**23rd-24th Workshop: Impact Evaluation of Educational policies: Focusing on Managing Rigorous Evaluation**

The IGC-BRAC-IGS&BDI supported by IPA Impact Evaluation of Educational policies workshop took place at BRAC Inn on the 23rd and 24th of March.

The goal of the workshop was to give an introduction to NGOs, Research organization, Policy Makers and other stakeholders on how to design an evaluation, how to manage it and what output to expect. The main objective was making participants aware to know when and how to think about conduce impact assessments and how this knowledge can help them to plan, improve and evaluate their work. As showed by the evaluation forms, all of the participants agreed that the goal of the Workshop was achieved.

The first day of this two-day workshop focused on the basics of rigorous evaluation and RCTs plus the afternoon session on programme management. Dr. Mahabub Hossain, BRAC Research Executive Director, gave an introduction speech focused on the importance of evidence based policies and development programmes and the need to diffuse rigorous evaluation methodologies.

Andrew Jenkins, Head of BRAC Research and Evaluation Division, gave the first presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation, focusing on the Theory of Change and the theoretical framework of effective use evaluation and its indicators.

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research of BRAC Development Institute and Institute of Governance Studies, presented the second session on basic concepts of RCT: selection bias, power calculation, randomization units etc.

Finally, the first day concluded with Rory Creedon’s, Project Coordinator at IPA, presentation on Programme Management. The session focused on Data and Team management and an introduction to Questionnaire writing and coding.

The second day of the workshop centred on the impact analysis of Rigorous Evaluation and RCTs. Prof. Atonu Rabbani and Prof. Ummul Ruthbah, Dhaka University, presented the 4th and 5th session respectively on RCTs’ Impact Analysis and Non-experimental analysis.

Finally, at the end of the second day workshop, all the speakers joined for a panel session on evidence based policies and rigorous evaluation. Most of the discussion and Q&As time focused on the political, ethical and technical feasibility of RCTs and the future or rigorous evaluations.

The workshop was well attended by an attentive and heterogeneous audience of policy makers, NGOs workers and local researchers who had little or no previous experience of working in RCTs.