

**AY2021 Center for Inclusive Leadership (CIL)
Research Project Grant**

研究代表者 Research Representative	所属・職位 Affiliation/Position	APM/Professor	氏名 Name	Munim Kumar Barai
研究課題名 Research Title	Financial Inclusion for Inclusive Development: A Study on Bangladesh and India			
研究メンバー Research Group Members	氏名 Name	所属 Affiliation	職位 Position	

2021 年度 研究経過 (研究経過・到達点を明確にご記入ください。800～1,000 字)

AY2021 Research Progress (Please state clearly the research progress, results, approx. 400 words.)

The study has proposed to attain the following objectives during the research period.

1. To examine the state of financial inclusion, poverty, and socio-economic development status of the less privileged people in Bangladesh and India.
2. To inspect the various financial products or intervention measures introduced by governments, financial institutions, and NGOs in the respective countries to upscale the reach of financial inclusion.
3. To propose a new Poverty Index about FI and investigate FI's direct and indirect impacts on poverty reduction and socio-economic development of the poor people in both countries.
4. To identify the similarities and differences of the approaches between Bangladesh and India to upscale the reach and coverage of financial inclusion to include more marginal people.
5. To suggest policy measures to overcome any challenges of the existing FI approaches and prescribe steps to enhance their reach to effectively cover the poor so that Bangladesh's and India's development becomes more inclusive.

The progress and results achieved so far can be listed based on those objectives.

- a. I have already done an extensive literature review to get an idea of the state of Financial Inclusion, Poverty situation, and Socioeconomic Condition of the socially marginalized people of Bangladesh and India. This also includes looking at the development character in terms of inclusiveness. The review process has been done by retrieving research papers and collecting relevant data from various sources, including publications of Bangladesh Bank, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Welfare, financial institutions, and research bodies and NGOs of both countries. Relevant comparable figures of other places in the world have been examined by reviewing the publications of UNDP, ADB, World Bank, etc. Definitions of Financial Inclusion and Inclusive Development have been investigated, and they may have to be localized or contextualized in the future after a concrete picture emerges from the study.
- b. Conventionally, poverty is measured in income, consumption, or calorie intake. But it needs to be looked upon differently in the age of various other elements that also determine household poverty status. Though India has developed a Multifunctional Poverty Index, Bangladesh is yet to create any such index. The Indian MPI “captures overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards (UNDP, 2010). It complements income poverty measurements because it measures and compares deprivations directly.” Apparently, it still does not include households' access to energy and access to finance (financial inclusion). Creation of a Poverty Index and assess the role and effects of FI in poverty reduction and Inclusive Development. The Index I am developing is at the trial stage.
- c. The structure of a questionnaire has been developed, and I am looking for a field visit to Bangladesh and India, which has been stalled by the existing Covid-19 situation and prevailing barriers to travel.

2021 年度中の研究発表 (予定を含めてご記入ください)
Publication of Research in AY2021 (journal articles, conferences, etc.) (Please include future plans as well)

発表方法 Publication Methods	詳細 Details		
著書・論文等 Books or Articles	著書・論文名等 Title of Books or Articles	出版社／掲載誌・巻号等 Name of Publisher / Name and Volume of Journal	刊行年月日 Date of Publication
	Two Bengals: A Development Narrative of Bangladesh and West Bengal of India (Joint Editor)	Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.	Accepted for publication in 2022
	Changes in Exchange Rate Regimes and Some Macro Factors: Their Impacts on the Valuation of Post-Independence Bangladeshi Taka	FIIB Business Review, Sage Publishers	Revised after review comments. Waiting for final acceptance
学会等 Presentation at an Academic Conference	タイトル Title	学会名 Name of an Academic Conference	発表年月日 Date of Presentation
	The Solidarity Economic Development Model of Bangladesh: Can It Offer A Sustainable Development Path to Other Developing Countries?	The International Conference on “Business for Sustainability” organized by Dhaka University, Bangladesh	April 25, 2021
	“Post-Covid Model of Global Supply Chain: Is Disintermediation of China Possible?”	International Symposium on Emerging Business Models: The New Normal Phenomenon Organized By Department of Commerce, Dayal Singh College, New Delhi, India,	September 06, 2021.
Portfolio Rebalancing and Performance of Banks in Japan Since QE2: An Examination in the Context of Covid-19	RCAPS Conference, APU	December 04, 2021	
その他 Others	Covid-19 and the ‘Development Surprise’ of Bangladesh	Seminar at the Korean Institute of International Economic Policy (KIEP)	January 26, 2022

2022 年度 研究計画 (800~1,000 字)

Research Plan for AY2022 (Please state clearly the research progress, results, approx. 400 words.)

Overall, the study aims to examine and argue some major issues. They include (a) The level of pre-Covid-19 FI in the economy of Bangladesh and India through the Government, banks, NGOs, and other sources since 2000, (b) FI in both countries has, directly and indirectly, helped reduce poverty and aided socio-economic development of their underprivileged, (c) There are similarities and differences in the approaches between Bangladesh and India to upscale the reach of financial inclusion measures for the disadvantaged, and (d) There might be ways to address the challenges to existing FI approaches and prescribe steps to enhance their reach.

Of the four major issues that have been proposed to be dealt with, I have made progress with the first two in the research completed so far. As pointed out earlier, the Covid-19 pandemic has created barriers to completing some of the tasks I was supposed to have done by this time. Anyway, in the AY2022, I want to make progress with the following issues and complete the research.

1. I will conduct sample surveys in Bangladesh and India to see how financial inclusion is impacting the poverty situation in both countries. This will give a clear picture of the feeling of the respondents about their poverty situation in the context of more financial inclusion. This will focus on the ground reality of the development characters of Bangladesh and India. The income disparity and rising inequality are concerns in both societies; a fact that needs to be explored is the progress in the wellbeing of individual households in the development ladder. That can be related to the inclusive development of the countries as well.
2. I will be analyzing various FI measures used by India and Bangladesh to reach the poor, characteristics of the financial products, offerors of the products, and the target group. Special focus will be given on conventional Microcredit and Islamic Finance in Bangladesh, microcredit, and *Jan Dhan Yojana* of India. The financial efficiency of these products through the usages of quantitative data will be assessed. The similarities and contrasts in the FI approaches followed by India, and Bangladesh will be identified in the process. As Microcredit in Bangladesh and *Jan Dhan Yojana* in India are signature FI products of these countries, they will form the core of the comparison.
3. The dissemination of the research output will remain a major focus of the year's research. So, the results will be presented at different conferences and seminars. Offering a comprehensive paper at the APU Conference in 2022 will form a part of the effort.