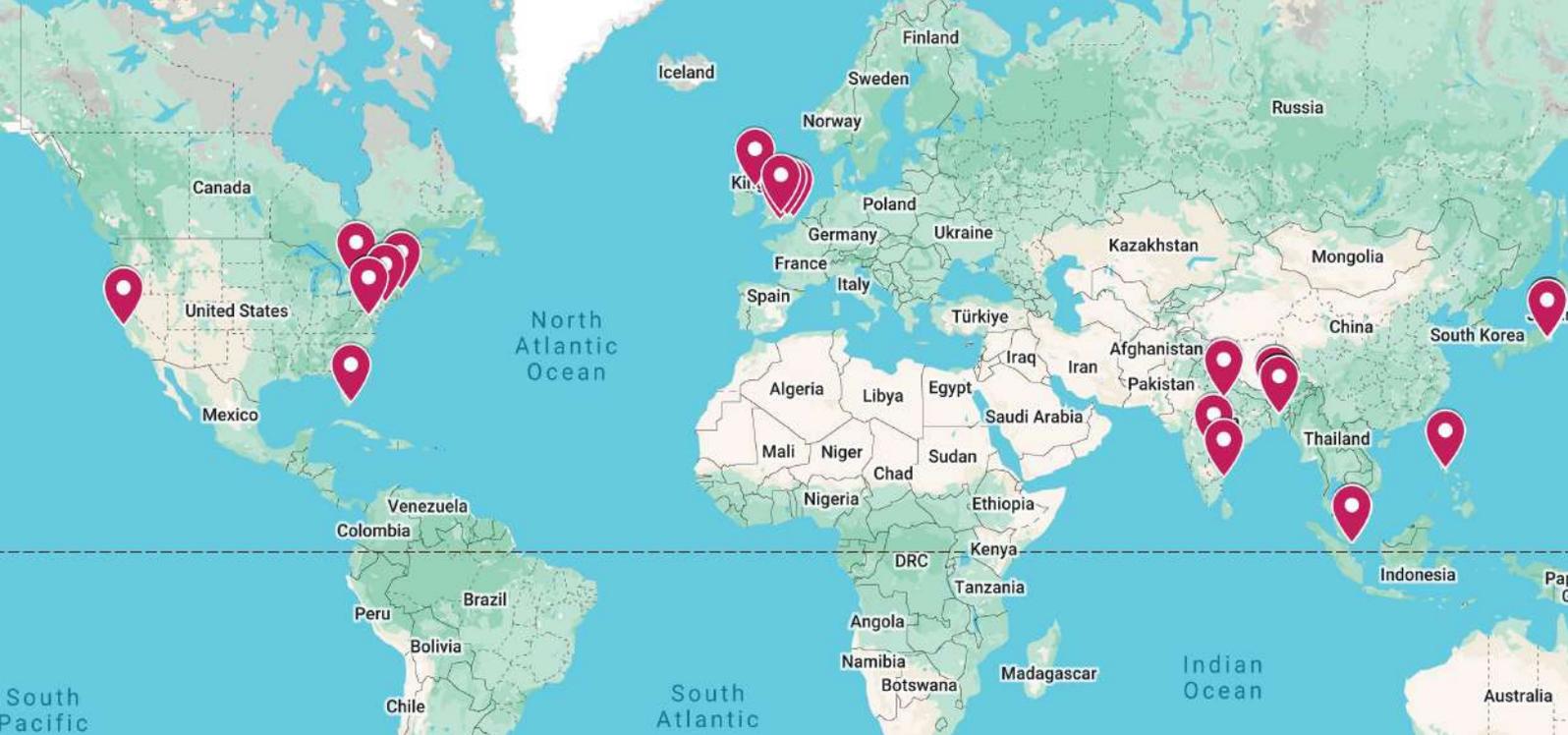
Our activities have impacted the lives of nearly

