


MOMODa FOUNDATION

7TH-ANNIVERSARY EDITION 2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER, 2023

VOLUME
16





“ As we celebrate MOMODa FOUNDATION's 7th anniversary, I'm honored to reflect on the incredible journey we've undertaken. These seven years symbolize our collective commitment to fostering positive change through research-driven impact. MOMODa has become a cornerstone of innovation, guided by a vision for a better Bangladesh. My heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters for making our mission a reality.


- Md. Jasim Uddin
Chairman

“ Joining the jubilant celebration of MOMODa FOUNDATION's 7th anniversary fills me with immense pride. Our journey has been marked by empowerment, inspiration, and impactful change. MOMODa's dynamic spirit, driven by curiosity and innovation, has shaped a brighter future for Bangladesh. Gratitude to our incredible team and the steadfast support from our partners and supporters. Here's to more years of transformative impact!

- Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Advisor

“ As MOMODa FOUNDATION marks seven years of impactful service, I take pride in the financial stewardship that has supported our mission. The foundation's growth is not just numerical but echoes in the positive changes we've brought about. Thanks to the trust of our stakeholders and the meticulous financial management, we've sustained our impactful journey. Here's to MOMODa's continued success and fiscal responsibility in the years ahead!

- Dr. A.S.M. Shihavuddin
Finance Secretary



“ Delighted to commemorate the 7th anniversary of MOMODa FOUNDATION, a significant milestone symbolizing our unwavering commitment to organizational excellence. Over the past seven years, MOMODa has transformed into a catalyst for positive change, empowering communities and nurturing innovation. Heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters whose pivotal contributions have brought our organizational goals to fruition. Eagerly anticipating the exciting journey that lies ahead!”

- Syeda Bilquis Banu
Organizing Secretary

“ Thrilled to be part of the 7th anniversary celebration of MOMODa FOUNDATION, where each data dances and tells a story. 7 years of research-driven impact, empowering communities, inspiring change. MOMODa, fueled by curiosity, innovation, and the promise of a better Bangladesh! Grateful to our dedicated team, partners, and supporters who've made our mission a reality.”

- Enamul Haque
Executive Director

“ We're happy to enter the fortunate seventh year! On our 7th anniversary, we emphasize our dynamic research and development. Our devoted team has reached significant milestones, contributing to innovation across diverse research fields. We take pride in sharing our progress and unwavering commitment to shaping the future through pioneering research.”

- H. M. Masudur Rahman
Research Coordinator

Guiding Purposeful Impact Over Seven Years



Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah!

As we embark on the milestone of our 16th volume newsletter, I am honored to address the MOMODa FOUNDATION family and our well-wishers. Alhamdulillah, we stand together, marking the journey of seven years of purposeful existence.

Reflecting on the past year, 2022, I am pleased to witness MOMODa FOUNDATION's unwavering commitment to excellence. Despite global challenges, our collective dedication resulted in the successful completion of numerous projects, furthering our mission of research and development.

This year, as we celebrate our 7th anniversary, let us take pride in the Foundation's impactful contributions to society. MOMODa FOUNDATION has not only weathered challenges but has also flourished, creating employment opportunities and fostering a sustainable environment—an embodiment of our core motto.

Our endeavors span across diverse areas, from education and social safety-net initiatives to livelihood, capacity building, women empowerment, financial inclusion, skills development, and youth employment. Through these multifaceted projects, we have strived to reduce poverty and inequality, guided by innovative solutions backed by rigorous research.

I commend the MOMODa FOUNDATION family for their unwavering dedication, hard work, and relentless efforts. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the future, I am confident that MOMODa FOUNDATION will continue to thrive.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of this remarkable journey. Let us continue to work together, inspired by our vision, toward a society that embraces prosperity, equality, and sustainability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Md. Jasim Uddin', written over a horizontal line.

Ma Assalam,
Md. Jasim Uddin
Chairman
MOMODa FOUNDATION

Steering MOMODa's Impactful Journey Through Seven Years and Beyond



Greetings!

As we reflect on the journey of MOMODa FOUNDATION, particularly in this momentous year marking our 7th anniversary and the release of our 16th volume newsletter, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for our collective accomplishments.

