

AdSEARCH PROOF OF CONCEPTS AND BUT THEREFORE

Round One

Mental Well-being Corner



Principal Investigator:
Aniqa Tasnim Hossain

Introducing 'Mental Well-being Corners' at Government hospitals for women with antepartum and postpartum anxiety and depression

Mental health problems, including anxiety and depression, are common during pregnancy and after birth.

AND

Proper counselling and therapy can help in overcoming antepartum and postpartum depression.

BUT

The availability and access to mental health services are somewhat limited in rural settings, particularly in public hospitals.

THEREFORE

We are establishing a 'Mental Well-being Corner' in selected District Hospitals and Upazila Health Complexes, where women with antepartum and postpartum depression and anxiety can take personalised and specialised counselling support from a pool of psychologists and psychiatrists through telemedicine services.

HopeBox



Principal Investigator:
Fariya Rahman

'HopeBox' for promoting SRHR among orphan adolescent girls

Many orphan adolescent girls in Bangladesh live in orphanages.

AND

Orphan adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable, as they face challenges regarding their Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and the realisation of rights.

BUT

Adolescents residing in orphanages have limited access to SRHR-related information and lack an enabling environment for healthy behaviour and practices.

THEREFORE

We are promoting 'HopeBox', an intervention package designed to promote access to SRHR-related information and knowledge and improve practice among orphan adolescent girls.

Chemsex Study



Principal Investigator:
Golam Sarwar

Exploring the dynamics of chemsex among men who have sex with men (MSM), male sex workers (MSW), and transgender women (*hijra*) in urban Bangladesh

Chemsex, or drug use in sexualised settings, is becoming more common among MSM and hijra in Bangladesh.

AND

Chemsex has a strong relationship with unprotected anal intercourse, which exacerbates the risk of HIV/STI transmission.

BUT

There is limited research and intervention addressing chemsex among MSM and hijra in Bangladesh.

THEREFORE

We are exploring the dynamics of chemsex, reasons for engaging in chemsex, sexual behaviours under the influence of chemsex, and the impacts of chemsex on users and their sexual partners in Bangladesh. We aim to develop a culturally relevant, evidence-based intervention package based on this exploration.

Mukhorito App for Adolescents



Principal Investigator:
Hassan Rushekh Mahmood

Developing and testing 'Mukhorito', an app for strengthening school-based adolescent health programme through peer communication and interaction

Adolescence is a unique stage of human development as the body goes through rapid changes. These changes can lead to physical and mental health problems if not appropriately addressed.

AND

The Government of Bangladesh aims to address the SRH needs of the 36 million adolescents, primarily through the school-based adolescent health programme.

BUT

The current school-based adolescent health programme is focused on non-formal peer education and struggling to successfully engage adolescents due to a lack of interactive features and age-specific attractive learning methods.

THEREFORE

We are developing 'Mukhorito', a mobile-phone app to enhance the capacity of school-based adolescent health programmes through peer communication. Peer leaders can organise formal sessions on adolescent SRHR through 'Mukhorito'. Also, the app will have separate chat rooms for students to ask questions and discuss SRHR concerns with their peers, peer leaders, and teachers.

Female Athletes and the impact of the Menstrual Cycle



Principal Investigator:
Mehjabin Tishan Mahfuz

Assessment of stress, performance quality, and sleep patterns of adolescent female athletes during different phases of menstruation in Bangladesh

Female participation in sports has increased globally in recent years. More young girls from low and middle-income countries, including Bangladesh, are participating in professional athletics than ever before.

AND

Menstruation is one of the major obstacles women face in active, athletic participation.

BUT

There is a significant knowledge gap regarding menstruation-related situations, practices, perceptions, and barriers faced by female athletes in Bangladesh. Also, the effect and perceived impact of the menstrual cycle on performance are yet to be properly explored.

THEREFORE

We are investigating the impact of menstrual phases on stress, sleep patterns, dietary intake, and athletic performance among adolescent athletes in Bangladesh, focusing on understanding the anthropological impacts of menstruation.