56000
people across Bangladesh



Partners

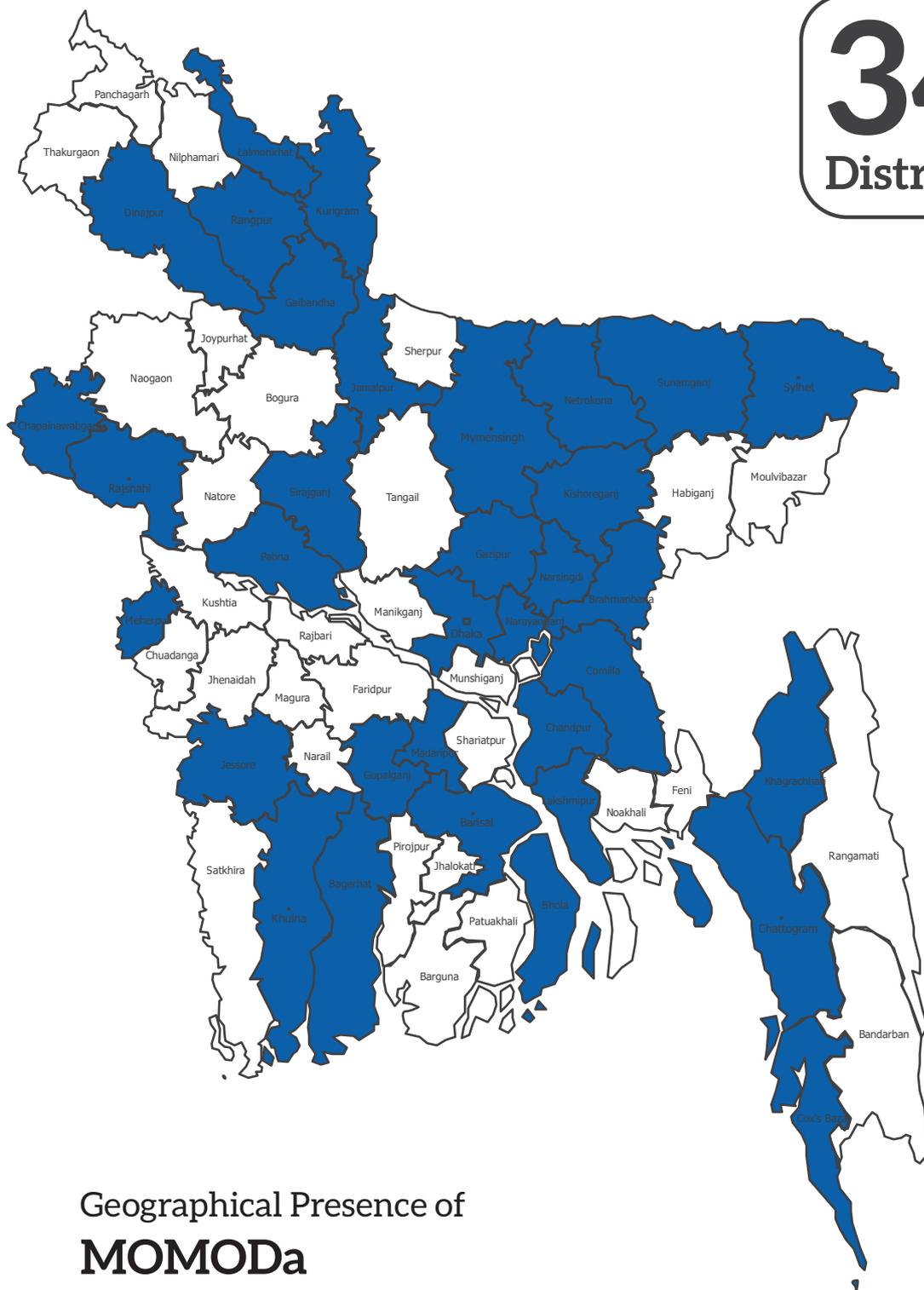
MOMODa FOUNDATION has been working in both rural and urban Bangladesh since 2011. Along with seven ongoing projects, it has successfully implemented several action research projects with renowned academic and research institutions and funding partners with active collaboration with local public and non-government organizations. The FOUNDATION aims to build a better world by intervening comprehensively. To provide an effective platform for foreigners to initiate collaborative research, market, and investment communication with local public, private, and NGO communities by ensuring smooth and secured travel arrangements, scheduling business meetings, and supporting legal and administrative issues in Bangladesh. Major projects that have been done by MOMODa are in the field of migration, skill development, education, early marriage, violence against women, health & sanitation, energy, micro-finance and financial inclusion, etc.