Throughout the past year, the Foundation has demonstrated resilience and dedication in the face of challenges, achieving milestones that reflect our commitment to societal betterment. The seven-year anniversary serves as a poignant reminder of our growth, impact, and unwavering determination to create positive change.

Our focus on research-driven solutions remains steadfast, guiding us in the pursuit of innovative and effective interventions. The Foundation's contributions to employment creation and the establishment of a sustainable environment align seamlessly with our overarching goal of societal upliftment.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the entire MOMODa FOUNDATION team for their hard work, dedication, and passion. Each member's contribution has played a crucial role in our success, and I am confident that, together, we will continue to make significant strides towards our vision.

As we unveil the 16th volume newsletter, let it serve as a testament to our commitment to transparency, communication, and engagement with our stakeholders and donors. Through our collective efforts, we aim to inspire positive change, leaving a lasting impact on the communities we serve. May our endeavors continue to bring about positive transformations in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enamul Haque'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Best regards,
Enamul Haque
Executive Director
MOMODa FOUNDATION



Chairman

Md. Jasim Uddin

MOMODa FOUNDATION

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Dr. Abu Shonchoy

Associate Professor of Economics
Florida International University (FIU)

Dr. ASM Shihavuddin

Professor & Chairman
Department of EEE
Green University of Bangladesh

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MOMODa FOUNDATION

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Editor's Note

Navigating the nation towards a bright future

In the 16th volume of our newsletter, as the cool breeze of December whispers through, and the year 2023 draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the past seven years of impactful endeavors. In this special edition, commemorating both our seventh anniversary, symbolizing our journey's evolution over the past 16 volumes, and the significance of Victory Day on the 16th of December, we celebrate the remarkable journey of MOMODa FOUNDATION.

We delve into the ongoing efforts and commitments that shape our mission to make a meaningful impact on the world, mirroring the resilience and triumph embedded in our nation's Victory Day spirit.

At the core of our dedication is the steadfast belief that positive change is achievable through research-oriented development. MOMODa FOUNDATION remains resolutely committed to addressing critical social issues affecting our communities, drawing inspiration from the unity and triumph that Victory Day represents for our nation.

In this milestone 16th-volume newsletter, we celebrate our 7th anniversary and we reflect on the past year, we take pride in the FOUNDATION's unwavering commitment to excellence, resulting in the successful completion of numerous impactful projects.

Our endeavors span a spectrum, from education and social safety-net initiatives to livelihood, capacity building, women empowerment, financial inclusion, skills development, and youth employment. As we navigate challenges and opportunities, I commend the MOMODa FOUNDATION family for their dedication, hard work, and relentless efforts. Concluding this year, we reflect with pride on the significant progress made and anticipate a future filled with new promises and prospects.

This seventh-anniversary edition is not just a reflection of our past but a beacon guiding us into a future of continued growth, empowerment, and lasting positive change.



