**Internship Report**

**On**

**BRAC: Microfinance**

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# Introduction

## Introduction

Nearly all banks grant loans to borrowers who provide adequate collateral. As a result, even though they had the opportunity to invest, the poor and landless (particularly rural women) had little chance of receiving a bank loan. People without access to standard banking services can obtain a range of financial services through BRAC Microfinance, including as micro insurance, savings accounts and loans. They give families an alternative to high-interest loans from unofficial lenders, enabling them to invest in sources of income, accumulate assets and lessen their susceptibility to calamities and medical emergencies. BRAC offers low-income individuals small loans without requiring any collateral. In essence, it provides loans to rural women who are landless and asset-poor. In this research, there will be analyzed the role and impact of microfinance program of BRAC for poverty alleviation and women empowerment. Reducing their risk of market failures in the process. Their services include microloans (Dabi) ranging from 25k to 3lak given exclusively to individual women who are served by the village organizations.

## Concept of internship

A professional learning opportunity that provides relevant practices or a potential career path is an internship. A student has the chance to explore and grow their career during an internship. According to S.C and E R Gloyne, " Internship refers to any kind of practical experience in social or public agency, and allow students to perform official activities in a Professional discipline". Thus, an internship can be defined as a chance for students to expand their understanding about a specific phenomenon .I am pursuing my honours degree from the department of political studies Shahjalal University of science and technology. In my honours study, there is a mandatory course named "PSS- 800" for 30 working days. I was referred to do my internship at an NGO named Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC).

## Objective of the study

1. To gain knowledge about different phenomenon of the society.
2. To develop the skills for solving Problems at grassroots level.
3. To enhance understanding of organizations group process.
4. To demonstrate ability to proficiently communicate oral and written information in a manner that reflects professional skills.
5. To develop the skills required for professional practice at a particular level of training.
6. To be able to perform appropriate client interviews and assessments as demonstrated by the identification of problems, strengths and the determination of interventions, plans, goals, and evaluations.
7. To enhance understanding of organizational and group process.
8. To get an idea about BRAC
9. To have a practical experience of job life.
10. To make an overview on Microcredit programme and management of BRAC
11. To present the micro-financing system and procedure.
12. To develop an ongoing relationship between the academia and community level areas.

## Methodology

This study is qualitative in nature. Case study method tools take observation and in-depth interviews method to find the role of BRAC to poverty reducing and women empowerment in the rural area.

The source of data collection are given below

**A. Primary Sources**

* Face to face conservation with the manager, staff and borrowers
* Personal Field observation
* Receiving feedback from random BRAC members through questionnaire.

**B. Secondary Sources**

* Annual report of the BRAC programs;
* Published article, magazine
* Data from the official website of BRAC.

## Area of the Internship

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance committee (BRAC) is the large microfinance organization of Bangladesh. My internship is in this large microfinances organizations under the BRAC's Tucker Bazar branch, Akhaliya, sadar, Sylhet. The area of this Branch is : East, West, North and South are, Jalalabad - Bongul- Paikergaw - Airport road. Area of BRAC (Akhaliya,Tuker bazar,sadar Sylhet).

Number of Staffs in this branch is 29 officers and employees. 2 Area managers(AM), 1 Branch manager (BM), 1 Assistant branch manager (ABM), 8 Program Organizers ( PO). There are two Program : Dhabi and Progotic.

## Limitations of the study

Limitations which were faced while conducting this research are discussed below:

* Lack of available internship facilities
* It is hard to conduct a comprehensive research within a short period of time;
* Lack of available relevant data and information in the website of BRAC;
* The survey was conducted on some of the villages, it may fail to represent the actual scenario of the whole country.

# Overview of NGOs in Bangladesh

## NGOs in Bangladesh

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are autonomous, non-profit entities that operate outside of national and international governments. NGOs are incredibly different categories of establishments. Private philanthropic endeavors for humanism and volunteer labor for the wellbeing of people have a long history in Bangladesh. Following the liberation war in 1971, NGOs began to emerge in Bangladesh. Many committed individuals initially took action for the welfare of people by providing assistance and rehabilitation; these efforts later evolved into NGOs working in a variety of development and social change-related fields. NGOs plays an important role in microfinance, women empowerment, education, health, environment,family planning, human rights, children welfare etc.

## Definition of NGOs

The NGOs has been defined differently by different people and organization: According to O'Neil,"NGOs are private organizations serving a public purpose”. (O'Neil). According to World Bank, "NGOs as private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development". According to Web Dictionary,"NGOs is a group or association that is not directly part of a government body and that seeks to affect change for a specific cause or activity not commercial in nature". The term NGOs refers to, "any voluntary non-profit agency involved in the field of development".

