



The Current Batch of MPH Students on a field visit in Pangsha, Rajbari, to Critically Review Respectful Maternity Care Practices

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MPH Programme at BRAC JPG School of Public Health Receives 'Very Good' Credit in Higher Education Quality Assurance Review

The Master of Public Health programme at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH), BRAC University has received 'Very Good' grade in the University Grants Commission (UGC) Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) external review. Funded by the World Bank and jointly implemented by UGC Bangladesh and the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh, the HEQEP aims to improve the quality of teaching, learning and research in all higher education institutions in Bangladesh.

As part of the project, a distinguished panel of External Peer Reviewers from UGC undertook an in-depth and on-site inspection of physical facilities, reviewed Self-Assessment findings & documents, and held a discussion with relevant stakeholders on 9 domains of quality academic programme.

The reviewer team included Dr Jahangir Alam (Professor, Department of Finance, Director, Institutional Quality Assurance Cell, University of Chittagong), Dr Md Shahidul Kabir (Professor, Department of Microbiology, Stamford University), and Dr. Tarique Md. Nurul Huda (Deputy Project Coordinator, Infectious Diseases Division, icddr,b).

The reviewers undertook on-site critical review between August 28-30, 2018 by having discussions with faculty members, non-academic staff, students, alumni and employers of the alumni.

After a thorough examination of self-assessment and review findings, the panel credited the schools' MPH Programme 'Very Good' in terms of quality assurance. In addition, the reviewers made a list of recommendations for sustaining the quality and for further improvement.



The Current Batch of MPH Students Critically Reviewed Respectful Maternity Care Practices in Baliakandi and Pangsha, Rajbari

The current (14th) batch of MPH students undertook a field visit to two Upazila Health Complexes (UHC) in Baliakandi and Pangsha Upazila of Rajbari district between September 16-20, 2018. The objective of this visit was to understand Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) practices, specifically ANC service and the environment of Labor Wards at UHCs.

The field visit is a part of the requirement for BRAC Project Management Learning-II (PML-II). It also involves the design of a pilot project for a solution focusing on service delivery, human resource, communication and finance to improve RMC practices at UHC level.

During the visit students went to two UHCs at two Upazilas to observe their current RMC practices. They also held a meeting with the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer and the District Civil Surgeon to understand the RMC practices at those UHCs. After the visit students worked on developing a project to provide solutions to improve RMC practices and presented the solutions to faculty members.





Dean of BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health visited Parbatipur Field Sites

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean & Professor, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University, visited the Parbatipur Field Site on July 28, 2018.

The Parbatipur Field Site was established by Dr. Malay Kanti Mridha, Associate Professor & Director of Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Disease (CNCDN). The Site is currently run by the researchers from BRAC JPG School of Public Health and icddr,b.

During the visit, Professor Rashid attended a meeting with the staff members of the Zinc and Rice Initiative (ZARI) Project of BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and the Menstrual Tracking Calendar & Indoor Air Pollution projects of icddr,b. In the meeting the researchers of these projects updated her on the progress of these projects.

Professor Rashid also visited one of the three data collection sites and one of the 10 feeding centers of the ZARI project. The data collection site was located in the Bishnupur Union of the Badarganj Sub-district where she observed collection of anthropometric data and bio-samples from 1-3-year-old children. The feeding center she visited was located in the Ramnathpur Union of the Badarganj Sub-district where the feeding center assistants described their daily activities including cooking, measuring, packing and distribution of rice to the children.

Rabiul Islam (Sr Field Coordinator), Md. Moniruzzaman (Field Coordinator) and Dr Malay Kanti Mridha accompanied Professor Rashid during her visit.





Feasibility Assessment and Assessment of Implementation of Operational Models for Delivering Integrated Comprehensive SRHR Services in Cox's Bazar

This research project is funded by WHO Geneva and conducted under the The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health. This is a part of a multi-country project that aims to deliver comprehensive SRHR services to extremely vulnerable women and adolescent girls in areas with acute humanitarian crisis.

The *Rohingya* refugee camps at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh is one of the project sites where the team from CGSRHR is conducting the research. It is a mixed method study that will be conducted in 2 phases, "Phase 1: Feasibility Assessment" & "Phase 2 Implementation Research". Currently in phase 1, a feasibility assessment is being conducting to understand the SRHR needs and the readiness of the healthcare facilities for provide SRHR services to the community.

