

**Gopalganj Science and Technology University,
Gopalganj-8100**



A REPORT ON

Poverty Reduction and Rural Development

Course No: PAD 453

Course Title: Internship

Submitted By

Student ID: 19PAD046

Year: 4th

Semester: 2nd

Session: 2019-2020

Department of Public Administration, GSTU, Gopalganj

Submitted To

Department of Public Administration,

Faculty of Social Science,

GSTU, Gopalganj

Date of Submission: 25th February, 2025

Table of Contents

Acknowledgment	i
Summary	i
1. Introduction:	1
2. Overview of the Study Area:	2
3. Research Methodology:	2
4. Session Overview	3
5. Key Findings and Observations	5
6. Recommendations for Improvement:	5
7. Conclusion:	5

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) for giving me the opportunity to participate in this internship program. I am thankful to my university for selecting me for this program. I also appreciate the support and cooperation of my group members and the villagers who shared their valuable experiences and insights with us.

Summary

This report presents my experiences during the internship on "Eradication of Poverty and Rural Development" at BARD, Comilla. The main goal of the internship was to understand rural development issues, the causes of poverty, and possible solutions to improve rural livelihoods. Our team conducted a field study in Madhyam Bijoypur village, where we collected data through surveys, interviews, and direct observations. The findings highlight key challenges such as inadequate rural education, poverty, lack of infrastructure, and limited government support. Based on our research, we suggest improving school facilities, increasing teacher training, and enhancing digital education. This internship provided me with valuable insights into real-life rural challenges and potential solutions.

1. Introduction:

The primary purpose of this internship was to gain an in-depth understanding of rural development and poverty eradication programs, with a focus on analyzing the education system and economic conditions in rural Bangladesh. Through this internship, I aimed to identify the challenges faced by rural communities and propose solutions to address those issues. Bangladesh, being predominantly rural, relies heavily on its villages for economic growth, social stability, and the overall development of the nation. Effective rural development is crucial for reducing poverty, improving access to education and healthcare, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens, particularly in marginalized communities. While various government and non-governmental organizations have made strides in tackling these challenges, substantial issues persist, especially in terms of poverty, education, and economic inequality. The internship offered me an opportunity to explore these issues firsthand by conducting field research and collaborating with local communities. By studying the real-life obstacles faced by rural families and observing the work of development organizations like BARD, I gained valuable insights into the complexities of rural poverty and development. This experience highlighted the need for comprehensive and innovative solutions that involve education, community participation, and sustainable practices to uplift rural populations and ensure long-term progress.

2. Overview of the Study Area:

Village Name: Madhyam Bijoypur

Location: Comilla Sadar Dakshin Upazila

Population: Approximately 2,500 registered voters

Educational Institutions:

1 Primary School

1 High School

1 Women's College

1 Madrasa

Economic Activities: Predominantly farming, small-scale businesses, and labor work

3. Research Methodology:

To understand the socio-economic challenges faced by the village, we applied the following research methods:

- Village Stay & Field Study: Observed daily life within the village community.
- Surveys & Interviews: Collected data from students, teachers, parents, and farmers.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGD): Group conversations focusing on issues like education, poverty, and economic hardships.
- Case Studies: Investigated the specific situations of families facing severe economic difficulties.
- Document Analysis: Reviewed government policies and local development programs related to rural welfare.

4. Session Overview

4.1 Session One: Introduction to BARD and Rural Development

Date & Time	Title	Instructor Name
11/02/2025 9:30 - 10:30 AM	Introduction to BARD and Rural Development	Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun Joint Director, BARD

This session provided an overview of BARD's mission, objectives, and contributions to rural development. It emphasized the importance of community participation and sustainable development strategies. The instructor highlighted BARD's historical achievements and future goals in addressing rural poverty.

4.2 Session Two: Thoughts and Contributions of Dr. Akhter Khan and BARD's Innovative Rural Development Models

Date & Time	Title	Instructor Name
11/02/2025 11:00 – 12:00 AM	Thoughts and Contributions of Dr. Akhter Khan and BARD's Innovative Rural Development Models	Dr. Abdul Karim Additional Director General, BARD

In this session, we explored the theories and contributions of Dr. Akhter Khan in rural development. The instructor elaborated on BARD's innovative models designed to uplift rural communities through education, economic opportunities, and sustainable practices. The session offered practical insights into integrating these models into real-world development initiatives.