## Features of NGOs

* NGO is a non-profit making voluntary service-oriented development oriented¬ organization, either for the benefit of member or of the members of the population.
* It is a private group of people whose goals are to support the growth of the communities¬ they serve and who hold certain fundamental social values.
* It is a social development organization assisting in empowerment of people¬
* It is an autonomous, democratic, nonreligious organization of people that works to¬ strengthen the positions of social and economic marginalization.
* An organization not affiliated to political parties, generally engaged in working for aid,¬ development and welfare of the community.
* An institution dedicated to addressing the underlying causes of issues and working to¬ improve living conditions, particularly for the impoverished, the oppressed, and the disadvantaged in both urban and rural settings
* Organizations established by end for the community with or without little intervention¬ from the government, they are not only a charity organization but work on socio economic and cultural activities.

## Services provided by NGOs

* Micro credit
* Education-primary mass education
* Vocational training
* Health care programs including hospital services
* Drug addiction
* Anti smoking
* Disability(physical and mental
* HIV/AIDS
* Family planning Mother and child immunization
* Legal aid
* Awareness building
* Violence against women
* Women development
* Income generation through micro credit and training
* Human rights
* Social welfare through orphanage
* Water and sanitation
* Relief and rehabilitation
* Agricultural development programs
* Labor low
* Youth development
* Disaster management
* Land reform
* Child care
* Rural development
* Social forest
* Fisheries and livestock
* Poultry
* Handicraft
* Environment safety
* Local resource mobilization
* Poverty alleviation
* Election monitoring etc.

## Role of NGOs

* Credit: This is among the most inventive and successful projects of Bangladeshi development NGOs.
* Women's development: NGOs place a strong emphasis on women's development in order to improve the socioeconomic status of women.
* Non-formal education: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working to end illiteracy by providing functional education to both men and women.
* Empowerment generation: Through small-scale commerce, mulberry plantations for women, and rickshaw pulling, among other activities, NGOs increase the possibility of creating jobs.
* Income earning through enterprise development: Through enterprise development, such as social forestry, fish culture, weaving, poultry, and livestock husbandry, NGOs increase the opportunities for the disadvantaged to earn a living.
* Building capacity for planning and management: NGOs help the poor develop their organizing and managerial skills so they can create and implement their own programs.
* Occupational skill training: Non-governmental organizations provide both modern and traditional skill training for men and women in areas such as crop farming, raising silk cocoons, using irrigation equipment, and paraprofessional work.
* Productive assets: Irrigation equipment, rice mills, power tillers, weaving machines, and other items are among the productive assets that the NGOs organize ownership, control, and management of for the por.
* Political participation: Through the NGOs, the organized poor can take part in local elections and other decision-making processes, such as "salish" events.
* Health and nutrition information: According to non-governmental organizations, having access to health care is a fundamental human right.
* Family planning: Nonprofits have played a big role in family planning.
* Environment: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implement several initiatives aimed at curbing and ameliorating deforestation.
* Target group mobilization: Through village surveys, one-on-one conversations, initial group gatherings, motivational work, etc., NGOs activate the target groups.
* Raising consciousness: A trainer facilitates interactive group discussions to raise general awareness.
* Group formation: With a focus on the latter, the NGOs support men and women forming distinct groups.
* Development of leadership: Training centers teach cadres how to lead from within the group.
* Access to government services: The NGOs make these requests on the local and other pertinent governmental agencies in order to grant the poor access to the "khas" land, government health care facilities, and other benefits.
* Active local administration: NGOs can activate the local administration by providing the impoverished with appropriate access to it, so increasing its responsiveness to the particular requirements of the beneficiaries.
* Extension of non-traditional agriculture: A system of appropriate technology transfer for homestead agriculture is being developed by several non-governmental organizations.
* Appropriate irrigation technology development: NGOs do research and experimentation to create low-cost irrigation technologies in order to address the demands of small and marginal farmers and to encourage crop diversification.
* Urban and rural development: The NGOs broaden their activities in this area by developing infrastructure, slum development, affordable housing, food for works programs, building and reconstructing roads, bridges, and culverts, among other things.
* Child Development: The NGOs run a number of initiatives aimed at helping the less fortunate kids grow up.
* Humanitarian and legal aid: The NGOs also provide humanitarian and legal aid o the disadvantaged section of the society.
* Relief and Rehabilitation: At the time of natural disaster the NGOs also involve themselves in relief and rehabilitation programs.