The field team for the project visited different refugee camps in Cox's Bazar for two weeks in July to get familiar with the environment and collect preliminary information to help finalize sampling and data collection strategies. Eight data collectors have been recruited locally and data collection (survey and facility assessment) has started from August 11.

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid (Dean & Professor, and Director of CGSRHR) is the PI of this project and Md. Tanvir Hasan (Assistant Professor) is the Co-PI of this project. Zahidul Quayyum (Professor), Bachera Aktar (Coordinator), Nadia Farnaz (Research Associate), Raafat Hassan (Sr Research Assistant), Pushpita Ray (Sr Research Assistant), Sharid Bin Shafique (Research Assistant) and Abdul Awal (Research Assistant) are also working on this project. Rushdia Ahmed (Sr Research Fellow) is overseeing the qualitative component of the study.



Implementation Science for Introduction of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in the Health Facilities of Bangladesh

The KMC project is implemented under the Centre of Excellence on the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health. Funded by UNICEF Bangladesh, the project is going now in Phase 2 where field visits are being conducted in 8 selected facilities with Key Informant Interviews (KII) and In depth Interviews (IDI) along with facility assessment using structured questionnaire.

The field visit sites include, Dhaka (Institute of Child & Mother Health (ICMH) and Dhaka Medical College Hospital), Kurigram (Kurigram District Hospital & Ulipur Upazilla Health Complex), Tangail (Tangail District Hospital & Kalihati Upazilla Health Complex), and Kustia (Kustia District Hospital & Kumarkhali Upazilla Health Complex).

The KMC project is led by Dr Malabika Sarker (Professor and Associate Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and Director, CoE-SISU) with Dr Yameen Mazumder (Sr Project Specialist) and Dr Rajat Das Gupta (Research Associate).

Field visits are being conducted by Sayema Akter (Sr Research Associate), Ipsita Sutradhar (Sr Research Associate), Avijit Saha (Sr Research Associate), Bushra Zarin Islam (Sr Research Associate), Saima Mehajbeen, (Research Associate), Mowtushi Matin (Research Associate), Md. Ashrafal Alam (Sr Field Coordinator) and Jony Mcfield (Field Coordinator).



Implementation Science for Global Health: Lessons Learned from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded GPEI project is under the Centre of Excellence on the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health.

The data collection for the survey on GPEI has started in 10 locations (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Shunamgonj, Tangail, Mymensingh, and Cox's Bazar). The survey seeks to map and synthesize tacit knowledge - ideas, approaches and experiences that are not documented but are relevant within various context typologies under GPEI and help understand how to utilize public goods efficiently for the eradication of polio in Bangladesh.

The GPEI Project Lead is Dr Malabika Sarker (Professor and Associate Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and Director, CoE-SISU) and Dr Yameen Mazumder (Sr Project Specialist) is the Co-Lead.

Field Implementers for the survey are, Ashfique Rizwan (Deputy Project Coordinator), Mehedi Hasan (Sr Research Associate), Sayema Akter (Sr Research Associate), Ipsita Sutradhar (Sr Research Associate), Bushra Zarin Islam (Sr Research Associate), Avijit Saha (Sr Research Associate), Rajat Das Gupta (Research Associate), Saima Mehajbeen, (Research Associate), Mowtushi Matin (Research Associate), Puspita Hossain (Research Associate), Humayra Binte Anwar (Research Associate), and Arifur Rahman Apu (Sr Research Assistant).

Dissemination Workshop on Learnings from the PAUSE Study

A dissemination workshop for the study titled “Perspectives of Policymakers and Practitioners on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Scenario in Bangladesh: Pathways of antimicrobial use among people and animal (PAUSE)”. The workshop was hosted by the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health on August 7. Government representatives, professionals, researchers, academics, prescribers, development partners participated in the event.

The PAUSE study was implemented by CoE-HS&UHC in partnership with the Centre for Global Health and Human Development, Loughborough University, UK and the Enteric and Food Microbiology Laboratory, icddr,b. The Study was supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK. The objective of the study was to explore the perspectives of policy makers and practitioners on AMR in Bangladesh. A desk based literature review and a number of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted as a part of the study.