Menstrual Cup



Principal Investigator:
Nabila Mahmood

Feasibility and acceptability of reusable menstrual cup

Menstrual hygiene management is a critical concern of reproductive health and the rights of adolescent girls and women.

AND

Poor menstrual hygiene can also lead to reproductive tract infections, cervical cancer, and infertility.

BUT

The reusable menstrual cup, a common and relatively inexpensive product for menstrual hygiene management in the Western context, is rarely available in Bangladesh.

THEREFORE

We are testing the safety, acceptability, and feasibility of menstrual cups in the context of Bangladesh.

iKnow App



Principal Investigator:
Sahar Raza

Reducing workspace abuse through the 'iKnow' app

Workplace Abuse (WPA) is a global public health concern as it can harm one's self-confidence, overall mental well-being, performance, productivity, and sexual and reproductive health.

AND

Women are disproportionately at the receiving end of WPA.

BUT

Most workplaces do not have a systematic process for preventing and protecting.

THEREFORE

We are developing 'iKnow', a mobile app-based knowledge platform, to increase knowledge, awareness, and understanding of different aspects of WPA, such as workplace incivility, bullying, and sexual harassment. 'iKnow' will promote a continuous learning process with scenario-based doodle videos and infographics, adopting the principles of adult learning.

Third Gender Rights



Principal Investigator:
Samira Dishti Irfan

Exploring and addressing the SRHR-related rights complexities of transgender women

In every 100,000 births, around five are born transgender, i.e. hijra

AND

The Bangladesh Government declared transgender people a separate gender category.

BUT

The SRHR and other rights of the third gender are not being adequately exercised on the ground.

THEREFORE

We are exploring the gaps between policy and practice of promoting and realising the SRHR of the third gender in Bangladesh. We are documenting the most pressing rights-related issues experienced by hijra.

Psychological distress of GSDP



Principal Investigator:
Saiba Jannat Hossain



Co-Principal Investigator:
Md. Ashiquir Rahaman

Psycho-sexual health concerns of *hijra* and MSM

Gender and Sexually Diverse People (GSDP) such as hijra, MSM, and MSW suffer from various psychological distress.

AND

GSDP are more vulnerable to sexual health concerns compared to their heterosexual counterparts.

BUT

Homosexuality is considered abnormal and sinful in Bangladesh. GSDP is at a higher risk of internalised homonegativity and minority stress, leading to mental health problems and risky sexual behaviours.

THEREFORE

We are designing an intervention model that addresses both the psychological distress and sexual health concerns of GSDP by exploring the individual factors and socio-cultural contexts.

Sultana-icddr,b Cloth Pad, Washer and Dryer Bag



Principal Investigator:
Farhana Sultana

Feasibility trial of a model menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) interventions to create an enabling environment at scale in the health systems in Bangladesh

Over 50% of Bangladeshi women and girls use cloth as menstrual absorbents.

AND

The maintenance of cloth as menstrual absorbents is suboptimal which leads to urogenital infections.

BUT

Menstruating women and girls are given little choice as the sanitary pads available in the market are costly.

THEREFORE

We will assess the feasibility of introducing a locally made disposable cloth-based Sultana-icddr,b cloth pad with Sultana Washer and Dryer Bags in the school and adolescents health programme in Bangladesh.

SafeMe: A Board Game



Principal Investigator:
Fariya Rahman

SafeMe: A board game to build awareness regarding sexual health and well-being amongst adolescents in Bangladesh

One-fifth of Bangladesh's total population consists of adolescents.

AND

They are particularly vulnerable to many health risks including early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, infection by AIDS/HIV, syphilis and etc.

BUT

They have little agency over their body and informed sexual participation due to the lack of proper knowledge regarding sexual and reproductive health.

THEREFORE

We aim to develop a Board: SafeMe focusing on gender-transformative sexual health and well-being, which will generate holistic and gender-diverse sexual health awareness amongst Bangladeshi adolescents in an engaging way.