## Problems of NGOs

There are certain unique challenges in implementing the different NGO projects in Bangladesh. A few are present:

1. Limited reliability: NGO activities depend on a highly motivated staff and where such high level if motivation cannot be replicated, the activities themselves cannot be replicated.
2. Limited self-sustainability: The NGOs are unable to adopt long-term and efficient planning strategies.
3. Limited technical capacity: Local NGO projects are often initiated with insufficient technical feasibility analysis and inadequate information.
4. Lock of broad programming content: The NGOs often carry out their initiatives and projects individually which remain relatively isolated from other NGOs or programs and this tendency hinders the establishment of country-wide or regional programs.
5. Limited ability to reach the poorest segment of the society: Although the NGOs tent to reach the poor. It is also true that they cannot effectively reach the poorest of the poor' in the society e.g. the floating population.
6. Inability to scale-up activities: Because of their small size and resources, limited administrative system, intensive forms in a few communities, the difficulties in maintaining their essential value consensus the NGOs are unable to scale-up their activities.
7. Dependency on Donors: The NGOs are criticized that, by taking funds they serve the interest of the donors and fulfill their objectives.
8. Paternalistic approach: NGOs tent to become "paternalistic" about their clients by continuously investing in the same beneficiaries instead of setting time targets for their graduation from poverty.
9. Centralized operations: Some of the large NGOs are operated and run by their own bureaucracies. This is evident in cases where the head office of the NGOs takes decisions in a way, which leaves little scope for its local level staff and group members to take a new initiative or respond immediately to specific issues to a locality.

# Overview of BRAC

## Introduction of BRAC

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed established BRAC, formerly known as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), in 1972 in reaction to the aftermath of the 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh. Centered on rural development at first. By empowering communities via economic, healthcare and educational activities, it sought to reduce poverty. Gradually. It grew to become one of the biggest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the world, working in a number of international fields such as social and economic development, healthcare and education. The creative and comprehensive strategy used by BRAC has made a substantial contribution to both sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

Bangladesh is home to the worldwide development organization BRAC. Following that, BRAC was registered with the Government of Bangladesh's NGO Affairs Bureau. As of September 2016, BRAC had the most staff of any non-governmental development organization worldwide. First of all BRAC was founded in 1972 by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed following Bangladesh's independence. It is currently active in all 64 districts of Bangladesh and 11 other countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas. According to BRAC, it provides services to over 126 million people and employs over 90,000 individuals, of whom almost 70% are women.

The organization is partly self-funded through a number of social enterprises that include a dairy and food project, a chain of retail handicraft stores called Aaron, seed and Agro and chicken. BRAC has operations in 12 countries of the world.

## Historical background of BRAC

Known formerly as the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, then as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, and later as Building Resources Across Communities, BRAC was initiated in 1972 by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed at Shallah Upazillah in the district of Sunamganj as a small-scale relief and rehabilitation project to help returning war refugees after the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. 14 thousand homes had to be rebuilt as part of the relief effort as well as several hundred fishing boats. BRAC claims to have done this within nine months as well as opening medical centers and providing other essential services.

A Research Evaluation Division (RED) was set up to evaluate its activities and decide direction, and in 1977, BRAC began taking a more targeted approach by creating Village Organizations (VO) to assist the landless, small farmers, artisans, and vulnerable women. That same year BRAC set up a commercial printing press to help finance its activities. The handicraft retail chain called Aaron was established the following year. In the late 1970s, diarrhea was a leading cause of child mortality in Bangladesh. In February 1979, BRAC began a field trial, in two villages of what was then Shalla Thana, of a campaign to combat diarrhoea.The following year they scaled up the operation and named it the Oral Therapy Extension Program (OTEP). It taught rural mothers in their homes how to prepare an oral rehydration solution (ORS) from readily available ingredients and how to use it to treat diarrhoea.The training was reinforced with posters and radio and TV spots. The ten-year Program taught 12 million households spread over 75,000 villages in every part of Bangladesh except the Chittagong Hill Tracts (which were unsafe to work in because of civil unrest).Fifteen years after they were taught, the vast majority of mothers could still prepare a safe and effective ORS.The treatment was little known in Bangladesh when OTEP began but 15 years later it was used in rural households for severe diarrhoea more than 80% of the time, one of the highest rates in the world.

Non Formal Primary Education was started by BRAC in 1985.In 1986, BRAC started its Rural Development Program that incorporated four major activities – institution building including functional education and training, credit operation, income and employment generation and support service Programs. In 1991, the Women's Health Development Program commenced. The following year BRAC established a Centre for Development Management (CDM) in Rajendrapur.

Its Social Development, Human Rights and Legal Services Program was launched in 1996. In 1998, BRAC's Dairy and Food project was commissioned.

