

COVID-19: The health and wellbeing concerns of households in Bangladesh

About the talk

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic threatens the lives and livelihoods of people globally. Low-income countries with poor institutions and lack of social safety nets are facing stiffer challenges on both health and economic grounds. This talk will provide empirical evidence from large scale surveys in rural Bangladesh to understand the extent of jobs and income loss, dynamics of ‘food insecurity’, and physical and mental health challenges during the COVID-19. It will examine concerns and policy responses to address these evolving challenges as well as discuss new and ongoing interventions focusing on health and human capital to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 crisis.

About the speaker

Dr. Asad Islam is currently the Director of the Centre for Development Economics and Substantiality ([CDES](#)), and Professor at the Department of Economics at Monash University. He has extensive experience working in the field to implement academic and policy-relevant research including the economics of education and health, food security, energy, disaster and environment, technology adoption, gender, microfinance, social networks, and corruption. His research works span in several developing countries including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Cambodia, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Dr. Islam has published extensively in leading economics and public policy journals, and his work is supported by international grants, such as Australian Research council (ARC), UK Research Council (ESRC), DFID, AusAID (DFAT), International Growth Centre (IGC), European Commission, and World Bank. He has been a visiting fellow at universities such as Oxford, Cornell, and Chicago. He has previously worked at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and University of Dhaka.

Dr. Islam is currently collaborating with leading NGOs and institutions in Bangladesh to address a number of emerging challenges on COVID 19 issues. He has given interviews in different media and written on broader public policy responses to COVID 19 in developing countries.