



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Bangladesh: Achingaon

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Achingaon QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Achingaon as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Four focus groups were held, divided by age and gender. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked to list the characteristics that they believe are possessed by the best individuals in the village. All agreed that following religion and having a good character are important. Most groups also commented that helping or caring for others is a characteristic that the best person should have. Both female groups noted good behaviour as salient, and old people mentioned the need for them to give good advice to others. The male groups commented that they should have money or property and be knowledgeable or educated. Honesty and concern for community well-being and development were mentioned by half the groups as important characteristics of the best individual.

Groups were then asked what characterises a good area. Industries and electricity were agreed upon by all groups, and having a good road, religious institutions, a good leader and a school were also commented on by most. Men mentioned the need for a hospital and for villagers to be educated. Young people commented that good accommodation is a feature of a good area. The existences of unity and communication systems were mentioned by half the groups.

The focus groups were questioned about the characteristics of a household which is living well. Land was mentioned by every group, and having a head of the household who is happy, good, earning or wise was commented on by most groups. Most groups also mentioned employment in a salaried job, being educated and following religion as key features of this kind of household. Both male groups commented that a household living well is characterised by having family members who live abroad, and as having family harmony. Young people mentioned the need to have good health and a small family and old people noted the importance of being cared for by a son.

Groups were then asked what they feel characterises a household that is living badly. Idle family members were mentioned most frequently in answer to this question. Both young groups commented that a lack of land or property, and unemployment are features of a household that is living badly, and both male groups mentioned having uneducated family members and disobedient children as a feature.

The focus groups were questioned about the characteristics of an individual who is living well. The older female group did not answer this question in their discussion, but all other groups agreed that good health is important. Having a job or business, following religion correctly and having no worries were all

commented on by both male groups. Both young groups mentioned a good marriage as important and close family relationships were commented on by half the groups.

The groups were then asked to list the characteristics of an individual who is living badly. Most groups agreed upon poor health as important, and a lack of education was commented on by both male groups. Insufficient money, unemployment and having disobedient children were mentioned as characteristics of such an individual.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with ten members of Achingaon village. Participants were asked what their sources of happiness are, and half of them mentioned having a good partner in their answers. Having a close family, children and good health were all commented on by a number of respondents.