

## **Babul Akhter**

I grew up in a country where natural disaster like flood, cyclone, drought and tidal bore are common to almost every year. The peculiar geographical location of Bangladesh has made the country disaster prone. The majority of Bangladesh's population lives in rural areas and majority of them are poor. The suddenness and massive destruction of a hazard makes it very difficult to cope within limited resource.



I am working in a state-run microfinance funding institute where I learnt the true picture of poverty in Bangladesh. Microcredit is the most effective measure in the ongoing struggle to reduce poverty in the third world. We provide assistance to the poor, the landless and assetless people for generating income. Besides the operation of disaster management, we should emphasize and focus on improvement of socio-economic condition of the country so that the people can cope with disaster themselves without having any foreign aid.

I came to ADRC as a visiting Researcher in order to be more specialized in disaster issues in Asian region. When I came here I had a vague idea about how a center can link with the other countries in Asian region. I was curious about how disaster mitigation works on the other side of the world and I am happy when ADRC takes me as a visiting researcher. ADRC has developed me personally over range of competencies in a way to disseminate information of disaster. During the research period, I had opportunity to visit to different international and government organization in Japan and I exchanged my views and some ideas with them. I had also few presentations where I had a chance to inform the real picture of poverty and disaster situation in Bangladesh.

Thanks to ADRC. The support is great. The people in ADRC are very friendly and willing to lend hand whenever I need support. It is a valuable experience in my life. ADRC has given me the knowledge of forward-looking and effective disaster reduction strategies. I learnt how to build a strong international cooperation through exchange of information among disaster-prone countries. I realize what I learn here exactly I need it. I firmly believe when I will return to my country, I can make a significant contribution from my experience at ADRC.

(Visiting Researcher, ADRC / Assistant Manager, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, Bangladesh)