Professor Syed Masud Ahmed (Director, CoE-HS&UHC) welcomed the workshop participants. Dr Emily Rousham (Sr Lecturer, Loughborough University) shared the background of the study. Dr Nahitun Naher (Research Fellow) presented the key findings from the study. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion which was moderated by Dr Leanne Unicomb (Environmental Intervention Unit, icddr,b). Dr Sanya Tahmina Jhora (Director, CDC, DGHS, Dr Eric Brum (Country Team Leader, FAO), Md. Salahuddin (Assistant Director, DG of DGDA), Prof. Niyaz Ahmed (Sr Director, Laboratory Sciences and Services Division, icddr,b), and Dr M. Selim Uzzaman (PSO, IEDCR) participated in the panel discussion. Dr M. Aminul Islam (Associate Scientist & Head, Food Microbiology Laboratory, icddr,b) concluded the event by sharing the way forward and a note of thanks.





Front Line Health Worker Interviews Conducted at three Health Facilities In Barisal

The Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health is conducting a study titled 'Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance for Health System Strengthening and Advancing UHC Agenda in Bangladesh: Exploring Factors Involving the Front Line Health Workers in Bangladesh at PHC levels.'

The study is being conducted in collaboration with the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), the University of London, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

As a part of this study a team conducted in-depth interviews with doctors, nurses and facility managers at the Mirjagonj Health Complex, Bauphal Upazila Health Complex and Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Patuakhali, Barisal from August 8 to 19. Various aspects that include career aspiration, work environment, private practice, training opportunities, managing situations using existing resources, and exploring feasible local level solutions to improve health service delivery were discussed during the interviews.

The study team included Dr Nahitun Naher (Research Fellow), Shaikh Hassan (Sr Research Associate) and Roksana Hoque (Sr Research Associate) from CoE-HS&UHC and locally recruited data collectors.





Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of a Public Health Palliative Care Project in Bangladesh Through Community Theatre

The final report has been shared for the “Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of a Public Health Palliative Care Project in Bangladesh Through Community Theatre” with project partners.

As a part of this project, Sayema Akter (Sr Research Associate) and Puspita Hossain (Research Associate) attended a workshop organized by BRAC CEP on developing ethnodrama, at BRAC Residential campus, Savar.

The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC, UK). Partners for the project are Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), University of Sussex, University of York, and University of Glasgow. The qualitative research aspect of the project is lead by, Dr Malabika Sarker (Professor and Associate Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and Director, CoE-SISU).



Digitalization of Health Information System: A Tool to Improve Maternal Health Services through Front Line Family Planning Workers in Bangladesh

The study evaluates the implementation program in digitizing the paper-based registers used by Family Welfare Assistants in two unions of Gazipur District. The implementation is conducted by mPower Enterprise Limited, and the program is funded by Spider Center, Stockholm, Sweden. The study is near completion and the deadline has been extended till December 2018. The end-line quantitative survey is complete and analysis is ongoing. A few qualitative Key Informant Interviews (KII) are due which will assess the future scale-up opportunities of the project.

Dr Malabika Sarker (Professor and Associate Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and Director, CoE-SISU) is the PI of the study. Mushfiqur Rahman (Sr Research Assistant) and Jony Barnard Mcfield (Field Coordinator) are a part of the Research Team.



HHH (Health, Hygiene, and Housing)

The study focuses on housing upgrade (concrete floor construction) and finds outcomes in children's (under five) risks of exposures (of *Ascaris* and *E. coli* for intestinal infections and diarrhea, respectively) in mud floors. The implementation is conducted by ADESH (Association of Development for Economic & Social Help), and the program is funded by Archive Global.

The study is complete, and findings suggest household members in resource constraint situation often live in unhygienic environments and simple home improvements such as cementing floors have the potentials to reduce exposure to different pollutants, especially biological pathogens such as worms (*Ascaris*) and microbes (*E. coli*).

Dr Malabika Sarker (Professor and Associate Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, and Director, CoE-SISU) is the PI of the study. Dr. Atonu Rabbani (Associate Scientist, BRAC JPG School of Public Health) is the Co-PI. Mushfiqur Rahman (Sr Research Assistant), Sayeda Tahmina Ahmed (Research Assistant) and Md. Ashraful Alam (Sr Field Coordinator) are part of the Research Team.

Registrar Shuriya Khanom visits BRACU Academic Site in Sylhet

The Registrar of Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC) Shuriya Khanom has visited the BRACU academic site at FIVVDB Sylhet. Assistant Director Dipika Halder from Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery accompanied her during this visit on 10th of August. The visitors were warmly welcomed by the midwifery students and other officials of FIVVDB. In her welcome speech the Registrar said “You have to work for the humanity. Treat a mother with sympathy, treat them with respect and take good care of them while you are serving them. Always remember, your job is not an ordinary duty but you are welcoming a human life into this world. You are the most important person in an expectant mother’s life while she is giving birth.”



