

BOOK REVIEW

Sustainable Development, Human Dignity and Choice: Lessons from the ENRICH Programme, Bangladesh

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This book analyses the design, management, efficacy and outcomes of the ENRICH (Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households) programme being implemented in Bangladesh by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) at the behest of its Chairman Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad. The book was included 10 chapters plus annexes and index. Foreword was written by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad. The ENRICH program is a human-centric, multidimensional, integrated approach to poverty alleviation and human development. In terms of its design and management structure, the ENRICH program is versatile and focused on understanding and reflecting the prevailing circumstances in its interventions. Human capability development and social capital formation among the program participants and cooperation building among the parties forming the management partnership and other local influential quarters are among the key drivers underpinning the program implementation processes. It is a catchment-focused programme. The planning and implementation unit is the union (the lowest administrative unit in Bangladesh, with an average population of about 30,000). All the inhabitants of a union needing assistance are within its purview, particularly the poor and disadvantaged and non-poor low-income people, altogether accounting, on average, for about 83 percent of the total union population. By design, it complements government efforts by filling up the gaps in services provided to people and households and also covering geographical areas not receiving certain government services. Interventions include household level ones as well as

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community and union-wide ones. It is now being implemented in 202 unions across the country with a total population of about six million, of whom about five million are eligible for comprehensive attention. The ENRICH programme constructs a pathway that embraces most of the SDGs, certainly the most relevant ones for the people who come under the purview of this program.

The analyses and assessments of the design and management style and structure and the implementation processes and the findings relating to the impacts of the ENRICH program in terms of its efficacy in helping remove tragic choice situations by expanding choices and significant positive impacts on incomes, living conditions and human dignity presented in this book clearly indicates that the program is unique and potent.

The primary audience for this book includes policy makers (political, civil and others), economists, development thinkers and practitioners, social engineers, national and international development agencies, development partners, research and development institutions, NGOs, university, college faculties and students of relevant departments. Authors Martin Greeley, Asif M. Shahan, Shubhasish Barua need special thanks for good research based work. However, ENRICH programme may be undertaken by other development organizations for the betterment of the economy of the Country.