## Main Objective of BRAC

The primary goals of BRAC are community empowerment and poverty alleviation with an emphasis on sustainable development. The organization uses a comprehensive strategy that incorporates programs in social, economic, healthcare and educational development to work towards accomplishing this goal. It seeks to empower people by giving them the means and instruments need to enhance their quality of life, especially in low-income areas. BRAC's strategy places a strong emphasis on economic programs that encourage entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods as well as healthcare and education. The organization's goal is to improve the lives of those it assists in a way that will last. (HR, 2008)

## Mission of BRAC

1. BRAC mission is to empower people and communities in situation of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice.
2. Achieve large scale positive changes through economic and social Programs that enable women and men to realize their potential.

## Visions of BRAC

A world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realist their potential.

## Values of BRAC

* Integrity
* Innovation
* Inclusive
* Effectiveness Work sectors of BRAC

## Contribution of BRAC

Economy, social, education, health services and women empowerment. discusses in the below.

1. **Economic development**: Microcredit is part of BRAC's Economic Development initiative. Through its Village Organizations, it offers mandatory savings plans and collateral-free credit through a solidarity lending approach. Village Organizations, which serve about 4 million borrowers, lend money to low-income communities. BRAC has extended its reach to individuals who are unable to obtain microfinance due to extreme poverty. The "ultra poor" are those who live in extreme poverty, according to BRAC, who has created a program specifically for them that includes asset transfers, healthcare, enterprise development training, and social development in addition to subsidies. Eventually, the ultra poor are integrated into BRAC's regular microfinance program.

Microfinance, introduced in 1974, is BRAC's oldest program . It spans all districts of Bangladesh and is the largest microfinance operation in the country, the renowned Grameen Bank being a close second. It provides collateral-free loans to mostly poor, landless, rural women, enabling them to generate income and improve their standards of living. A typical BRAC loan is to buy chickens to raise for eggs and meat. In addition to the loan, BRAC teaches the borrower how to care for and raise the chickens, and provides access to low-cost, high-quality inputs. The emphasis is on self- empowerment. BRAC's microcredit program has funded over $1.9 billion in loans in its first 40 years. 95% of BRACs microloan customers are women. ( Empowering Women and Girls in Southern Sudan., 2008)

In addition to microfinance, BRAC provides enterprise training and support to its member borrowers in poultry and livestock, fisheries, social forestry, agriculture and sericulture. It provides inputs essential for some enterprises through its 'Program Support Enterprises' that include Poultry farm and disease diagnostic laboratory, Bull Station, Feed Mill, Broiler Production and Marketing, Seed Production, Processing, Marketing and Soil Testing, Nursery, and Fish and Prawn Hatchery. BRAC's Vegetable Export program started in 1998 is a venture that is aimed at bridging the gap between local producers and international markets. It also focuses on the problem of youth employment, providing assistance for young men and especially women to join the workforce, for example, with programs like the Adolescent Development Program. It also has a number of commercial Programs that contribute to the sustainability of BRAC's development program since returns from the commercial Programs are channeled back into BRAC's development activities. These Programs include Aaron, a retail handicraft chain, BRAC Dairy and Food Project, and BRAC Salt. BRAC founded its retail outlet, Aaron (Bengali for "village fair") in 1978 to market and distribute products made by indigenous peoples. Aaron services about 65,000 artisans, and sells gold and silver jewelry, handloom, leather crafts, etc.

1. **Education:** One of the biggest NGOs working in Bangladesh's primary education system is BRAC. It has about 22,700 non-formal primary schools as of the end of 2012, with a total of 670,000 students enrolled. Three-quarters of the nation's non-formal primary NGO schools are located there. BRAC's education program provides non-formal primary education to those left out of the formal education system, especially poor, rural, or disadvantaged children, and drop-outs. Its schools are typically one room with one teacher and no more than 33 students. Core subjects include mathematics, social studies and English. The schools also offer extracurricular activities. They incentivize schooling by providing food, allowing flexible learning hours, and conferring scholarships contingent on academic performance. Bangladesh has made progress in closing the gender gap in school attendance. BRAC has contributed to the increase in female enrollment, which has mostly occurred at the primary level. Girls make up about 60% of the student body in these schools.

BRAC has set up centers for adolescents called Kishore Kendra that provide reading material and serve as a gathering place for adolescents where they are educated about issues sensitive to the Bangladeshi society like reproductive health, early marriage, women's legal rights etc. BRAC has also set up community libraries, 185 out of 964 of which are equipped with computers.

1. **Public health:** BRAC started providing public healthcare in 1972 with an initial focus on curative care through paramedics and a self-financing health insurance scheme. The Program went on to offer integrated health care services, its key achievements including the reduction of child mortality rates through campaign for oral rehydration in the 80s and taking immunization from 2% to 70% in Bangladesh. BRAC, in 1980, trained 10,000 women to teach Bangladeshi families how to make their own oral rehydration solution; to date 75% of families in Bangladesh use oral rehydration therapy to treat diarrhea, 13 million homes have been reached by BRAC trainers, and estimates of lives saved by oral rehydration therapy reach 10s of millions. A BRAC community health worker conducting a survey in the Korail slum, Bangladesh.

