



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Bangladesh: Baniknagar

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Baniknagar QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Baniknagar as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Two focus groups were held, both with younger members of the community but divided by 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. Honesty was mentioned by both groups, as was having a good education and being accepted by all.

Groups were then asked what they think characterises a good area. Both agreed that the presence of a school or college is important, and that a good area should have no pollution and be governed according to ethical politics. Utilities and public services such as transportation and roads, electricity, a hospital, a fire and police station, law courts and a good communication system were also noted as features of a good area.

The focus groups were questioned about what they believe characterises a household that is living well. The only feature mentioned by both groups in answer to this question was education.

Focus groups were then asked about the characteristics of a household living badly. Lack of education, insufficient income and family disagreements were the characteristics agreed upon by both groups.

The groups were questioned about what they believe characterises an individual who is living well. Both groups agreed that such an individual should be educated, and be involved in service or have a job or business.

Groups were then asked to list the characteristics of an individual who is living badly. Lack of employment opportunities and poor family relationships were both agreed upon in answer to this question.

Semi-structured interviews were held with twelve members of Baniknagar. From the Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, children were the most frequently mentioned area. Businesses or jobs were commented on by most respondents, and families were mentioned in half the interviews. Partners and education were both noted as areas of importance by a number of interviewees.

During these interviews, participants were also asked to comment on their sources of happiness. Helping people was the most frequently mentioned source, followed by income or earning capacity, children and good family relationships. A number of respondents also commented on their partner and being industrious as things which make them happy, with male respondents often mentioning honesty.