

AdSEARCH BITES

Monthly Newsletter

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Innovations on Cervical Cancer Screening: A Systematic Review

4 March 2024



Photo From left to right: Dr Ashrafunnessa, Farzana Sultana, Dr Momena Khatun and Dr Md. Azizul Alim giving their remarks among others



Photo: Dr Fatema Khatun, the PI presenting the findings



Photo: Participants from various organisations attending the seminar

Cervical cancer stands as the fourth most prevalent cancer among women worldwide and second in Bangladesh. However, when detected at the precursor stage, it is treatable. Therefore, identifying accessible screening methods, tools, and innovations in screening tests, processes, and implementation is crucial for prevention. Recently a systematic review under AdSEARCH investigated the innovations in screening for the prevention and early diagnosis of cervical cancer and their effectiveness. In light of this, a dissemination seminar on 'Innovations to Improve Cervical Cancer

Screening: A Systematic Review' has been organised at icddr,b. The seminar commenced with a welcome address by **Dr Quamrun Nahar**. Later on, **Dr Fatema Khatun**, Principal Investigator (PI) of the study, along with **Farina Naz** shared the study findings. The systematic review encompassed six major databases (including MEDLINE, CINAHL, Web of Science, EMBASE, Scopus, and the Cochrane Library) with specific inclusion criteria covering various study designs, studies with innovations and women aged 18-64 years. The review findings looked into innovations

considering medical devices, laboratory techniques, strategies and combined techniques and innovations to identify and detect cervical cancer. **Farzana Sultana, Dr Momena Khatun, Dr Ashrafunnessa, Dr A.N.M Mostofa Kamal, and Dr Md. Azizul Alim** gave their remarks. They stated that the review will help identify future practices and strategies for improving cervical cancer screening. UN representatives, INGO and NGO bodies, academics, and experts in this arena were present at the seminar and provided feedback.

Attendee details (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Quamrun Nahar, Deputy Project Director, AdSEARCH by icddr,b; Dr Fatema Khatun, Associate Scientist, icddr,b; Farina Naz, Research Officer, icddr,b; Farzana Sultana, Development Advisor at High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh; Dr Momena Khatun, Health Technical Specialist, FSSP of Global Affairs Canada; Dr Ashrafunnessa, Professor, Department of Gynaecological Oncology, BSMMU; Dr A.N.M Mostofa Kamal, AD, MCH, DGFP; and Dr Md. Azizul Alim, Program Manager, MH, DGHS.



To read the systematic review on Cervical cancer, scan

3rd Technical Consultative Workshop on Fertility & Gynaecological Issues

6 March 2024



Photo: Study leads with representatives of various organisations attending the seminar at icddr,b MCHD meeting room

The 3rd Technical Consultative workshop on Fertility & Gynaecological issues was organised by AdSEARCH in the presence of the stakeholders from DGFP, OGSB,

UNFPA, and icddr,b. Respective AdSEARCH study leads including **Dr Fauzia Akhter Huda**, **Nabila Mahmood** and **Dr Fatema Khatun** from

the three crucial studies on Gynaecological issues delved into the challenges faced by newlywed couples in rural and poor urban areas, explored the feasibility of menstrual cup usage, and discussed advancements in cervical cancer screening utilising a pocket colposcope. Discussions during the workshop spanned various aspects including marriage, sexual health, pregnancy, gender-based violence and respective study addressed specific organisational challenges. The study leads proposed practical solutions with their collective expertise. The workshop concluded with a resolute commitment to ongoing collaboration on initiatives aimed at improving women's health.

Attendee details (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Fauzia Akhter Huda, Project Coordinator, icddr,b; Nabila Mahmood, Senior Research Officer, icddr,b; and Dr Fatema Khatun, Associate Scientist, icddr,b

Two Finger Test (TFT) Ban Study Advisory Group Meeting

6 March 2024



Photo: Study PI Dr Ruchira Tabassum Naved moderating the session at the icddr,b PEI conference room

The 'Two Finger Test (TFT) Ban Study Advisory Group Meeting' convened at icddr,b where **Dr Ruchira Tabassum Naved**, PI of the study moderated the session. Currently, AdSEARCH is undertaking a research project titled "A

Qualitative Assessment of Implementation of the Two-Finger Test Ban in Medico-Legal Evidence Collection for Rape in Selected Health Facilities in Bangladesh". The study aims to explore the implementation status of the High

Court ban on the two-finger test in medico-legal examinations of rape cases. This assessment encompasses the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of relevant stakeholders from the health, legal, and NGO sectors regarding the TFT and its ban. During the session, **Nahida Akter** presented the study's preliminary findings. Civil Surgeon of Dhaka, DGHS, representatives from GAC, GIZ, BLAST, Ipas Bangladesh, UNFPA, BRAC, BSMMU, DMCH, and UNFPA attended the session and provided valuable feedback during the discussion.