As of December 2012, 105,000 community health workers had been trained and mobilized by BRAC to deliver door-to-door health care services to the rural poor in Bangladesh. BRAC has established 30 static health canters and two Limb and BRAC Centers that provide low cost devices and services for the physically disabled. BRAC has been working closely with the government as part of National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) to combat tuberculosis, covering 93 million people in 42 districts. BRAC has also been working in National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in partnership with government and 20 other NGOs in 13 endemic districts of Bangladesh covering almost 15 million people. In 2007, BRAC launched two projects focused on bettering maternal, neonatal and child mortality, namely, Manoshi in certain urban regions and Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Survival (IMNCS) in certain rural regions. The Programs cover Dhaka, 7 other city corporations.

Bangladesh's 64 districts From 2007–10, Manish’s operations led to a decline in home deliveries from 86% to 25%, and a maternal mortality ratio of 141 (per 100,000 births) compared to the national average of 194. Similarly, in IMNCS areas, hospital delivery doubled to 30% from 15%, and maternal mortality declined to 157 (per 100,000 births). In 2014 BRAC's community healthcare workers reached 1.6 million women with between one and four prenatal care check ups. They also attended deliveries, and provided birthing huts as an alternative to childbirth at home. (Empowering Women and Girls in Tanzania, Annual Report, Dhaka: BRACBRAC , 2008)

1. **Promoting gender equality and empowering women** : BRAC organizes and mobilizes poor rural women in Bangladesh to speak up and take collective action against discrimination and exploitation. It provides training to local administrators on issues important to the poor, particularly women, and seeks to increase the accessibility, transparency and accountability of local government. It disseminates information about citizens' legal rights and laws concerning marriage, family and inheritance through popular theatre, community radio, and legal aid clinics. It addresses forms of gender inequality and violence against women such as child marriage, dowry, polygamy, oral divorce, acid throwing, domestic violence and rape.

BRAC's 2007 impact assessment of its North West Microfinance Expansion Project testified to increased awareness of legal issues, including those of marriage and divorce, among women participants in BRAC programs. Furthermore, women participants' self-confidence was boosted and incidence of domestic violence were found to have declined. One of the most prominent forms of violence against women, acid throwing has been decreasing by 15-20% annually since the enactment in 2002 of legislation specifically targeting acid violence.

1. **Disaster relief**: BRAC conducted one of the largest NGO responses to Cyclone Sidr which hit vast areas of the south- western coast in Bangladesh in mid-November 2007. BRAC distributed emergency relief materials, including food and clothing, to over 900,000 survivors, provided medical care to over 60,000 victims and secured safe supplies of drinking water. BRAC is now focusing on long-term rehabilitation, which will include agriculture support, infrastructure reconstruction and livelihood regeneration. ( BRAC , 2016)

# Microfinance of BRAC

## Microfinance of BRAC

Microfinance is relatively new innovation in the age of old banking system. Microfinance has receive global recognition today not only a powerful instrument for poverty reduction and employment of women but also as a promising financial sector for bank,NGO’s and financial organization. BRAC's microfinance works through a unique credit Plus-system approach,addressing specific needs of various target populations such a rural women, youth, adolescent, landless poor, marginal farmer, migrants workers,urban poor and entrepreneurs.

## Definition of microfinance

Microfinance, also called microcredit, is a type of banking service provided to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services. We recognize the heterogeneity among the poor and carefully target and develop customized financial services that best meet their varying needs. It microfinance members also have access to and benefit from BRAC’s other development interventions. BRAC’s microfinance clients use financial services for a range of reasons, from funding various income- generating activities, to investing in small assets, ensuring stable cash flows for consumption building up resilience against financial shocks to simply saving for the future. It is a leading provider of financial services for the poor, operating in seven countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Myanmar. (Haque, 2002)

## Microfinance Models

Two models outline how microfinance is operated:

1. Banking for individual entrepreneurs and small businesses revolved around relationship-based banking.
2. Services for a group, where multiple individuals come together to form a group to collectively apply for a loan.

When applying for microcredit, individuals may not get a large loan – loans range from $10 to $2,000 – thus, they may decide to come together and form a group to qualify for a larger loan.

Main activists of microfinance : microfinance in BRAC there are two parts 1. Dabi 2. Progoti

1.Dabi Program : It is low amount of microfinance Program, normally begging 20000 take to 150000 take .

