

AdSEARCH BITES

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 9

GAC Visits the Study Sites of Pocket Colposcopy for Screening of Cervical Cancer

This September, representatives of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the AdSEARCH by icddr,b project team made a three-day field visit for the study “Pocket colposcopy for screening of cervical cancer implementation research”. GAC is supporting the study through AdSEARCH, and which aims to improve the coverage of cervical cancer in Bangladesh by making it more accessible to women in low-resource settings.

24 September 2024

On the first day, the team visited the **Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH)** and was briefed on the study activities and updates. They visited the VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) examination room,

colposcopy clinic, and pathology laboratory, gaining insight into how the hospital integrates advanced screening technologies into its services. The discussion revolved around the local implementation of the pocket

colposcope, a portable device designed to offer women in rural areas access to life-saving cervical cancer screening services. The team also discussed the challenges they are facing in the implementation of the study.



Top left to right: **Dr Fatema Khatun**, Principal Investigator of the study, presenting an overview of the study at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH); Bottom left to right: GAC representatives **Farzana Sultana**, Development Advisor, and **Dr Momena Khatun**, Health Technical Specialist (FSSP), visit MMCH with the study team.

25 September 2024

On the following day, the team visited the **Hossainpur Upazila Health Complex (UHC)** in Kishoreganj, where they met the civil surgeon of Kishoreganj district, with the Hossainpur Upazila Health and

Family Planning Officer (UHFPO) and other health service providers working in the UHC. After a quick tour of the cervical cancer facilities in the UHC, the visitors also went to Kishoreganj District Hospital,

where discussions were held with the hospital superintendent and gynaecologists from the study and a visit to the VIA examination and colposcopy room.



From left to right: GAC representatives in discussion with government health officers at Hossainpur Upazila Health Complex; Group photo featuring **Dr Quamrun Nahar**, Deputy Project Director of AdSEARCH, government officials, GAC representatives, and the study team



The team visits Kishoreganj District Hospital

26 September 2024

The visit concluded at **Phulpur Upazila Health Complex**, where the team reviewed ongoing study activities and met with local healthcare providers to discuss the challenges and successes of implementing cervical cancer screening in remote regions.



From left to right: GAC and the AdSEARCH study team visiting the Phulpur Upazila UHFPO and the Upazila Health Complex in Kishoreganj

“If we had got these booklets earlier!”

Beneficiaries Enthuse at the Interactive Workshop by HopeBox

6-7 September 2024



From left to right: **Fariya Rahman**, Principal Investigator of the study and Research Investigator at icddr,b with **Anisuddin Ahmed**, AdSEARCH Project Coordinator and the study team handing over the HopeBox to **Jharna Zahin**, Deputy Superintendent of the orphanage; the adolescent girls with the HopeBox kit

In a step towards improving awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among orphaned adolescent girls, the HopeBox study team from AdSEARCH implemented their intervention by organising an interactive workshop at Sarkari Shishu Paribar (girls) in Tejgaon, Dhaka, on 6 and 7 September 2024. The workshop introduced the ‘HopeBox,’ a collection of pictorial booklets covering essential SRH issues; jigsaw puzzles on family planning and physical changes that take place during adolescence; and postcards on menstruation, stopping child marriage, and anti-bullying. All the contents were contextually and age-specifically designed for adolescents in orphanages.

Under the study titled “HopeBox: A Contribution for the Orphan Adolescent Girls to Claim their Choices to Improve SRHR Knowledge and Practices”, the workshop featured five engaging sessions for the orphan adolescent girls aged 10-19 and their caregivers on each of these topics including Puberty, Hormonal Changes – Menstruation, Physical Changes, and Reproductive Health & Pregnancy. The workshop focused on the unique challenges faced by the orphan girls, emphasising the importance of claiming their rights. During one session one adolescent echoed, “If we had got these booklets earlier, our adolescent experiences would have been even better.”

The workshop was graced by the deputy superintendent of the orphanage as the guest of honor. As part of the initiative, menstrual calendars and eight sets of HopeBox were distributed among the study participants. Principal Investigator of the study and Research Investigator at icddr,b, handed over the materials to the deputy superintendent. The guest of honor stated,

“This workshop is a much-needed step toward empowering our adolescent girls with appropriate SRHR knowledge.”