Geographical Presence of our Partners

	<p>BRAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh ADAB , Dhaka, Bangladesh SANEM, Dhaka, Bangladesh Metakave, Dhaka, Bangladesh VisionSpring, Dhaka, Bangladesh Brac University, Dhaka, Bangladesh Ganna Unnayon Kendra (GUK), Gaibandha, Bangladesh Sarah Institute of E-Generation, Gaibandha, Bangladesh BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh Gaibandha Rural Development Foundation, Gaibandha, Bangladesh</p>
	<p>New York University, USA The World Bank, Washington, D.C, USA Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA Women's World Banking, New York, USA University of Maryland, College Park, USA Florida International University, Florida, USA Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Washington, USA Massachusetts Institute of Technology: MIT, Cambridge, MA USA Stanford University, Stanford, California, United State Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., United State</p>
	<p>University of Oxford, UK IGC, Houghton Street, UK Southampton University, UK University of Kent, Canterbury, UK Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK</p>
	<p>Sopia University, Japan IDE-JERTO, Chiba, Japan The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan</p>
	<p>IFMR-LEAD, India IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India</p>
	<p>National University, Singapore Singapore Management University, Singapore</p>
	<p>Grand Challenges Canada, Toronto, Canada</p>
	<p>Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong, Philippines</p>
	<p>ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal</p>

MOMODa PROJECTS



34
Districts

Geographical Presence of
MOMODa

Delaying Early Pregnancy among Adolescents in Gaibandha District, Bangladesh

About 70% of girls in the Gaibandha District get married at very early age, and 64% of them get pregnant before turning 18, which raises serious concerns such as newborn and mother mortality. To address this, the MOMODa FOUNDATION is working with Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) and Florida International University (FIU) to execute a project that will delay adolescent pregnancy among those in the 14–17 age range, even in cases where early marriage has a place. The program entails distributing information on sexual and reproductive health, delivering kits and pills for contraception, and providing free consultations.

The MOMODa FOUNDATION is presently engaged in implementing monthly sessions aimed at enhancing the knowledge and awareness levels of adolescent girls concerning matters pertaining to sexual and reproductive health from February 2024. This initiative forms an integral component of the intervention program within the broader framework of the ongoing research project. Before commencing the monthly sessions, MOMODa formed 60 Kishori Clubs (clubs for adolescent girls) across 60 villages in Gaibandha Sadar Upazila and Saghata Upazila. The club will be conducting a total of twelve sessions over one year. Furthermore, as part of this study, complimentary family planning kits will be distributed to the adolescents who will be entering into marriage, at no cost to them.

Sample Size: 1200

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Intervention part is ongoing

Partners: Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO)

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy

Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Momoe Makino

Deputy Director, Economic Modelling Studies Group, Development Studies Center, IDE-JETRO



Financing Virtual Migration: Incubation and Income Sharing in North Bangladesh

The MOMODa Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, has unveiled a novel program aimed at nurturing online freelancing in the rural areas of Gaibandha District. Specifically tailored for young individuals, this initiative provides comprehensive training and resources, equipping them with the requisite skills for remote employment. By fostering connectivity between remote regions and the global marketplace, the program seeks to create supplementary sources of income and job opportunities, thereby addressing the pressing issues of rural poverty and unemployment. With 392 participants spread across 8 waves, each comprising two batches, the project is progressing steadily, with the first phase already completing 8 waves and gathering 392 samples. Despite 257 eligible participants, the program has successfully enlisted 392 individuals, showcasing promising interest and engagement.