Shanzida Faisal
Editor

MOMODa AT A GLANCE

MOMODa OFFICE

4

DHAKA

GAIBANDHA

KURIGRAM

KHULNA

EMPLOYEES

210

Part-Timers/Volunteers/
Surveyors

37

Research
team
members

25

Full-Time
Surveyors

TOTAL COMPLETED PROJECT

34

ONGOING PROJECT

07

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

35

LOCAL PROJECT

06

AFFILIATED
FUNDING
ORGANIZATIONS

14

AFFILIATED
ACADEMIC
INSTITUTIONS

18

Our activities have impacted
the lives of nearly

55000

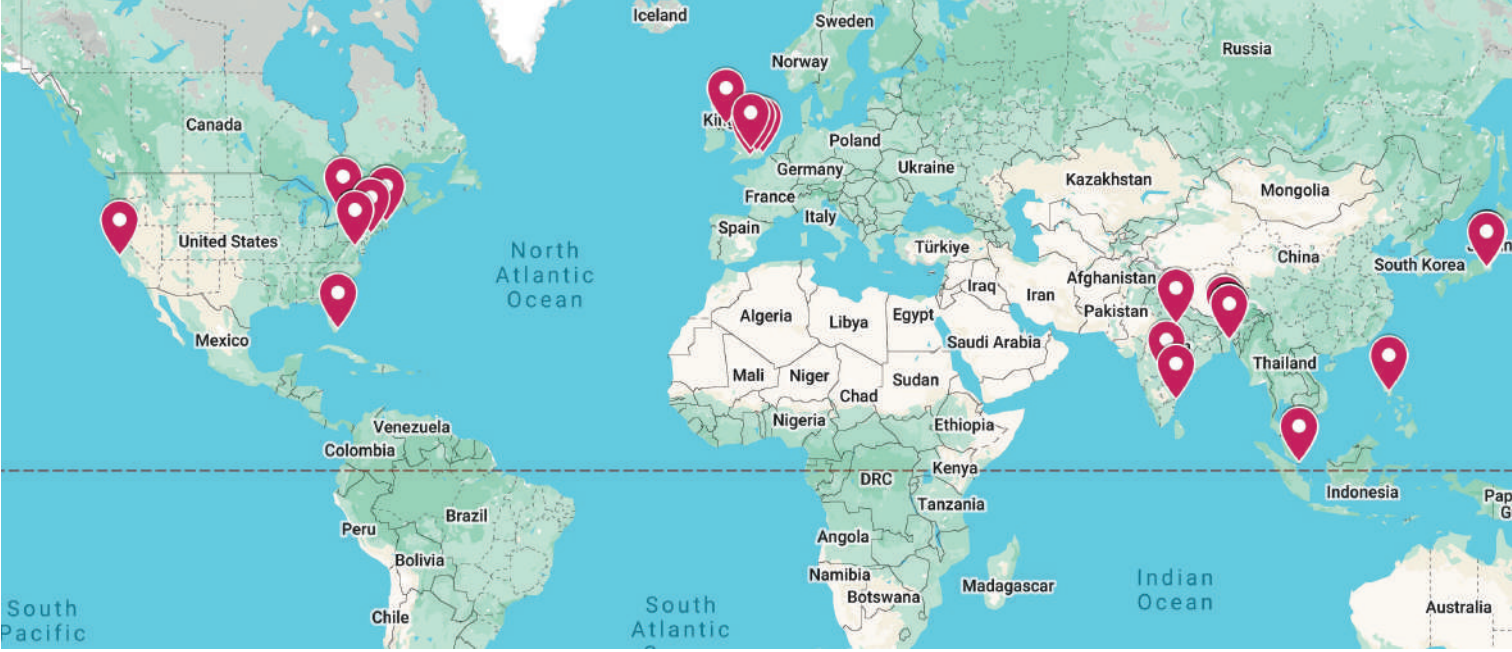
people across Bangladesh



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.

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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>

The Economics and Welfare Impact of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit System

The Dhaka Metro Rail, a solution to traffic challenges, launched its initial phase on December 29, 2022, connecting Uttara and Agargaon. The "Economic and Welfare Impact of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit System" project, funded by the International Growth Centre and Singapore Management University, is implemented by MOMODa FOUNDATION. It assesses the metro rail's impact on living costs, mobility, travel time expenses, and environmental impacts through baseline and endline surveys across 80 locations.

During the implementation period from April 5, 2022, to July 31, 2023, MOMODa FOUNDATION conducted Baseline Business and Household Surveys and Endline Listing, Business and Household Surveys, facing challenges in gaining trust, scheduling with entrepreneurs, and identifying households without proper addresses. Despite challenges, MOMODa FOUNDATION collected high-quality data, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit System's economic and welfare impact.

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Tomoki Fujii
Associate Professor and Dean, Singapore Management University

Dr. Prottoy Aman Akbar
Assistant Professor, Aalto University and Helsinki Graduate School of Economics

Arpita Khanna
Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Sample Size: Listing survey-15888, Household survey- 1601, Business survey-1608

Type of Research: Impact Study
Field of Research: Socio-economic development

Stage of Research: Endline survey Complete

Partners: Singapore Management University, and International Growth Center (IGC)





Financing Virtual Migration: Incubation and Income Sharing in North Bangladesh

MOMODa FOUNDATION, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, launched a new initiative to promote online freelancing in rural areas of the Gaibandha District. The program provides training and resources to individuals in rural youths, enabling them to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work remotely. By connecting the remote areas to the global market, the initiative aims to create new income streams and employment opportunities, helping to combat rural poverty and unemployment. The initiative, spanning 8th waves (per wave two batches), saw an impressive total of 254 participants and the 1st phase of this project aims to collect 392 samples, and the total wave completed so far is 8. The total eligible number of participants is 257, and the enrolled number is 254.

