



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Bangladesh: Aloknapar

**Copyright © WeD, University of Bath
November 2005**

Acknowledgements: The QoL Phase 1 summaries were compiled by Rebecca Houghton using data collected by Kaneta Choudhury from the WeD Bangladesh team.

Aloknagar QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Aloknagar as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Two focus groups were held, both with male residents but divided by age. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked to list the characteristics that are possessed by the individuals who they feel to be the best in the village. Honesty was mentioned by both groups, as was the fact that such a person would be knowledgeable or educated.

Groups were questioned about what they feel characterises a good area. Utilities and public services, the existence of law and order, and the presence of healthy communal recreational facilities were all mentioned by both groups, as was the presence of employment opportunities and educational institutions.

Focus groups were asked what characteristics they believe to be important in a household that is living well. The two groups agreed that economic solvency and the existence of understanding amongst family members are important in such a household.

The groups were then questioned about the characteristics of a household that is living badly. Economic insolvency and a lack of good accommodation were commented on by both groups as features of a household living in this way.

Focus groups were asked to list the characteristics that they believe are possessed by individuals who are living well. However, in answer to this question there was no agreement shown between the groups, with each discussions producing varied responses.

Groups were then asked what they feel characterises an individual who is living badly. The old male groups did not complete their discussion in answer to this question, therefore their views are unknown and no comparisons can be made between responses.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with ten members of Aloknagar village. From the Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, relationships with families were the most frequently mentioned area. Marriage, children, accommodation, the death of a family member and money were also commented on by a number of participants.

As part of the semi-structured interviews, participants were also asked to list their sources of happiness. 12 respondents answered this question, with family being the most frequently mentioned source. Health and religion were also mentioned a number of times, as was job or business, and children.