



ESRC Research Group on  
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

## **QoL Phase 1 Summary**

**Bangladesh: Shantipur**

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## **Shantipur QoL Phase 1 Summary**

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Shantipur 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 feel are possessed by the best individual in the village. All groups mentioned that they believe such a person should be educated or wise, and most commented that they should be honest and help others. Half the groups noted intelligence and punctuality as characteristics of such a person, and mentioned that they should be principled.

Groups were asked what characterises a good area. All groups mentioned harmony or unity, and most commented on the need for the presence of a school and religious institutions. Both young groups noted that there should be no disputes in a good area and the male groups mentioned good roads, and educated villagers as important. The presence of recreational facilities and the need for good governance were both commented on as features of a good area.

The groups were questioned about the characteristics of a household living well. Regular employment or business and having educated children were agreed on by all groups as features, and most mentioned education and family harmony. Intelligence was commented on by both young groups as a characteristic and both male groups mentioned the possession of land. Cultivation, health and money were noted as features of a household that is living well by half of the groups.

Focus groups were then asked to list the characteristics of a household that is living badly. All groups agreed upon the basic needs of members going unmet as a feature of this kind of household, and most groups also commented on poor health and clothing as characteristics. Family conflict, debts, and having a large family were agreed upon by both male groups as characteristics of a household living badly, and unemployment was mentioned by both female groups. The young groups both commented that such a household would be unable to educate their children and also unable to meet their desires. Lack of land was mentioned by half of the groups.

The groups were questioned about what characterises an individual who is living well. Money and mental peace were agreed upon by all groups as important features of such a person, and employment and good health were also commented on by most groups. The two groups of older respondents mentioned that such a person will be taken care of by their children, and the two male groups noted that they should be educated.

Groups were then asked to name the characteristics of an individual living badly. Ill health was mentioned by most groups in answer to this question, and half commented on unemployment and poor husband-wife relations. The

female groups noted a lack of clothes as a characteristic of this kind of person, and insufficient money was commented on by the male groups. Young people mentioned that an individual living badly may have addictions and old people noted that their basic needs may go unmet.

Semi-structured interviews were held with ten members of Shantipur village. As part of this, participants were asked to list the things in life that bring them happiness. Having the basic needs of all family members met was the most frequently mentioned source of happiness in this village. A close family, job and religion were also noted by a number of respondents as areas which bring them happiness.