Over the course of the program, participants delved into various aspects of online freelancing, including freelancing platforms, job searching, client communication, time management, and building a personal brand in the online marketplace. MOMODa FOUNDATION has already started planning for the 2nd phase of the Online Freelancing training program for disabled participants. As the FOUNDATION looks forward to future phases of the program, it remains steadfast in its mission to catalyze positive change through education and training, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development of the region.

Sample Size: 200

Type of Research: RCT

Field of Research: Job Market

Stage of Research: Baseline and Follow-up survey is ongoing

Partner: 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



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

MOMODa FOUNDATION, in collaboration with The World Bank, conducted a comprehensive baseline survey last year to delve into the well-being and employment opportunities of domestic workers in Dhaka. The insights gained from this survey have been pivotal in shaping our initiatives to enhance the lives and prospects of this crucial demographic. Currently, these domestic workers are actively engaged in life skills training facilitated by Oxfam, a program designed to empower them with essential skills and knowledge.

Building on the ongoing life skill training, MOMODa FOUNDATION is gearing up for its next initiative. In March 2024, we are set to conduct an endline survey, a crucial step in assessing the impact of the life skill training program and evaluating the effectiveness of online job platforms for domestic workers. This initiative is a testament to our commitment to evidence-based interventions that aim to improve the well-being and employment prospects of domestic workers in Dhaka.

Sample Size: 4446

Type of research: RCT

Field of Research: Job Market

Stage of the project: Waiting for Endline Survey

Partner: 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

Can Light-Touch Accelerator Programs Foster Business Performance? Evidence from ICT Enterprises in Bangladesh

The study aims to understand why many SMEs struggle to grow in low and middle-income countries. MOMODa FOUNDATION's "light-touch" intervention, including mentoring, online courses, and networking, was piloted with 30 firms and expanded to 28 firms in the main study. The research comprises sections on firm progress, individual problem-solving skills, webpage quality, and pitch video evaluations. Training sessions and networking events are conducted by Start Up Dhaka and MOMODa FOUNDATION. The intervention is implemented in four batches, with the first baseline survey completed for 50 participating firms. The ongoing study will provide insights into KPIs, business knowledge, subjective prospects, self-esteem, and proactiveness.

Sample Size: 230 ICT-based startup firms

Type of Research: RCT

Field of Research: Entrepreneurship Development

Stage of Research: Baseline survey (Batch 3) ongoing

Partner: International Growth Center (IGC)

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Namrata Kala
Associate Professor, MIT Sloan School of Management

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Gaurav Chiplunkar
Assistant Professor, University of Virginia

Dr. Israt Jahan
Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse



The impact of Climate Change-Induced Salinization on Worker Productivity in Jute Mills in Bangladesh

A comprehensive survey was conducted to gather data from 660 employees spanning seven distinct sections within jute mills. Subsequently, a series of monthly follow-up surveys have been initiated, with ten already concluded, and the final follow-up is in progress, scheduled to conclude in December 2023. Following respondent surveys, health measurements (including BP, Pulse, MUAC, Breathing capacity, and Weight) are assessed, along with testing the salinity of drinking water sourced from respondent households.

Additionally, we examined the salinity of factory water from four different sources consumed by workers. Production data from seven diverse sections were collected based on a specified sample list. Air and sound pollution data were systematically gathered from seven sections during both day and night shifts.

Furthermore, water samples from respondent households were acquired and subjected to testing for salinity, TDS, and Conductivity.

Sample size: 660

Type of Research: Exploratory Study

Field of Research: Climate change

Stage of Research: The last follow-up survey is ongoing

Partners: PEDL and UKaid

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



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.

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

Sample Size: 1500-2000

Type of Research: RCT

Field of Research: Employment

Stage of Research: Preparatory Phase Completed

Partner: Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong, Philippines





Transforming Households with Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology (THRIFT)

A randomized controlled trial (RCT) is underway, aiming to investigate the effects of distributing complimentary reading glasses to elderly individuals receiving government Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Widowed Allowance (WA) payments in 9 unions within the Kurigram district. This research seeks to assess the impact of this intervention on the vision and overall well-being of the elderly recipients.