2.Progoti Program : It is large amount of credit or loans. Normally begging 200000 to 1000000 tk.

The staffs (PO) they help us, they are very friendly, we go to filed work with them. We practically adjust this process of work loans collection and get loans clients.

## Sectors of microfinance

BRAC's microfinance activities complement with other social development interventions by offering a powerful combination of services for people to build stable, healthy and empowered livelihoods. Beyond tailored loans, it also provide short and long-term savings, insurance and access to mobile money services. It promotes responsible financial behavior among it's clients and have instituted a range of client protection measures that distinguish for their commitment towards client-centric service delivery. It integrates technology to improve operational efficiency and offer higher value to it’s clients. This includes incorporating digital financial services and digitizing core field operations and processes. Over the last four decades, BRAC Microfinance has grown to become one of the world’s largest providers of financial services, operating in seven countries across Asia and Africa. (Davis, 2006)

## BRAC MICROFINANC

1. **Credit Products**: Innovative, client-centric and responsibly delivered, our credit products are tailored to meet the unique needs of different demographics.
2. **Loans for women**: Since the very beginning, they have primarily focused on equipping women with access to financial services to increase their opportunities for economic empowerment. Their loans are collateral-free and given exclusive to individual women through a group setting, known in BRAC as village organizations (VOs). A village organization is a women-led platform with 15-25 women, for clients to come together to deposit their installments and savings, share information and improve financial awareness Borrowers utilize loans to buy productive assets, invest in business or property, enable smooth consumption, and manage shocks. Where there is demand, BRAC further supports these activities with its network of social enterprises. This approach strengthens supply chains of the clients’ enterprises and give clients access to quality inputs, proper training, and marketing support, while also reducing vulnerability to market shocks.
3. **Small enterprise loans:**  Small enterprise loans are offered to entrepreneurs to invest in existing small enterprises, which are too small to qualify for credit from mainstream banks. The loans provide flexibility for entrepreneurs seeking to expand their businesses. This supports employment generation and helps drive local economies and inclusive growth.
4. **Agriculture loans:** Their financial services are specifically designed for different farming groups to provide them greater returns from their harvest. Borgachashi Unayyon Project (BCUP) .BCUP is a project aimed towards facilitating access to finance for small-holder tenant .Farmers who do not own farming lands. Their loans enable farmers to invest for higher crop yields, adapt to new agricultural technologies, and invest in household labor supply. Along with the loans, BCUP clients are also provided with market linkage services. North-west Crop Diversification Project (NCDP) Second Crop Diversification Project (SCDP) .NCDP and SCDP projects promote yield of high-value crops such as fruits, vegetables, spices, condiments, and flowers. Our loans foster the production of nutritional food and non-traditional crops, and enable farmers to gain higher financial returns.
5. **Loans for migrant households:** Loans for migrant households supports foreign employment opportunities and economic stability for the families of migrant workers. It also enables them to invest in business and improve the standard of living from the potential rise in income.
6. **Migration loans**: Migration loans are provided to migrant workers seeking employment abroad, complemented with services from BRAC’s migration program such as pre-migration orientation and post migration re-integration.
7. **Remittance loans:** Offers flexibility to migrant households to make significant expenditures, while families wait to receive and save remittances sent from abroad by a family member.
8. **Medical treatment loans:** Low-income households face economic distress during times of unforeseen health crises. We are collaborating with James P Grant School of Public Health and Heidelberg University to pilot medical treatment loans (MTL) to support families to cover medical expenditures. MTL is aimed towards clients, who can avail loans upon providing a prescription from a doctor of their own choice with an MBBS degree. Installments vary from 12 to 24 months, depending on previous loan repayment records.
9. **Seasonal loans** The six changing seasons of Bangladesh allow farmers to harvest different crops for each season. Seasonal loans provide farmers with a convenient repayment scheme, allowing them the flexibility to invest and start paying their installments with the provision of a two-month grace period. The pilot is on-going in 17 rural branch offices. Additionally, they are also providing seasonal loans in char (reverie island) areas in collaboration with Swiss contact.
10. **Loans for migrant households:** Loans for migrant households supports foreign employment opportunities and economic stability for the families of migrant workers. It also enables them to invest in business and improve the standard of living from the potential rise in income.
11. **Sanitation loans:** They are collaborating with BRAC Wash program to provide finance to entrepreneurs to invest, and families looking to improve sanitation standards in their homes. The loan is divided into four categories:

Development of new/modern latrinesLoans for placing safe drinking water tube wells

Placing/setting new water pumps and water tanksEntrepreneurs working with sanitation and water-treatment plants.