Feasibility Study on Midwife-Led Care Centre

An International research has been taking place since June on the Midwife-led BRAC Maternity Centre. The title of the study is, “Midwife-led care in low-and middle-income countries: Case study Bangladesh”. This research is an initiative of University of Technology Sydney, University of Dundee and BRAC University. Michaela Michel-Schuldt who is the key researcher took the interview of Key Informants: Policy Makers, Managers, Midwives working in Midwife-led Units, Women who have received care in a Midwife-led Unit, Allied Health Professionals cooperating with Midwife-led Units, and Teaching Faculties from both Government and BRAC University.





British Deputy High Commissioner met Midwifery students in FIVDB, Sylhet

HE Khanbar Hossein Bor, Deputy British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, along with a group of high level officials from British High Commission visited the Developing Midwives Project's academic site FIVDB in Sylhet on September 13.

The visitors were welcomed by the FIVDB midwifery students and officials, and met with the senior management. A brief presentation was given on FIVDB's core activities with updates on Developing Midwives Project. Mr Zahid Hossain, Director of FIVDB also showed visitors the skill lab. 3rd batch students demonstrated their midwifery skills and briefed the visitors on how they counsel pregnant mothers on Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal care (PNC).

Mr Khanbar was impressed with the students and said, "Inspiring day. So proud that UK is supporting their amazing journey to fulfill their dreams" regarding his visit.



Leadership Training for Student Leaders of Seven Academic Sites

A training program titled, "Excelling Effective Leadership" was organized on September 7, at the Dhaka Urban Academic Site. Rubina Jahan, Clinical Psychologist and Counselor for Midwives Development from DMP conducted the training. This training was provided to new student leaders from all seven academic sites with an introduction to the skills required to manage and lead people effectively. One of the primary objectives of the training was to empower and motivate them to become future leaders in midwifery. They also learned and practiced different leadership theories and techniques, and made an action plan for the next 5 months. Through this training the student leaders are taught to be more confident and skilled, to be able to play a vital role in maintaining a healthy learning environment.



DMP participated in “ICM Conference 2018”

Developing Midwives Project has participated and presented a paper in International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Combined Regional Conference 2018, Dubai, U.A.E.

The theme of the conference this year was “Midwives Leading the Way for Quality and Equity”. Project Director Dr Selina Amin, Team Leader Kalpana Roy and Course Coordinator Sujata Rani Das represented DMP in this conference.

Dr Amin presented a paper titled “Introducing Standardized Methodology and Reviewed Curriculum in Midwifery Education: Experience of Developing Midwives Project (DMP), BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University”.

The paper briefly discussed how BRAC University modified its curriculum to modernize midwifery education, aligning itself with the international standard and adopted ICT as a vital tool of education.

Alongside the paper, a poster was presented on the first private sector Midwife-Led Care Centre in Bangladesh. The poster presentation showcased how BRAC University is bringing knowledge to application, which is helping midwife graduates to use their skills by serving the mothers in the community level.





Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid is at UC Berkeley, as a Visiting Scholar

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Professor, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, is at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Visiting Scholar. Dr Rashid will be at Berkeley from September 14 to October 8, based at both the Center for Social Medicine and the Institute of South Asia Studies, Institute for South Asia Studies, Berkeley Center for Social Medicine.

On September 25, Dr Rashid gave a lecture on, "The Invisible Reality of 'Chinta Roge' (A Life of Chronic Worry): The Illness of Poverty in Dhaka's Urban Slum Settlements", at The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh.

The Lecture can be viewed in its entirety on the [Center's official site](#) and on [YouTube](#).



Dr. Malabika Sarker attended the first meeting of the Lancet Commission

Dr Malabika Sarker, Professor and Associate Dean, attended the first meeting of the Lancet Commission in London during September 10-12. The meeting was organized by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, and the Heidelberg Institute of Public Health. The meeting brought together Commissioners from around the world. The objective for the meeting was to develop a way forward to strengthen the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda regarding the three strategic priorities of the World Health Organization (WHO) General Programme of Work, "Achieving UHC", "Addressing Health Emergencies", and "Promoting Healthier Populations" in low and middle income countries.