The event concluded with closing remarks by the Project Coordinator of AdSEARCH by icddr,b.

AdSEARCH Marching for Activism on Two-finger Test Ban

9 September 2024

In a quarterly meeting of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) forum for strengthening sustainable SRHR ecosystem in Bangladesh, AdSEARCH by icddr,b placed a proposal on

initiating an activism to enforce the Ban on the Two-Finger Test (TFT) at icddr,b seminar room.

In 2018, the High Court banned the use of the TFT in the medical examination

of rape victims, but distressing gaps persist in its implementation in Bangladesh. In light of this, AdSEARCH initiated a qualitative study on the assessment of the Implementation of



CSO forum representatives participate in discussions at the icddr,b seminar room

the Ban on the TFT in collecting evidence on rape in selected health facilities in Bangladesh. The aim of the study is to assess the implementation of the TFT ban in selected facilities from three types of health services and identify the existing barriers to implementing the TFT ban. Through presenting the study overview and

findings to the forum, AdSEARCH proposed to explore strategic approaches that can translate evidence into activism. CSO Forum members' representatives actively participated in the discussions. During the session, they explored the way forward, focusing on strengthening advocacy efforts, addressing systemic

barriers to implementing the ban, and ensuring accountability in the healthcare, law enforcement and legal sectors. In addition, AdSEARCH has announced the initiation of the knowledge brief titled "Enforcing the Ban on the TFT" on the journey of banning TFT.

TENTrol Study Launched, aiming Labour Pain Management in Bangladesh

19 September 2024



Dr Sahar Raza, Principal Investigator of the study and Research Investigator at icddr,b with **Prof. Salma Rouf**, Secretary General of OGSB, **Dr Shams El Arifeen**, **Dr Quamrun Nahar**, **Dr Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman**, and **Anisuddin Ahmed**, from the AdSEARCH Project Management Team (PMT) with the TENTrol Study team.

The TENTrol study was officially launched with a kick-off meeting at icddr,b, with collaborators from the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and the

AdSEARCH study team. The study aims to improve childbirth experiences for women by managing labour pain through the TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) machines

and focuses on the feasibility of introducing TENS devices in health facilities in Bangladesh as a safe, non-invasive, low-cost, and reusable tool. The device operates on the Gate Control Theory of pain and aims to give women greater control over their childbirth experience while reducing the need for unnecessary C-sections. The study's Principal Investigator Dr Sahar Raza, provided an overview of the research during the event. Along the prominent gynaecologists and Secretary General of OGSB, the AdSEARCH Project Management Team (PMT) also provided valuable insights toward shaping the study's strategic direction. The discussions emphasised the importance of sensitisation workshops with OGSB and at study field sites.

Experts Call for Action on Fertility and Gynaecological Health at the 4th Technical Consultative Workshop

25 September 2024



Twenty leading experts engage in discussions on fertility and gynaecological health during a seminar

The 4th Technical Consultative Workshop on Fertility and Gynecological Issues, organised by AdSEARCH, brought together more than 20 leading experts and stakeholders from key organisations to discuss gynecological issues affecting women in Bangladesh. The workshop featured a detailed presentation on the AdSEARCH Newlywed Couples' Cohort Study, which focuses on newly married couples in rural and impoverished

urban areas. Discussions covered a range of critical topics involving newly-wed couples, including marriage, sexual health, pregnancy, intimate partner violence, and marital satisfaction. Invited experts from the meeting shared insights into the challenges of gathering sensitive data and proposed practical solutions to overcome these barriers. Representatives from the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society

of Bangladesh (OGSB), Social Marketing Company (SMC), BIRDEM General Hospital, and MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health participated in the workshop. The event concluded with a call for continued collaboration among stakeholders to tackle issues such as child marriage and intimate partner violence, and to work towards enhancing the overall well-being of women and couples in Bangladesh.

AdSEARCH Bites **Previous Issues:**



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



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