



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Bangladesh: Telkupigaon

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Telkupigaon QoL Phase 1 Summary

WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Telkupigaon 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 of the best individuals in the village. All agreed that such a person should be wise or educated, and most also commented that they should be fair and of a good character. Most mentioned that the best individuals in the village are altruistic or help others, are well behaved, and religious. Young people noted that such people are honest, and men commented on friendliness as a characteristic that they admire in them. Money or property were mentioned by half of the groups as important.

Groups were also asked what characterises a good area. Having educational facilities within the village or having educated villagers, and having water for drinking and irrigation were agreed on by all groups as important for making an area good. Most groups also mentioned the need for good roads and a hospital, and half commented that honesty is important. Having a good leader and following religion were noted as salient features of a good area by the two older groups. Sanitary latrines were thought to be important by the female groups, and electricity was mentioned by young people.

The groups were questioned about the characteristics possessed by a household that is living well. It was agreed upon by all groups that a small family is important for this kind of life. Most groups also mentioned family harmony, being able to meet the basic needs of all household members and having money. Property and good children were mentioned by half of the groups and women commented on intelligence as a feature. Both young groups noted that good health, a good education, having a job and having a good environment or facilities are characteristics of a household that is living well.

Focus groups were then asked to list the characteristics of a household living badly. Uneducated members and poor health were the most frequently mentioned features, and lack of job or job opportunities and not being able to meet the basic needs of household members were commented on by half of the groups. Both young groups noted lack of accommodation as a characteristic of such a household, and both male groups mentioned poverty.

The groups were questioned about what characterises an individual who is living well. Health and money were the most frequently mentioned responses to this question. Both old groups commented on the role that they believe religion plays in characterising such a person and fairness was mentioned by both male groups. The young groups noted that an individual who is living well should be educated.

The characteristics of an individual living badly were then asked for. Both male groups mentioned ill health and insufficient money in answer to this question. Young people commented that a lack of education is important and disability was mentioned as a feature by half of the groups.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with nine members of Telkupigaon village. When asked to list their sources of happiness, most mentioned having no shortfall or lack as something that makes them happy. Being able to provide for and educate children was also commented on by a number of participants, as was having a good partner and having parental support. Having sufficient land or property was mentioned in a few interviews.