Professor Syed Masud Ahmed Presented at the EASO Conference

Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC), presented at the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Practical Cooperation Conference on Bangladesh. The conference took place during September 20-21, in Rome, Italy. The purpose of the conference was to allow an exchange of information and experiences, obtain a greater understanding of the Bangladeshi caseload and challenges related to decision-making, policy developments, COi needs and activities. An overview of Bangladesh was presented during the conference that included topics such as, State Structures & the Political System, Freedom of Expression & the Media, Ethnic Groups, Trafficking, and *Rohingya* Refugees.

Professor Ahmed gave a presentation on the health care system in Bangladesh titled, "Health Profile of Bangladesh", on the first day of the conference. The presentation included the status of Health Systems in Bangladesh including overview & achievements, infrastructure of service delivery, access & barriers to services (leave no one behind), challenges towards achieving UHC by 2030, and the indigenous *Rohingya* refugee crisis in Bangladesh.



Short Course: Skill Development on Economic Evaluation and Prioritizing For Universal Health Coverage

Course Coordinator: Dr Zahidul Quayyum, PhD

Date: 25 - 27 September | No. of Participants: 21

This day-long 3-day short course was organized by the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University. Participants for this course included Researchers, Project Managers, and Public Health Practitioners from icddr, BRAC, Chemonics International, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (Peoples Health Centre), and Light Castle Partners.

The course trained participants on the essential tools for conducting economic evaluation. Participants learned about the Fundamentals and Principles of Economic Evaluation, Cost-effectiveness, Cost-utility and Cost-benefit Analysis, Cost Calculation, Fundamental Methods for Measuring Health Related Quality of Life (QALYs), Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), Critical Assessment of Economic Evaluation, and Health Technology Assessment Process.

Dr Quayyum is a Professor and the Technical Adviser to CoE-HS&UHC at BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University. He has over twenty years of experience in conducting health economics research in Universities in UK. He served as a Health Economist and taught Health Economics, Health Technology Assessment at M.Sc. and Undergraduate programmes of different Universities in UK (Queen Mary University of London, University of Glasgow and University of Aberdeen).

Professor Syed Abdul Hamid (Director) and Dr Nahid Akhter Jahan (Associate Professor) from the Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka also taught in the course as guest resource persons. Both Prof. Hamid and Dr Nahid have extensive experience in teaching Health Economics.



Workshop: Thinking Qualitatively

Course Coordinator: Dr Shahaduz Zaman

Date: 4 - 6 September | No. of Participants: 27

This 3-day workshop on the “Fundamentals of Qualitative Research” was organized by the Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University.

The workshop introduced participants to the Fundamentals of Qualitative Research, In-depth Interviews & Focus Group Discussions, Ethnographic Observations, and Data Analysis & Interpretation

Dr Zaman has a PhD in Medical Anthropology, Master’s in Public Health, and a Bachelor’s in Medicine. He is currently working as a Research Fellow at the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, in the University of Glasgow, UK. Before moving to UK in 2009, Dr Zaman was working with BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.



Short Course: Orientation to STATA

Course Coordinator: Ibrahim Hossain Sajal

Date: 13 August | No. of Participants: 16

This half-day orientation course was organized by the Centre for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU) at BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University.

The course introduced participants to the basics of STATA, such as opening a dataset, investigating the contents of the dataset, managing the dataset, and using statistical analysis to get few descriptive statistics.

Ibrahim Hossain Sajal completed his Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in applied statistics from the Institute of Statistical Research & Training, University of Dhaka. He is currently working as a Research Assistant at BRAC JPG School of Public Health.



BRAC JPG School of Public Health Participated in a Knowledge Fair on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

BRAC JPG School of Public Health participated in a day-long event titled, “Knowledge Fair on SRHR” on September 9, hosted by Share-Net Bangladesh.

Share-Net Bangladesh Steering Committee Member, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Professor, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University spoke on the objectives of Share-Net and the needs of young people, marginalized groups and minorities regarding SRHR.

A poster was presented authored by Farhana Alam (Coordinator), Sameen Nasar (Research Associate) and Sumona Siddiqua (Research Associate) from the “**Breaking The Shame: Towards Effective SRHR Education For Young People In Bangladesh**” Project (Sub-Project 3) team. The poster summarized the results of the implementation research, where three areas were addressed; Myths and Misconceptions around SRHR Topics, Practical SRHR Skills, Coping Strategies for Strong Emotion. It was presented during the afternoon segment of the event, where various organizations working with SRHR were present.

The school also included a stall for the duration of the event showcasing our various informational and marketing materials. Tamanna Majid (Research Associate) represented BRAC JPG School of Public Health at the stall.





