

## **A Study on some Selected Union Health and Family Welfare Centers of Bogra District**

(Published in December, 1990)

### **a) Researchers' Identity**

1. Golam Morshed Akhter, Joint Director  
M.Sc. (Agricultural Economics), Mymensingh
2. Tariq Ahmed, Deputy Director  
M.S.S (Public Administration) Dhaka University
3. A.K.M. Zakaria, Assistant Director  
B.Sc. (Agriculture), M.Sc. (Agronomy), BAU, Mymensingh

### **b) Objectives**

The major objectives of the study are:

- i) To examine how far the UH & FWCs have succeeded in providing the health and family planning services to the rural people of Bangladesh; and
- ii) To find out the opinion of the beneficiaries towards family planning in general and the performance of these centers in particular.

### **c) Executive summary**

#### ***Justification of the study***

The Union Health and Family Welfare Centre is playing an important role since 1979 to provide integrated primary health care, maternal, child health and family planning services to the rural people of Bangladesh. There is a need for accurate information about the extent of UH & FWC services to the rural people. There was so far very little comprehensive study done in this field to investigate the actual problems. This study is a modest attempt to investigate the problems and to find out probable solutions. The findings of the study would help the planners, researchers and implementers to formulate pragmatic policies for economic development of the rural people of Bangladesh.

### **d) Conclusion**

Health or Medi-care is one of the basic needs of human-beings. To build a healthy nation, healthy and capable human-resources are pre-requisites, which could be its driving force. Realizing the importance of this fact, the

government of Bangladesh has declared the programme of "Health for all by the year 2000 AD".

Almost simultaneously with the announcement of the programme, the government has recognized the rapid growing population to be the "number one problem" facing the nation. Bangladesh is considered to be one of the most densely populated country in the world. It is, at the same time, perhaps one of the poorest country in the world, in terms of explored or potential materials of resources. Based on the prevailing conditions, one of the steps to be taken to overcome some of the problems is to adopt family planning at nationally. Family Planning will be a part of an overall national development programme. Planned and small families have now become inevitable in Bangladesh for a happy and decent living of the general masses. Only this way, the basic needs, like health facilities, for the people can be ensured. At the moment child death rate (11.1 per thousand), deaths during pregnancy, or during child birth are high in Bangladesh. These are some of the crucial stumbling blocks towards popularizing family planning in the country.

Only a comprehensive and integrated programme on family planning consisting of education, health, nutrition for both mother and child can ensure its wider acceptance at nationally. The programmes on health education, health services, medical treatment for mother and child and population control are dependent on one another. This is why family planning programmes based on maternal and child health care have been introduced in the country. As a basis of this programme Union Health and Family Planning Centers were established in the country at the beginning of 1980s. This has been accepted as a very important and integral project in the health sector. Since then it has been playing a crucial role in the health sector by providing health services to the rural population.

To make an overall evaluation of the functioning of these centers Rural Development Academy, Bogra undertook this survey-based research. The objective was to identify and determine the level of successes that these centers have achieved as well as the hindrances that are limiting their maximum utilizations. The findings will be useful for the appropriate authority towards removing the existing problems and improving upon the services of the centers both quantitatively and qualitatively. Because, in the ultimate analysis, the centers will have to play its role of providing effective services to the perceived beneficiaries to achieve its goal of popularizing family planning programme in Bangladesh. Of course, the present study should be considered as a prelude for deeper and extensive research in that respect.