In a proactive step towards evaluating its impact, the MOMODa Foundation has initiated an Endline Survey and Real Task Assessment, targeting the effects of the Freelancing 1st Wave involving 32 participants out of the total 392 across all waves. Participants are encouraged to actively participate in the survey, sharing their experiences

and perspectives to delve into various aspects including economic empowerment, skill development, and social mobility. These insights garnered from the Endline Survey will serve as pivotal foundations for MOMODa Foundation's forthcoming strategies and initiatives, ensuring sustained support and advancement in the realm of freelancing empowerment within rural communities.

Sample Size: 392

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Endline and Follow-up survey is ongoing after the successful completion of intervention part

Partners: University of Oxford

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Muhammad Meki
Associate Professor, University of Oxford

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

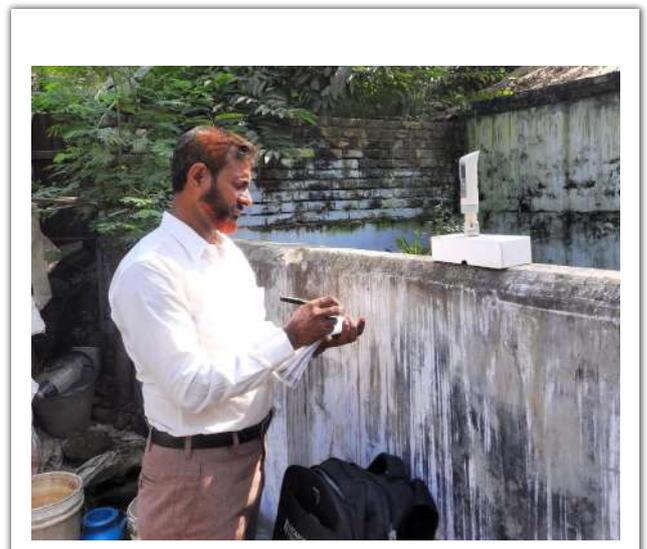
Dr. M Mehrab Bakhtiar
Country Representative (Acting), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Dr. Simon Quinn
Associate Professor, Imperial College Business School



Behavioral Interventions to Address Climate Change-Induced Salinization in Bangladesh

Climate change has led to a gradual increase in salt levels in coastal areas worldwide, particularly in low-lying regions. Bangladesh, due to its close proximity to the ocean and flat terrain, is especially vulnerable to these changes. The resulting salinization poses a significant risk to public health and productivity, potentially causing hypertension or elevated blood pressure levels in coastal communities. To address this issue, MOMODa FOUNDATION in collaboration with Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) The King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI), planning to conduct an RCT study in Khulna district of Bangladesh. This survey aims to gather information on the health status of community members, their current practices regarding the consumption of saline water, their awareness of the associated health risks, and their willingness to pay for desalinated water.



By conducting this study, we seek to gain insights into the preferences and needs of these vulnerable populations. Ultimately, our goal is to determine whether providing subsidized desalinated drinking water and implementing behavioral interventions could help coastal communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change-induced salinization. This project is of significant importance within the context of the Adaptation theme of J-PAL's King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI). The limited resources available to communities in the proposed study area underscore the urgency of understanding their current knowledge, practices, and preferences to develop effective adaptation strategies.

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Saravana Ravindran
Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore

Dr. Nusrat Abedin Jimi
Visiting Assistant Professor, Vassar College

Sample Size: 1050 households

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Climate change, Salinity and public health

Partners: The King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI) at MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and Florida International University, USA.

Transforming Households with Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology

A randomized control trial (RCT) was conducted to assess the impact of providing complimentary reading glasses to elderly individuals receiving government Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Widowed Allowance (WA) payments in nine unions within the Kurigram District. Following the baseline survey conducted in December 2023-January 2024, MOMODa FOUNDATION obtained the randomization list and implemented the project's intervention. The Intervention group received eyeglasses, smartphones, smartphone usage training, monthly internet and airtime packages, and DFS usage training, while the control group received smartphones, smartphone usage instructions, and monthly internet and airtime, all provided at no cost. The intervention period spanned from January 27, 2024, to February 22, 2024, with a total of 76 training sessions conducted for beneficiaries across nine unions in Sadar and Nageshwary upazila of Kurigram District, Bangladesh. Out of 285 beneficiaries from the intervention group and 286 from the control group, 283 and 285, respectively, received the intervention according to the RCT protocol. Currently, the research team is preparing for quarterly follow-up along with regular monitoring.