1. **Medical treatment loans:** Low-income households face economic distress during times of unforeseen health crises. The are collaborating with James P Grant School of Public Health and Heidelberg University to pilot medical treatment loans (MTL) to support families to cover medical expenditures. MTL is aimed towards clients, who can avail loans upon providing a prescription from a doctor of their own choice with an MBBS degree. Instalments vary from 12 to 24 months, depending on previous loan repayment records.
2. **General savings:** Micro-savings accounts for clients enabling them to save any amount and receive interest securely.
3. **Monthly profit scheme:** Long-term savings accounts whereby clients deposit a fixed amount upfront and receive monthly interest until the end of the agreement, along with the principal amount.
4. **Deposit premium scheme (DPS**): Long-term savings accounts for clients to make monthly fixed deposits each month for a high return at the end of the agreement. This can be paid either in cash or via mobile money.
5. **Special savings**: The Special savings project was established to promote savings behavior among clients and provide greater financial security in the future. Clients have the opportunity to avail five schemes: a regular DPS product, double savings scheme in 7 years, 1.5 times increase of savings i 4.5 years, a monthly profits basis savings schemes, and lastly, a fixed deposit.

# My Experiences

## My role during internship days:

I have 30 days to complete the project that I was given. I began working on the Dabi microfinance project Shafiul Islam Sir, the Area Manager of the Microfinance Program (Dabi) was my external supervisor when I was employed there. During my internship, I was largely responsible for drafting meeting reports and managing the database for the courtyard meetings in different fields. We collect the loan payments from their clients, such as BRAC workers. We talk about their situations with them and observe the actual and useful BRAC microfinance program's (Dhabi) activities. We travel to rural areas for our field work. In BRAC Microfinance has two parts, one is Dabi Program and another is Progoti Program.

## My Experience and observation

My internship taught me a lot of new things. During the field trip, I conducted interviews and asked questions of the members to learn about the advantages and disadvantages of the guidelines. I gained knowledge on how to interact with rural residents in order to obtain loans and collect payments on a monthly basis. Many members have been found to have taken out loans for their husband's business, even though the majority of members have taken out loans for their own businesses. Many members can also be observed borrowing money to build houses and travel abroad. Their quality of living has changed as a result of taking out this loan. Microcredit trains its clients on how to use it appropriately. Since BRAC staff members advise and recommend them (clients).

They face to many hard situation to collection the portion of loan but them manage this situation.

1. I nearly saw how microfinance / Microcredit contribute to reducing poverty and improving poor people situation in the rural area.
2. BRAC staffs very friendly toward to work place; they help to us understanding officials activists and filed work.
3. BRAC staffs treat us as their co-staffs .we work together with each others.

## My acquired skills and knowledge

This internship allowed me to gain additional knowledge about BRAC. How microfinance improves life quality while also having a significant impact on health, education, and poverty alleviation. BRAC charges 6℅ compound interest on savings accounts and 14℅ on loans. I gained the following abilities and information during my fieldwork practice.

* **Presentation skills** : By attending filed meetins,monthly official meeting. I achieved some advanced and flexible presentation skills. I learned how to adjust local people, giving them knowledge which can improve their livelihood.
* **Organizations skills :** BRAC helped me to learn how to organize a seminar, people awareness, a courtyard meeting and a workshop, a group meeting and how to distribute food help properly.
* **Field Experience :**I have also learned how to deal with clients.
* **Communication skills:**I learn how to communicate with different types of people.
* **Interaction skill:** I achieved the skill of interaction through the internship program.
* **Sincerity:** I achieved the skill of time management and sincerity.
* **Introduced with administrative procedure:** Through the internship period Iam able to introduce myself with the administrative proess and lrean the way to cope up with that. 8. Rapport building skill: I have learned how to build rapport with the client.
* **Interviewing skill:** I have learned how to interview people or client in fact to face.

# Findings

## Health sectors

A women's health program and an advisory council were established as part of the women empowerment project, which also saw the establishment of the Center for Development Management (CDM). BRAC entered the third phase of its rural development initiative in 1993, emphasizing women more.

The child survival program was launched in the same year as the health sector program was expanded to address the problem of child mortality. To assess the level of project intensity, BRAC established a new department for monitoring and program evaluation. With the launch of the sustainable rural credit and management development program in 1990, BRAC started the second phase of their rural development program, primarily concentrating on the development of human resources.

## Poverty reducing in rural area

The dispute over whether microfinance institutions (MFIs) actually help the needy continues as MFIs expand throughout the world. Advocates stress the importance of finding novel approaches to give underprivileged people access to financial services. Critics contend that because many impoverished populations lack the expertise and entrepreneurial skills needed for microfinance programs, any triumphs could only be short-lived. Furthermore, others worry that recipients would pay exorbitant interest rates or becoming reliant on MFIs, taking on more debt than they can afford to repay and sinking even deeper into poverty.

