



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Bangladesh: Bichitropur

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Bichitropur QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Bichitropur 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 groups were asked to list the characteristics that they believe the best individuals in the community to possess. All groups commented that they should be religiously minded, with most also mentioning that they should be of a good character and be honest. Young people noted the need for such a person to help others, and both the male groups commented that altruism or generosity and education are important characteristics.

Focus groups were then asked what they believe characterises a good area. Educational institutions were mentioned in all focus groups discussions as important, and most also commented that the environment should be good, residents should be educated, and there should be quality roads. Harmony, safe drinking water, space for recreation and markets were noted as important in order for an area to be considered good by half of the groups, and the availability of work opportunities and the practice of religion were commented on by both male groups. Both young groups noted a good leader as an important characteristic of a good area.

The groups were questioned about what they believe characterises a household that is living well. Every group commented that they believed children to be important, and most groups also mentioned family harmony, economic solvency and having a salaried job. The young groups commented that a household living well consists of a small family, and that members would be educated. The male groups noted the possession of land as playing an important role in creating such a household.

Groups were then asked to list the characteristics of a household that is living badly. Lack of family harmony was mentioned by all groups as a feature of this, and most groups also commented on poor health, financial insolvency and a large family. Half the groups noted the need to pay a dowry as a feature, and the young groups mentioned that a household living badly is one that is unable to meet the needs of their children. Old people commented that they believe lack of land or property to be a characteristic, and the male groups mentioned a lack of education.

The focus groups were questioned about what they feel characterises an individual who is living well. Financial solvency and family harmony were mentioned most frequently in answer to this question, and half the groups commented that individuals living well would be earning for themselves. Young people noted that they would be educated and also would educate their children.

Groups were then asked what the characteristics of an individual living badly are. Poor health was mentioned by half of the focus groups, and old people

also commented that such a person would have children who are not diligent, and who are disobedient, engaged in politics, dependent on their father, bad students, or who commit ills.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with 12 members of Bichitropur village. When asked to list their sources of happiness, good relationships with partners and support from children or grandchildren were the most frequently mentioned. The education of children and having successful or good children were also mentioned a number of times as sources of happiness, as were parenthood and having sufficient money.