Following a successful pilot intervention, the main study involves three training sessions for enumerators, social screening, and NDC screening. The beneficiary screening phase, conducted from August 31, 2023, to November 15, 2023, revealed high participant satisfaction, with beneficiaries expressing contentment about their diagnosed eye problems, experiencing improved vision through the provided glasses, and expressing anticipation about receiving smartphones. The ongoing baseline survey, commenced after four days of training, is currently in progress, providing valuable insights into the screening process as depicted in the accompanying graph.

Sample Size: Screened: 6251, Final Intervention: 548

Type of research: RCT

Field of Research: Financial Inclusion in Public Health

Stage of the project: Baseline Survey is Ongoing for Main Intervention

Partner: 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

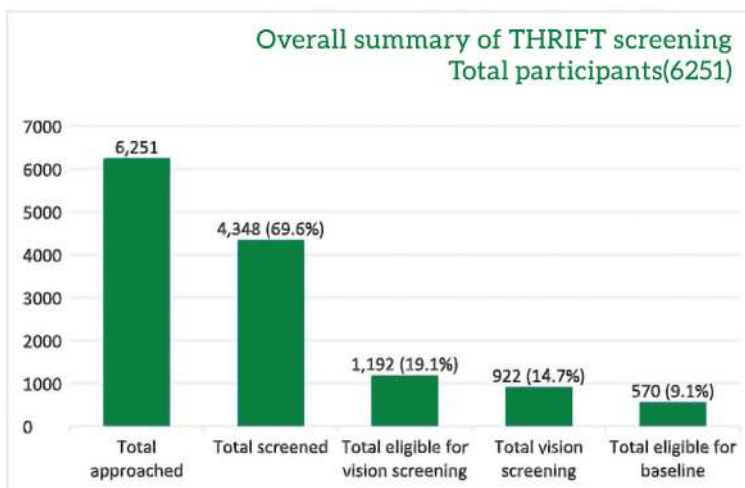


Figure: Social Screening and Vision Screening Data

Delaying Early Pregnancy Among Adolescents in the Gaibandha District, Bangladesh

In Gaibandha District, where child marriage is prevalent, approximately 70% of girls experience early marriage, with 64% becoming pregnant before the age of 18, leading to critical issues such as maternal death and infant mortality. To address this, MOMODa FOUNDATION, in collaboration with IDE JETRO and FIU, is implementing a project to delay pregnancy among adolescents aged 14–17, even if early marriage occurs. The initiative involves disseminating sexual and reproductive health information, offering free consultations, and providing contraceptive pills and kits.

MOMODa conducted a baseline survey involving nearly 2500 unmarried adolescent girls aged 13 to 17 from eight unions in Gaibandha District. Using a random sampling technique, 1200 girls across 120 villages were selected. The baseline survey, initiated in December with 30 dedicated data collectors and supervisors, precedes the intervention phase set to commence in January 2024. In collaboration with RHSTEP, the project aims to reach 600 adolescents across 60 villages, emphasizing preventive measures and reproductive health education.

Sample Size: 1200

Type of Research: RCT

Field of Research: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Stage of Research: Baseline Survey is ongoing.

Partner: 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



Digital Lab Access in Bangladesh

The D-LAB research team aims to assess the impact of utilizing existing ICT infrastructure in schools, specifically Sheikh Russel Digital Lab (SRDL) and ICT Learning Centres (ILCs), as an effective and cost-efficient strategy to enhance school-centric EdTech outreach. This initiative, undertaken in response to the COVID-19-induced learning crisis, seeks to leverage technology for widespread educational access. Baseline data for the Digital Lab Access in Bangladesh (D-LAB) was collected in 2023.

In collaboration with the MOMODA FOUNDATION, the project entails extensive data collection, installation of monitoring software on computers, and the deployment of educational video materials across 466 schools in 32 upazilas. The MOMODA FOUNDATION will further conduct training sessions for Headmasters and Computer Lab Teachers, ensuring effective intervention, and coordinate closely with Upazila Secondary Education Officers for successful implementation.