Sample Size: For Screening 6251, For the final Intervention 571

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Baseline Survey is Ongoing for Main Intervention

Partners: Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Atonu Rabbani
Associate Professor, University of Dhaka

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Nathan Congdon
Professor, Queen's University Belfast

Dr. Mackenzie Graham
Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford



Evaluating the Impacts of Providing Training and Access to a Digital Job Platform to Domestic Workers in Bangladesh

MOMODa FOUNDATION, in partnership with the World Bank, initiated a baseline survey in 2023 to deepen comprehension of the well-being and employment prospects of domestic workers in Dhaka. These workers received life skills training from Oxfam and are actively engaged in the job market through Hello Task. Our upcoming endeavor involves conducting an endline survey for domestic workers, scheduled for April 2024, aimed at assessing the impact of life skills training and evaluating the efficacy of online job platforms for this demographic. The survey activities are concentrated in four areas within Dhaka City: Badda, Khilgaon, Mirpur, and Mohammadpur. Preparation for the endline survey is currently in progress, with completion expected by the end of July 2024.

Sample Size: 4446

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Waiting for Endline Survey

Partners: The World Bank (WB)

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Jean Nahrae Lee
Senior Economist, The World Bank

Anaise Marie Williams
PhD candidate, Bloomberg School of Public Health

Dr. S Anukriti
Senior Economist, The World Bank

Dr. Siddharth Sharma
Lead Economist, The World Bank

Dr. Maurizio Bussolo
Lead economist, Chief Economist Office for South Asia



Digital Lab Access in Bangladesh

The baseline data collection for the Digital Lab Access in Bangladesh (D-LAB) was done in 2023. Now, in this project, the MOMODa Foundation will collect various types of data, install monitoring software for each computer, and upload educational video materials in 466 schools across 32 upazilas. Along with this, it will also train the Headmasters, and Computer Lab Teachers for a successful intervention along with coordination with the Upazila Secondary Education Officer. In the meantime, MOMODa FOUNDATION has conducted audit surveys over the phone with different school Headmasters.



D-LAB research team proposes to evaluate the impact of leveraging the existing ICT infrastructure in schools – Sheikh Russel Digital Lab (SRDL) and ICT Learning Centres (ILCs)– as the most practical, equitable, and cost-effective way to substantially and sustainably increase school-centric EdTech outreach to all, particularly in reducing the current COVID-19-led learning crisis.

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Tomoki Fuji
Associate Professor, Singapore Management University

Dr. Christine Ho
Associate Professor, Singapore Management University

Dr. Rohan Ray
Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Sample Size: 466 Schools

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Intervention preparation ongoing

Partners: Singapore Management University

Mainstreaming Impact Evaluation Methodologies, Approaches, and Capacities in Selected Developing Member Countries

The study assesses the impact evaluation of online job fairs, which are a new job matching technology that can potentially improve the labor market outcomes of jobseekers and firms particularly during and post the Covid-19 pandemic. In the impact evaluation, ADB has experimentally developed and rigorously evaluated another new matching technology, namely job preference signaling, in collaboration with Bdjobs.com. Job preference signaling enables jobseekers to credibly signal their true job preferences to potential employers. This credible signaling can theoretically improve the efficiency of online job fairs because employers may receive too many job applications during job fairs that are impossible to screen without the credible signaling. The experimental implementation of preference signaling during an online job fair in November 2021 received positive feedback from job fair participants. It also showed that preference signaling can be helpful in not only online job fairs but also the entirety of online job platforms. Considering that preference signaling can make positive impacts in online job platforms and also that the understanding of the impacts of preference signaling can also lead to better understanding of online job fairs' impacts, ADB has decided to conduct two follow-up surveys to examine the impacts of preference signaling on online job platforms. So the 2nd followup survey started from November, 2023 and completed on March, 2024.