When Bangladesh’s microfinance sector was first established in the 1970s, its main goal was reducing rural poverty by providing microcredit loans for non-crop activities such as trading, and raising livestock and poultry. These loans were funded mainly by the government of Bangladesh and bilateral donors through group-based savings and lending programs.

Within our research area, we report that the majority of borrowers use BRAC loans for their professional lives, specifically in the fields of agriculture, small business, and development. As a result, they start making money and try to alter their way of life. Boost employment rates in order to combat poverty.

## Women empowerment in the rural areas

The economical growth of Bangladesh is still in its early stages. Bangladesh's main problems are natural disasters, illiteracy, poverty, population expansion, and unstable political environments.

Agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, poultry, and gardening remain the main sources of food. BRAC has placed Bangladeshis in this situation ever since it began offering government-provided services. Along with other programs including the Livestock, Rural Enterprise Program, Non-Formal Primary Education Program (NFPE), and Income Generation for Weak Group Development (IGVGD), it created the Poultry Immunization Program in 1983 to illustrate this. In 1986, the BRAC rural development program and the rural credit program came together, with the new focus being on servicing the poorest of the poor.

We had numerous conversations and observations with women who took part in and made significant decisions throughout our internship. Small companies and agriculture provided the majority of the rural area's families with a means of subsistence. They need capital, and women in Dhabi supply it since they are lent money via the BRAC microfinance program. These days, there are a number of women holding elected office at the local level. They contend that although BRAC boosts the economy, it also grants them the flexibility to pursue economic independence and political participation. bolster women's societal status and sense of agency.

## BRAC contribute to Increase literate rate

The majority of individuals in rural areas live in terrible poverty. The majority of individuals cannot eat three times a day and are living in poverty. They are unable to send their kids to school. However, BRAC provides loans to those in need and started a number of educational and public awareness programs. Children from impoverished rural communities can receive an education at those schools. In this study area, we encounter some individuals who had their elementary education from BRAC school throughout their infancy.

## Food intake

In order to combat some of the key challenges in addressing hunger and malnutrition, BRAC provides an integrated set of interventions to empower communities and improve their nutritional outcomes.

## My Findings in Fieldwork

Throughout our internship, we conducted a number of interviews. One respondent stated that they are using this loan for small company and are doing well inside their family.

* Every borrower member has a minimum of one modest home with a tin roof in which they can reside with their families.
* Family members have agreed to alternate sleeping on the bed and on the stool.
* Family members utilize and drink pure water for cleaning and domestic tasks.
* All of the family's children are in good physical and mental health and have either finished their primary schooling or are enrolled in school.
* Members of the family utilize a clean restroom.
* Family members wear clothes that are suitable for daily wear.
* There is no food shortage in the household, and everyone can afford to eat a healthy diet.
* The family members can pay for their medical bills and are conscious of public health.

## Limitations during internship

I was sent to BRAC as a training field worker so I could put my theoretical knowledge into practice at the field level. I encountered the same issues at work. The following lists my limitations:

* Sometimes, BRAC clients withhold their true circumstances from us.
* I didn't have enough time to finish my internship and turn in my work.
* Although BRAC has several other sectors, we exclusively operate in the microfinance industry.

## Conclusion and Suggestions

An internship enables a student to combine theoretical learning with real-world application. An internship's primary goal is to provide students with real-world experience and develop their skills in a formal setting.

Currently, BRAC runs sixteen economically and socially successful businesses in the fields of health, education, green energy, livestock, fisheries, and retail. Generating a major impact on the local economy by fostering business ventures, job possibilities, and market connections. One of Bangladesh's largest and most seasoned non-governmental organizations, BRAC works in the social, educational, and economic spheres, with a focus on microfinance programs (Dabi and Progotic). BRAC's initial phase involved reconstruction efforts aimed at creating a new, independent state of Bangladesh. It works to empower women and lessen poverty. Only female consumers are eligible for Dabi Program loans, which range in amount from 25,000 to 150,000 tk. However, the Progotic Program offers loans between 200000 and 1000000 tk. When things go tough, rural impoverished people view BRAC as their greatest ally. As a student of political studies, I was sent to BRAC a stranded NGO of Bangladesh. I have completed my assigned filed work successfully with the help of BRAC and it’s staffs. During internship I had got a great chance to know the people vary closely as well as their situation.

* The agency should implement a strong monitoring mechanism for each project by which work will be transport to all.
* They should create policies to adapt to the challenges posed by the fourth industrial revolution and get ready for it.
* Boost social and educational initiatives in both home and foreign arenas in addition to economic ones.
* Arranged an annual gathering and solicited real client input.

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