BRAC JPG School of Public Health Researchers participated in Cambridge Advanced Short Course on Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology

Dr Rajat Das Gupta (Research Associate) and Dr Animesh Talukdar (Research Associate) successfully participated in 'Cambridge Advanced Short Course on Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology' which took place from July 3 to August 1, 2018 at Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka.

The course has been organized as part of the Cambridge Programme to Assist Bangladesh in Lifestyle and Environmental risk reduction (CAPABLE) programme which was established in response to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Bangladesh. The project involves three UK Universities, the University of Cambridge (Departments of Public Health and Primary Care, Chemistry and Pathology), University of Aberdeen and University College, London and four partner Bangladeshi institutions, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), icddr,b, Bangladesh, IEDCR and the National Heart Foundation.

This course focused on the five inter-linked research themes of epidemiology of NCDs including biostatistics, lifestyle and behavioral determinants of health, environment and health, with special focus air and water pollution, health policy and gender, and designing low-cost scalable interventions. The course provided detailed and rigorous training and inter-disciplinary understanding across these research themes.

Dr Rajat and Dr Animesh along with 30 others were selected for this short course among almost 1,000 applicants.





Researchers from BRAC JPG School of Public Health learn about Jungian Psychodrama

Researchers from BRAC JPG School of Public Health have attended Jungian Psychodrama sessions at the Indian Institute of Psychodrama in Chennai from September 1-9. Ashfiq Rizwan (Deputy Project Coordinator), Abdul Jabbar (Assistant Project Coordinator), Arifur Rahman (Sr. Research Assistant) and Rukhshan Fahmi (Research Associate) from the NWO-WOTRO funded project “Psychodrama as a Transformative Intervention in the SRH of Young Men in Urban Slums in Dhaka: Proof of a Novel Approach” have learned a lot of new techniques of Psychodrama.

Dreams that make their appearances as an abstract painting had been interpreted by relating those with the real life memories or with the darkest past in one of the Jungian psychodrama sessions. The the dramas ended by confronting ones past and fabricating it according to ones present needs. The sessions were conducted by Dr Maurizio Gasseau a Turin-based clinical psychologist who is currently the President of the Mediterranean Association of Psychodrama. The sessions consisted of warm-ups to create space and relaxation among the participants, followed by psychodrama sessions that consisted to role reversals and finally sharing sessions that gave the protagonist strength. The sessions had been also enriched by Professor Herb Proper, PhD, T.E.P. who introduced the group with the classical features of psychodrama.

Latest Publications

A Qualitative Study to Explore the Attitudes of Women and Obstetricians Towards Cesarean Delivery in Rural Bangladesh

Authors: Tahmina Begum, Cathryn Ellis, **Malabika Sarker**, Jean-Francois Rostoker, Aminur Rahman, Iqbal Anwar and Laura Reichenbach

Published in: BMC Journals | Published on: September 12, 2018

<https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-018-1993-9>

Daily Maternal Lipid-Based Nutrient Supplementation with 20 mg Iron, Compared with Iron and Folic Acid with 60 mg Iron, Resulted in Lower Iron Status in Late Pregnancy but Not at 6 Months Postpartum in Either the Mothers or Their Infants in Bangladesh

Authors: Susana L Matias, **Malay K Mridha**, Rebecca T Young, Sohrab Hussain, and Kathryn G Dewey

Published in: The Journal of Nutrition | Published on: September 10, 2018

<https://academic.oup.com/jn/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jn/nxy161/5094778?guestAccessKey=98804d69-71fe-4f42-a634-770a78aabdad>

Primary Health Care Seeking Behavior of People with Physical Disabilities in Bangladesh: A Cross-sectional Study

Authors: Jhalok Ronjan Talukdar, Ilias Mahmud and **Sabina Faiz Rashid**

Published in: BMC | Published on: September 3, 2018

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-018-0293-1>

New Blog Post

The Demands of Being an End-of-Life Caregiver: A Case Story



In Bangladesh, institutional palliative care, or end-of-life care is still not as commonly available for patients. And for those who live in urban slums, receiving institutional end-of-life care seems close to impossible. Home-based care here is more popular; when someone gets sick, he or she is cared for by his or her close ones and end-of-life care is no different. This is also true for urban slum dwellers as the terminally ill patients are cared for by their close family members. But do we ever stop to think of what it entails? When taking care of a dying patient, how does the caregiver feel? [Read More](#)