

Notes from the Editor

This first issue of 2018 follows up on previous articles published in 2017 on early grade reading from the READ project implemented in Bangladesh by Save the Children and the Directorate of Primary Education with funding support of US Agency for International Development. The present article prepared by the READ Research Team in Bangladesh reports on the endline assessment of READ intervention with ethnic communities in the Khagrachari district of Chittagong Hill Tracts. It shows that the intervention made a difference in reading capabilities of children; however greater benefits were possible if parents and families could be involved in guiding children and assisting them at home.

The second article by **John Richards, Manzoor Ahmed** and **Mohammad Shahidul Islam** poses the question “Why is South Asia poor” and explores the role and contribution of quality primary education in fighting poverty and inequality. The article is a preview of a book that the authors have been invited to write for the University of Toronto Press.

The third article by **S. F. M. M. T. Marikar, M. C. M. Zakeel** and **M. I. S. Safeena** from Sri Lanka reports about the growing interest in bio-technology education at the high school level and how teachers’ knowledge and attitude about the subject influence their motivation and teaching practices. This conclusion suggests the need for enhanced training and preparation of teachers for bio-technology teaching.