Sample size: 466 Schools

Type of Research: RCT

Field of research: Education

Stage of Research: Intervention preparation ongoing

Partner: Singapore Management University

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Tomoki
Associate Professor and Dean, Singapore Management University

Dr. Christine Ho
Associate Professor, Singapore Management University

Dr. Rohan Ray
Research Fellow, Global Asia Institute National University of Singapore





Information Nudges to Prevent Learning Decay During COVID-19 in Bangladesh

MOMODa FOUNDATION, in partnership with J-PAL, successfully concluded the Information Nudges project in April 2023, addressing learning decay during prolonged school closures amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Surveying 1200 secondary school students in Gaibandha Sadar Upazila, the initiative employed weekly voice calls and text messages from November 2021 to November 2022. These communications aimed to share teachers' contact details, provide educational content links, highlight research encouraging school attendance, and furnish the schedule of educational programs on Sangshad TV. Complementing these efforts, monthly quiz SMS in English grammar and mathematics were sent to sustain student interest and mitigate dropout rates. The project's holistic approach, utilizing diverse communication channels and quizzes, played a pivotal role in keeping students engaged in their studies.

The project's comprehensive strategy, encompassing regular communication and quizzes, was instrumental in not only addressing learning gaps but also fostering an environment that actively discouraged school dropouts, ensuring a continued focus on education despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Sample Size: 1200

Type of Research: RCT

Field of Research: COVID-19 and Education

Stage of Research: Project Completed

Partner: JPAL

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Abu Shonchoy
Associate Professor, Florida International University

Dr. Tomoki Fujii
Associate Professor and Dean,
Singapore Management University

Dr. Christine Ho
Associate Professor, Singapore Management University

Dr. Rohan Ray
Research Fellow, Global Asia Institute, National University of Singapore

Benefits of Prioritizing Employee Well-being in the Workplace

By Enamul Haque

In today's fast-paced world, the exclusive focus on productivity often overlooks the well-being of the workforce. Numerous studies affirm that happier, healthier employees are not only more engaged and satisfied but also demonstrably more productive. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize fostering a workplace that cultivates a culture of care. It isn't just a feel-good exercise; it's a strategic investment for an organization's success. Here are some key advantages of building a workplace that prioritizes well-being:

1. Improving physical and mental health results in fewer absences due to illness, reduced healthcare costs, and a more energized and resilient workforce.
2. Increasing happiness and satisfaction leads employees to be more engaged and motivated.
3. Reducing stress and burnout helps employees perform at their best without feeling overloaded.
4. Enhancing creativity and innovation fosters out-of-the-box thinking and risk-taking, leading to more creative solutions and better problem-solving.
5. Stronger relationships and collaboration cultivate trust and mutual respect, promoting stronger team dynamics and collaborative efforts.
6. A quality work environment boosts the productivity and performance of the organization.
7. Prioritizing well-being attracts and retains top talent, saving on recruitment and training costs.
8. A happy employee is the best ambassador for organizational brand and reputation.

Prioritizing employees' well-being can boost both productivity and happiness together. However, building a workplace focused on well-being isn't a one-time effort; it's a continuous journey. Remember, happy and healthy employees are the heart of any successful organization. Let's invest in employee well-being and feel relaxed to witness the subsequent rise in productivity.

Lead Pollution Threat in Bangladesh: A Looming Environmental Crisis

By Shanzida Faisal

Lead pollution poses a growing threat to Bangladesh as the nation experiences a surge in the prevalence of electric vehicles, particularly two- and three-wheelers. These vehicles, powered by lead-acid batteries, present a cost-effective alternative to traditional gasoline-powered rickshaws. However, the rampant use of lead in these batteries brings about severe environmental and health risks, creating a pressing challenge for the country.

The proliferation of electric two- and three-wheelers or auto rickshaws, which began in 2010, has grown exponentially, with around 10 lakh vehicles in 2017 reaching an estimated 40 lakhs today. Despite government attempts to regulate their usage, this surge in auto rickshaws has undoubtedly improved mobility. However, it comes at a considerable cost – environmental pollution and threats to human health.

The informal recycling factories, often lacking safety standards and proper equipment, emerge as hotspots for lead exposure. Substandard machinery, coupled with the absence of safety measures like gloves and masks, elevates the risk for workers. Prolonged exposure to lead in smelting factories, through inhalation of lead dust and ingestion of lead particles, poses a serious threat. Moreover, the contamination extends beyond factory premises, affecting nearby towns, livestock, and crops.

