

# AdSEARCH BITES

## Sensitisation Workshop to Enhance Cervical Cancer Screening Research

7 November 2024



Under the leadership of the Maternal Health (MH) Programme of the DGHS, AdSEARCH is conducting a study titled "Assessing implementation Outcomes of Enhanced Screening Package for Cervical Cancer in a Rural Primary Care Setting of Bangladesh". At the Maternal Health Conference Room, EPI Bhaban, Dhaka, the study team in the first week of November has organised a sensitisation programme. The programme was chaired by the Line Director, MNC&AH of DGHS, **Dr S. M. Abdullah-Al-Murad**.

During the workshop, the participants decided to form the Technical Working

Group (TWG). The Obstetric Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and other development partners working with maternal health agreed to support the study. Experts from the MH programme of DGHS, OGSB, WHO, UNICEF, icddr,b and other relevant organisations will be members of the TWG.

At the workshop, **Dr Quamrun Nahar** from icddr,b highlighted the importance of early screening to prevent cervical cancer. **Dr Md. Azizul Alim** explained Bangladesh's current cervical cancer screening efforts and why it's essential to make these services available in more

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Bangladesh and causes 3.42 lakh deaths worldwide, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO). Early screening can help reduce the death toll.

rural areas.

Professor **Dr Farhana Dewan** from OGSB then discussed their work in preventing and treating cervical cancer and emphasised the importance of partnerships in the fight against this disease. **Dr Sabrina Jabeen** presented the protocol emphasising how the enhanced screening package would improve the coverage for screening of cervical cancer in rural areas.

### Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news)

**Dr S. M. Abdullah-Al-Murad**, Line Director, MNC&AH, DGHS

**Dr Quamrun Nahar**, Deputy Project Director, AdSEARCH & Head of Research, MCHD, icddr,b

**Dr Md. Azizul Alim**, Programme Manager, MH, MNC&AH, DGHS

**Professor Dr Farhana Dewan**, President, OGSB

**Dr Sabrina Jabeen**, Assistant Scientist, icddr,b

# Dialogue on the Prematurity Burden, Intervention Status, and Innovations in Bangladesh

23 November 2024



While the country has seen an increase in neonatal care facilities over the last decade, quality remains a concern. In Bangladesh, three newborns die every hour due to prematurity and low birth weight.

To address this issue on a national scale, a workshop titled "Dialogue on the Prematurity Burden, Intervention Status, and Innovations in Bangladesh" was jointly organised by Neonatology Department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and AdSEARCH.

Two scientific presentations were delivered at the workshop. Firstly **Dr Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman** explained that babies born before completing 40 weeks of gestation are at risk of respiratory distress, jaundice, and anemia. Also, stressing that steroid injections administered shortly before birth significantly reduce these risks,

although access remains limited. In the second presentation, **Prof. Dr Md Abdul Mannan** reported that over the past decade, Bangladesh has made notable progress in expanding interventions like Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) and Special Care Newborn Units (SCANU). However, only 16% of these newborns received quality care. He also pointed that, Skin-to-skin contact between a newborn and the mother can reduce neonatal mortality rates up to 25%. During the open discussion session, Major (Retd.) **Dr Laila Arjuman Banu**, highlighted several maternal factors contributing to premature births, including infections during pregnancy, uterine abnormalities, high blood pressure, diabetes, and kidney issues. **Prof. Sanjoy Kumar Dey** emphasised the importance of breastfeeding campaigns in reducing premature and low birth weight (LBW) infant mortality.

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**Bangladesh has the highest preterm birth rate in the world, with 16.2% of babies born prematurely compared to 13% in India and 14.4% in Pakistan.**

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**Dr Md Jahurul Islam**, pointed out the lack of skilled personnel and adequate equipment in many medical centers outside Dhaka.

Experts at the workshop called for strengthened efforts to address gaps in the healthcare system.

The experts also emphasised that further investments in healthcare infrastructure, skilled personnel, and public awareness are crucial to saving lives. They urged policymakers to prioritise these issues to ensure that every newborn receives the care necessary to survive and thrive.

## Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news)

**Dr Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman**, Technical Coordinator, AdSEARCH & Scientist, MCHD, icddr,b

**Professor Dr Md Abdul Mannan**, Chairman, Department of Neonatology, BSMMU

**Professor Sanjoy Kumar Dey**, Department of Neonatology, BSMMU

**Dr Md Jahurul Islam**, Programme Manager, NNHP, DGHS

# Announcement



**12-15 November 2024**

**Dr Farah Naz Rahman**, Research Investigator, MCHD recently presented a poster at the 36<sup>th</sup> International Papillomavirus Conference (IPVC 2024) held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. The title of her poster was “HPV Vaccine Coverage among Rural Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh: Insights into National Vaccination Program through a Community-based Cross-sectional Survey.” Dr Farah also received an award “IPVC Scholar” from the Gates Foundation to participate in the conference and engage in the HPV prevention activities afterwards.



**13 November 2024**

**Abu Bakkar Siddique**, Assistant Scientist, MCHD recently presented a poster and delivered an oral presentation at the American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting 2024 in Toronto, Canada. The title of his presentation was “Navigating Maternal Health Challenges in Bangladesh: An Analysis of Pregnancy Complications and Care-Seeking Behaviors Using Nationally Representative Surveys.” He was also nominated for the Young Investigator Award.



**18 November 2024**

**Dr Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman**, Technical co-ordinator of AdSEARCH has been appointed as a member of the newly formed **Health Sector Reform Commission**, established Government of the people's republic of Bangladesh to recommend reforms aimed at enhancing the accessibility and universality of health services. The Commission will review and assess all aspects of the health sector, identifying key areas for improvement and proposing strategic reforms to ensure a more equitable and effective healthcare system across the country. Dr Ehsan is a public health expert and scientist with nearly 18 years of experience in public health practice and research.

AdSEARCH Bites **Previous Issues:**




<http://adsearch.icddr.org/Study/AllPublications>



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