

Impact of old age allowance on health-related quality of life among elderly persons in Bangladesh

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of small-scale old age allowance (per capita US\$3 per month in cash) on health-related quality (HRQoL) of life of elderly persons initiated by the government of Bangladesh in 1998. The beneficiaries have been increased from 0.5 million in 1998 to 1.6 million in 2006. A cross-sectional study was conducted in 10 of the 64 districts of Bangladesh including 4,498 elderly persons (≥ 60 years) where BRAC has been maintaining a demographic surveillance. HRQoL was assessed using a multi-dimensional generic instrument. Multivariate analyses revealed that receiving old age allowance was significantly associated with attaining higher scores in the social and economic dimensions and lower scores in the physical dimension of HRQoL compared to the eligible non-beneficiaries (adjusted for sex, age, education and marital status). A significant impact of old age allowance on some specific dimensions of HRQoL albeit small, justifies its continuation and expansion to bring more individuals in its net.

Keywords: old age allowance, poor, Bangladesh