Sample Size: 1530

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Data Submitted

Partners: Asian Development Bank,
Mandaluyong, Philippines

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Norihiko Matsuda
Assistant Professor, Florida International University

Mr. Ryotaro Hayashi
Social Sector Economist, Human and Social Development
Division, South Asia Department, ADB



Exploring Farmers' Preferences towards Crop Farming with Low-Emission Cultivation Practices in Bangladesh

MOMODa FOUNDATION has forged a partnership with ICIMOD, marking their inaugural collaboration on a research endeavor. This joint project is dedicated to promoting the adoption of low-emission cultivation practices among crop farmers in Bangladesh. The primary objective is to implement sustainable crop farming techniques while concurrently devising a management strategy aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions. MOMODa FOUNDATION will contribute by offering consultancy services and overseeing data collection for two phases of quantitative surveys involving 450 farmers in Sujanagar, Pabna, Bangladesh. The initial phase will serve as the baseline survey, with the subsequent phase, approximately a year later, acting as the endline survey. These surveys will be conducted in person using the SurveyCTO digital platform. MOMODa is currently engaged in developing the survey protocol, data management guidelines, questionnaire translation, training agenda, and SurveyCTO interface. The baseline survey is slated to commence in May 2024, followed by the endline survey scheduled for August to September 2025.

Sample Size: 450

Type of Research: RCT

Stage of Research: Preparatory stage

Partners: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Pallab Majumder
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Hafiz Iqbal
Assistant Professor, Government Edward College, Pabna



MOMODa EVENTS



MOMODA FOUNDATION's Ghaibandha & Kurigram Project office conducted their annual picnic on February 10, 2024.



MOMODa FOUNDATION's Gaibandha Project Office distributes blankets to stand by the poor, helpless, disabled, and underprivileged people in the severe winter in the Gaibandha district.



MOMODa FOUNDATION attended the program of Independence Day of Bangladesh 2024 organized by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh).



ADAB and MOMODa FOUNDATION's humble tribute to the martyrs of the "International Mother Language Day and Martyrs' Day" at the central Shaheed Minar.



On the occasion of the auspicious 21 February 2024 "Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day", MOMODa FOUNDATION's Gaibandha project office paid tribute to all language martyrs and language soldiers by laying wreaths at Gaibandha Central Shaheed Minar.



MOMODa FOUNDATION participated in the Discussion meeting organized by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) on celebrating "International Women's Day"- 2024, under the theme of "Investing in women: Accelerate progress" at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Dhaka.



Md. Enamul Haque, Executive Director, MOMODa FOUNDATION visited the FOUNDATION's Khulna Project Office on 8 February 2024 and visited 4 Drinking Waterplant in 3 unions at Rupsa, Dighlia and Terokhada unions.



In the month of February, Nimai Chandra attended the monthly NGO coordination meeting held in Saghata Upazila, Ghaibandha District.



Renze Klamer, Sector Coordinator, IT Business Consultant of PUM Netherlands, visited MOMODa FOUNDATION's Corporate office and facilitated a wonderful seminar on "Entrepreneurship in the IT Sector"



Kamrul Hasan and Mahade Hasan from Daily Goods Limited visited MOMODa FOUNDATION Corporate Office to discuss future collaboration opportunities.



Participation in "Monthly Coordination Meeting on NGO Affairs" at Dhaka DC Office in the month of March.

MOMODa FOUNDATION

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Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.

Gaibandha Project Office: House: 1144, PDB More (6 No Ward),
Master Para, Gaibandha-5700.

Kurigram Project office: Kosob Uddin Tower, Flat- (3rd Floor)
Trimohini Bazar, Khalilganj, Kurigram.

Khulna Project office: Ashraf Manjil, Flat D-2 (4th floor)
In Infront Jute Textile Mills (Rupsha Officers Quarter),
Deyara, Dighalia, Khulna.

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