The health consequences of lead exposure range from acute to chronic, with children being particularly vulnerable. Immediate acute lead poisoning can result from inhaling substantial quantities of lead dust, while chronic exposure occurs over time, leading to various health problems.

Addressing this critical issue requires the implementation of strict regulations, emphasizing safety measures, standard equipment, factory establishment areas, and environmental concerns. It is imperative to safeguard the well-being of both workers and the broader population from the hazards of lead exposure.



MOMODa EVENTS



The Endline Survey training program for the "Mainstreaming Impact Evaluation Methodologies Approaches, and Capacities in Selected Developing Member Countries" ADB Project commenced at the corporate office of MOMODa FOUNDATION in Dhaka on November 18th.

The Baseline Data Collection Training for "Transforming Households with Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology (THRIFT) Study" started at MOMODa FOUNDATION's Kurigram project office on 4th December.



The Baseline Survey Training for "Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh" started at MOMODa FOUNDATION's Gaibandha project office on 3rd December.



"Love your eyes at work." Gratitude to Vision Spring Bangladesh for marking this World Sight Day with MOMODa FOUNDATION through their campaign held at MOMODa's corporate office. We feel incredibly honored to be a part of this initiative.



A hands-on session on data analysis and visualization using R took place at MOMODa FOUNDATION's Corporate Office on November 30th, 2023. Dr. Israt Jahan, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, skillfully facilitated the workshop.



Md. Enamul Haque, Executive Director of MOMODa FOUNDATION visited the FOUNDATION's Gaibandha Project Office on 22nd October, 2023.



On the occasion of the Great Victory Day, MOMODa FOUNDATION's Gaibandha Project office paid tribute to all the Martyrs of the Great Liberation War of 1971 at the Victory Rally and Shaheed Minar located at Gaibandha Municipal Park.



MOMODa FOUNDATION participated and presented organization's profile in the Monthly Coordination Meeting in November organized by the DC Office, Dhaka.



Md. Enamul Haque, Executive Director of MOMODa FOUNDATION, visited RHSTEP's Gaibandha office on October 22, 2023, to discuss key aspects of the joint "Delay Early Pregnancy Project." During the visit, he interacted with adolescent members at 'Alor Dhara Pathshala.' Present were RHSTEP Gaibandha Office Admin and Accounts Officer Md. Enamul Haque, Head of MOMODa Project Office Gaibandha Md. Rahidul Islam, and others

Start-up Dhaka Business Accelerator Program held on 15th December at Shaptak Square (Moar), Dhanmondi, Dhaka.





"THRIFT Stakeholder Engagement Workshop" was held on 21st October in Kurigram. The chief guest was Dr. Md. Moktar Hosen, Director, DSS, Mr. Farid Ahmed Mollah, Additional Director-1 (Old Allowance Branch), Mr. Rokonul Islam, Deputy Director, District DSS Office, Kurigram, UNOs of both Kurigram Sadar and Nageshari upazila were present as special guest.



On December 19, 2023, Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor at the University of Dhaka, Dr. Pollab Majumder, Associate Professor at Florida International University, and Dr. Hafij Iqbal, Assistant Professor at Edward College, Pabna, visited MOMODA FOUNDATION's Corporate Office. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the project of ICIMOD, an organization based in Nepal.

Dr Israt Jahan, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin La Crosse, and Investigator of our Start-Up Dhaka Project visited MOMODa Corporate office on 26th November 2023



The 7th Annual General Meeting of MOMODa FOUNDATION was held on 31 December 2023. Md. Jasim Uddin, the Chairman, and the Executive Director, Md. Enamul Haque started the AGM program with a welcoming speech. Vice Chairman, Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, Finance Secretary Dr. ASM Shihav Uddin, Organizing Secretary Syeda Bilqis Banu, Publicity Secretary Syeda Nazia Banu, and Executive Member Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury also attended the AGM Program. And the organization's employees, who joined either in-person or virtually from the project offices.

On October 17, the United Nations declared 'International Day for the Eradication of Poverty'. On the occasion, a discussion was organized jointly by ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) and Bangladesh Human Rights Journalists Forum (BHRJF) with the theme 'Dignified Work and Social Security for All. Mohammad Jasim Uddin, Chairman of MOMODa FOUNDATION Organizing Secretary participated in the event.



MOMODa FOUNDATION

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Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.

Gaibandha Project Office: House: 1 144, 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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