

Project Title: Bangladeshi Education Stipend Project – Is it Really Pro-Poor?

Abstract:

I will conduct an institutional ethnography of a conditional cash transfer (CCT) education program in Bangladesh. In 2007, the program switched from female-targeting to poor-targeting. After ten months of preliminary research at the Ministry of Education in Dhaka, I claim that this change had drastic effects. I will ask why this change happened, how the new program is performing in the Bangladeshi context, and how the recipients are transformed by their participation. I will analyze of all related government documents and conduct ethnographic fieldwork in four rural sites. This will contribute to theoretical academic and policy debates regarding the global “best practice” CCT and provide a critical case study which goes beyond narrow quantitative metrics of project performance.