4.3 Session Three: Guidelines on Data Collection from Villages

Date & Time	Title	Instructor Name
11/02/2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Guidelines on Data Collection from Villages	Fouzia Nasrin Sultana Director, BARD

This session focused on the ethical and methodological aspects of conducting field research in rural communities. It provided guidelines for conducting interviews, surveys, and observational studies while maintaining cultural sensitivity and respecting the privacy of the villagers.

4.4 Sessions Four to Seven: Fieldwork and Data Collection

Date & Time	Title	Instructor Name
11/02/2025 2:30 – 4:00 PM	Fieldwork and Data Collection	Mr. Md. Zainal Abedin Assistant Director Mr. Faruk Hossain Assistant Director (Sports)

During these sessions, we conducted practical fieldwork in Madhyam Bijoypur village. Activities included direct interaction with villagers, conducting surveys, and gathering first-hand information about the socio-economic challenges faced by the community. These sessions were instrumental in applying theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

5. Key Findings and Observations

5.1 Education in Rural Areas

- Inadequate school infrastructure (lack of classrooms, sanitation, and electricity).
- Shortage of trained teachers.
- Low attendance due to financial constraints and household responsibilities.
- Limited exposure to modern teaching techniques and technology.
- Parental unawareness of the importance of formal education.

5.2 Economic and Social Challenges

- Widespread poverty and unemployment.
- Inadequate healthcare and sanitation services.
- Social and economic barriers faced by women.
- Limited access to government aid and vocational training programs.

5.3 Positive Aspects and Opportunities

- Government initiatives providing free books and stipends to students.
- Villagers' willingness to improve their livelihoods with proper support.
- Active involvement of NGOs and local institutions in development efforts.

6. Recommendations for Improvement:

- **Improve School Infrastructure:** Build better classrooms, libraries, and sanitation facilities to enhance the learning environment.
- **Recruit & Train More Teachers:** Offer incentives such as higher pay, accommodation, and professional development opportunities to attract and retain qualified teachers in rural schools.
- **Encourage Digital Education:** Provide smart classrooms and internet access to expose students to modern educational tools and resources.
- **Increase Parental Awareness:** Organize community meetings and awareness programs to emphasize the importance of education and encourage parents to support their children's schooling.

- **Strengthen Government & NGO Support:** Increase financial aid, resources, and monitoring for rural development programs to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.
- **Enhance Vocational Training:** Develop vocational training programs for youth and adults to provide alternative career paths, helping reduce unemployment and underemployment in rural areas.
- **Improve Healthcare Services:** Increase access to healthcare by providing mobile clinics, strengthening local health centers, and training community health workers.
- **Create Economic Opportunities:** Promote small-scale businesses, improve access to microfinance, and encourage entrepreneurship to generate local employment opportunities and reduce poverty.

7. Conclusion:

This internship was an enriching and enlightening experience, offering me a firsthand understanding of the complexities involved in rural development and poverty alleviation. Through fieldwork, direct interactions with villagers, and comprehensive research, I was able to observe the real-life challenges that rural communities face, such as inadequate education, limited access to healthcare, and lack of economic opportunities. One of the most profound takeaways from this experience is the importance of holistic, integrated approaches that focus on various aspects of rural life, including education, infrastructure, healthcare, and economic development. While significant strides have been made by both the government and NGOs in addressing rural poverty, much work remains to be done. Effective rural development requires collective efforts, not only from policymakers and organizations but also from local communities, who must be actively involved in the planning and execution of programs. I believe that with the right policies, strong community participation, and innovative solutions, rural poverty can be alleviated, and sustainable development can be achieved. This internship has reinforced my belief that rural development is a long-term, collaborative process, and with sustained efforts, it is possible to create thriving, self-sustaining communities that contribute to the overall progress of Bangladesh.