

## **My AIBS Fellowship and Bangladesh Studies**

### **Michael Barry Bowler**

My dissertation research in 1992 revealed how the most vulnerable in this research village in southwestern Bangladesh were left out of much sustainable development and how nongovernmental organizations could lift them out of crises. Additionally, I found that certain families were able to manipulate NGOs to benefit disproportionately, instead of going to the vulnerable families who so badly needed these benefits. Twenty-five years after this initial study, what I discovered through my 2016 research fellowship was that while the quality of life had improved markedly, including for many of the most vulnerable, health care did not. Health problems arose due to environmental factors like arsenic in drinking water and the unbearable heat almost year around. The constant heat in the South Asian regions is a factor that affects these villages. While peoples' lives have improved, health care lags, and staggers under the environmental threats to these peoples' health.

### **Outcomes**

1. Ongoing conversations with Pearl Publications who have previously published restudies including *Jhagrapur*. Looking forward to building on my previous research to come forward with a new publication that will address changes I have observed in Jessore and Modhupur over the last 25 years, an in-depth longitudinal restudy
2. Additional articles that involve NGOs and changes in Bangladesh on the basis of my fellowship.
3. Solidifying applications to my teaching and presentations for AIBS and WSU and other institutions where I may present.
4. An action component: I have contacted Medtronic in Minneapolis-St. Paul and plan to contact the Mayo Clinic in Rochester about how these institutions can be brought into where I do my research to work with local professionals in improving health care, especially related to arsenic, cancer and the use of defibrillators in emergencies in southwestern Bangladesh

### **Deliverables**

1. A well-attended presentation on "25 Years of Research in A Jessore Village," given at the Independent University of Bangladesh campus in Dhaka, hosted by IUB and sponsored by AIBS, on Tuesday, July 13, 2016
2. Intended presentation at AIBS Preconference at Annual South Asia Conference on Thursday, October 20, 2016.
3. Presentation at Winona State University's CLASP Lecture series on "Bangladesh in the Digital Age," Spring 2017.
4. Possible upcoming presentation for the Global Minnesota on recent research on sustainable development in Bangladesh.
5. Possible article for Bangladesh Daily Star on my four months in Bangladesh, research and terrorism.