Attendee details (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Ruchira Tabassum Naved, Emeritus Scientist, icddr,b; and Nahida Akter, Research Investigator, icddr,b

Nutri-CAP study meets the Community Representatives

11 March 2024



Photo: Study PI Dr Mustafa Mahfuz engaging with the stakeholders at the icddr,b NRD conference room

Year after year, nearly 100,000 people from Bauniabadh, nestled in Dhaka's Mirpur area, have been enduring the hardships of inadequate access to clean water and proper sanitation. To address this Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and nutrition issue, AdSEARCH has been conducting an ongoing Nutrition for Children, Adolescent Girls, and Pregnant Women (Nutri-CAP) study in this area. The study aims to establish a

model for developing and implementing sustainable nutrition service delivery platforms for the urban poor in Dhaka. A dissemination session on 'Informing current activities of the study, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) situation in the Bauniabadh slum' was held at icddr, b where the discussion focused on ongoing Nutri-CAP studies in the area, with a special emphasis on nutrition WASH initiatives. **Dr Mustafa Mahfuz**, the

PI of the study delivered a presentation on the study's progress and shared key findings regarding the existing WASH situation in the study site. **Begum Meherunnesa Haque** attended the discussion as a guest, along with religious leaders and community representatives from the Bauniabadh area, alongside the study investigators and AdSEARCH team members.

Attendee details (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Mustafa Mahfuz, Scientist, icddr,b; and Begum Meherunnesa Haque, Councilor of the Dhaka North City Corporation

International Women's Day at icddr,b

12 March 2024



Photo: Honouring eight icddr,b female staff at the event

This year, the Human Resources and AdSEARCH by icddr,b jointly organised International Women's Day 2024 aligning with the theme "Invest in Women: Honoring Women's Achievements".

Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director of icddr,b, applauded the initiative and assured to specially recognise the contribution of women employees in the same way every year. Eight outstanding female staff of icddr,b were honoured for their tireless contributions in various fields, including nursing, development, research, and field health research

workers. Women employees from different backgrounds shared their inspiring stories of overcoming struggles and achieving success to celebrate the inclusion of diverse communities. The icddr, b Dhaka

campus was beautifully adorned with festoons, banners, information boards, and a pledge board where everyone expressed their commitments in writing.



Glimpses of celebration of International Women's Day 2024 at icddr, b

A Discussion Session on the Importance of a Comprehensive Registry System in Combatting Obstetric Fistula

25 March 2024



AdSEARCH has organised an expert panel discussion session emphasising the crucial role of a registry system in documenting information and monitoring health programmes, with the potential to significantly reduce cases of obstetric fistula. The session commenced with a welcome speech delivered by **Prof. Dr Sayeba Akhter**. Later on, **Dr Lubna Hossain** provided an overview of national registries on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH). **Md. Ashraf**

Alam demonstrated the data-capturing platform for fistula services, highlighting its significance in streamlining information management. **Dr Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman** led a session on the development of the Fistula Register, shedding light on the strategies to enhance its efficacy and accessibility. The workshop concluded with an open discussion, allowing participants to exchange insights and address pertinent concerns. Prominent gynaecologists of

the country, GoB representatives, UN bodies representatives, NGO/INGO's representatives and experts were present at the workshop. **Anisuddin Ahmed** concluded the proceedings with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all stakeholders for their contributions and participation.

Furthermore, with technical support from AdSEARCH, MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health (MIFWOH) is conducting one of the largest community-based household surveys in Bangladesh considering more than 60,000 women of reproductive age with a birth history as participants of the survey. AdSEARCH is contributing to the development of a digital registrar system to strengthen the documentation for obstetric fistula and the expert panel session has been organised to advance the study.

Major Attendee (chronology as appeared in the news):

Prof. Dr Sayeba Akhter, CEO, MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health (MIFWOH); Lubna Hossain, Study Physician, icddr, b; Md. Ashraf Alam, Programmer, icddr, b; Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, Scientist, MCHD, icddr, b; and Anisuddin Ahmed, Project Coordinator, AdSEARCH

Announcement



Sahar Raza is discussing on study findings

Sahar Raza, Research Investigator and Principal Investigator of one of the AdSEARCH studies was invited as a distinguished speaker at a Townhall

Announcement Meeting titled 'Exploring Sexual and Reproductive Health Challenges and Opportunities for Floating Sex Workers in Dhaka

City', hosted by Volunteer Opportunities on 17 March 2024. During the meeting, Sahar Raza showcased her expertise in the realm of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and critically analysed the study findings. The study, supported by the Manusher Jonno Foundation under the 'Youth Engagement in Democracy' project, focuses on understanding the sexual and reproductive health challenges faced by floating sex workers in Dhaka city.

AdSEARCH Bites **Previous Issues:**



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



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