

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Participant Information Sheet – Survey participants

**Title of Project:** *Impact evaluation of the STAR+ skills development programme in Bangladesh*

### Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. I will read this information sheet to you now. Ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information.

### What is the purpose of the study?

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), a university in the United Kingdom, and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), a research institute in Bangladesh, are conducting research about people with disabilities and work. This includes their experiences of finding and being at work, as well as reasons they may or may not be working. This research also is looking at the impact of different programmes that can help people with disabilities in finding and staying in work.

### Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited because our records indicate that you or someone in your household has a disability or a health condition. You/he/she may have been identified as a possible participant by either an organisation working in this area or because you receive a Golden Citizenship card from the government.

### Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide to take part or not. Your decision to participate or not participate will have no effect on any services you receive now or in the future. We will not share your decision with anyone outside the research team, including the organisation that identified you as a possible participant.

### What will I have to do?

If you agree to take part, I will first ask you to [*delete as needed*: sign/thumbprint a document confirming you've been told about the study and that you agree to participate OR confirm you've been told about the study and that you agree to participate by being recorded agreeing to the study terms].

I will then ask you questions using a questionnaire. This will include questions on your household, your employment status, you and other members of your household's income and your quality of life. The questionnaire will last about 30 minutes and 60 minutes. You can refuse to answer any of my questions.

We would also like to talk to you again in the future, but you can decide at that time if you would like to talk to us again or not.

### What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

There are no risks to participating, although it is possible you may feel distressed at discussing your experiences.

### What are the possible benefits?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. We are unable to provide cash or other benefits for your time. The information we get from the study will help our knowledge and understanding of how to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

### Who can I contact for more information?

If you have a concern or want more information about any aspect of this study, you can ask me any questions. You can also speak to other members of the research team who will do their best to answer your questions (contact details below).

**Can I change my mind about taking part?**

Yes. You can stop the discussion at any time without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences for you if you decide to withdraw from the study.

**What will happen to information collected about me?**

All information collected about you will be kept private.

Your data will be anonymised. This means that we will remove personal details, like your name, contact details and address, so that you cannot be recognised when looking at the answers you provide to my questions. Only the study staff and authorities who check that the study is being carried out properly will be allowed to look at your personal details, like your name and contact information. Your personal details will be kept in a different safe place to the other study data (e.g. the answers you provide to the questionnaire), and will be destroyed within 10 years of the end of the study. A copy of your data will be sent to the research team at LSHTM in the United Kingdom, but this will be anonymised.

We may include details that you share with us on an online data repository. A data repository is a site where other researchers outside this study team can look at data from different studies so that they can confirm our findings or use your data for other research purposes. All information that could potentially identify you will be removed before we put it on this site.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The study results will be published in a journal so that policy-makers and practitioners can learn from them. We will also share the learning with policy-makers and practitioners directly. Your personal information will not be included in any study materials so that you can't be identified from it.

For more details, contact:

XXXX [to be added]

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development