FertiMeter



Principal Investigator:
K.M Tanvir

FertiMeter: A free-of-Cost alternative to expensive diagnosis of polycystic ovarian syndrome

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common endocrine disorder affecting around 13 million women in Bangladesh that can lead to various adverse pregnancy outcomes and infertility.

AND

Early detection of PCOS can help women manage their symptoms and reduce the risk of complications.

BUT

Due to the lack of awareness, limited access to specialised medical care, and the expensive diagnosis process, many women remain undiagnosed and suffer from its effects.

THEREFORE

We propose to develop a mobile application FertiMeter which will use a machine learning model incorporating an array of factors including menstrual cycle patterns, body mass index (BMI), hirsutism, and behavioral characteristics for predicting PCOS. FertiMeter will also aware people through informative blog posts and video tutorials.

CCVA Validation



Principal Investigator:
Md. Abu Bakkar Siddique

Performance of the In SilicoVA and InterVA5 method for assessing the cause of deaths to verbal autopsies: a validation study using physician review diagnostic gold standards in a nationally representative survey in Bangladesh

Verbal autopsy (VA) is a valid and globally accepted method of determining the cause of death (CoD).

AND

The CoD can be assigned by either physician-certified (PCVA) or computer-coded (CCVA). CCVA is faster and more scalable.

BUT

Comparison of CCVA-produced results hasn't yet been compared with PCVA in the Bangladesh context.

THEREFORE

We will compare physician-reviewed CoD from two rounds of blood surveys conducted in Dhaka city in 2022 and Sitakunda in 2021, with two types of CCVA methods, InSilicoVA and InterVA5. The performance of CCVA will be evaluated through reliability and validity measures.



Meno-Chat



Principal Investigator:
Nabeel Mohammed

Meno-Chat: An assistive chatbot against menstrual problems and menopause health for women

Menstrual health problems and menopause regularly trouble most women, bringing up health complications, impacting routine and disrupting everyday lifestyles.

AND

Aid to such problems requires frequent and quick intervention and is best served when we can provide easy access to information both on an educational and in finding a match with the currently available resources and services.

BUT

Menstrual problems and alike are often considered taboo to discuss, and correct help and information are hard to find, and usually provided by professionals.

THEREFORE

We propose an assistive chatbot “Meno-Chat” to aid menstrual health and menopause state in women by providing useful and empathetic responses through the retrieval of accurate information from reliable/relevant sources

mHealth Talk-Book



Principal Investigator:
Nazmul Alam

mHealth talk-book intervention to address SRHR issues among tea garden workers in Bangladesh

There are more than 200,000 tea workers in nearly 135 tea gardens located in the Sylhet division alone, nearly two-thirds of them are women and girls.

AND

Tea garden workers are vulnerable in terms of their SRHR.

BUT

There are very few interventions promoting the key SRHR issues, among tea garden workers in Bangladesh.

THEREFORE

We will develop and test a multimedia talk book app Deshoali (a local dialect in the Tea State community), which will be preinstalled to talk when prompted highlighting five different modules on i. contraception and family planning, ii. maternal health, iii. adolescent SRH including child marriage and teen pregnancy, iv. menstrual health and v. gender-based violence.

TENtrol Study



Principal Investigator:
Sahar Raza

The “Push” to Stop Unnecessary C-Sections by taking control of labour Pain: TENtrol study

Access to pain management is a human rights issue and is one of the most intense pains that women experience during their lives.

AND

WHO recommends providing humanised obstetric care and both pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods of pain relief for a positive childbirth experience.

BUT

There are very few options for women in Bangladesh to relieve pain during childbirth.

THEREFORE

We want to assess the feasibility of introducing TENS (Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) device to manage labour pain and increase the sense of control in women for a positive childbirth experience in health facilities. TENS is a novel, safe, non-invasive, low-cost as well as portable, and reusable non-pharmacological labour analgesic that uses the Gate Control Theory of pain.

Mobile Telehealth Ultrasound Device



Principal Investigator:
Sahnaj Sultana Sathi

Mobile linked easy to use ultrasound device for fetal assessment to reduce preventable stillbirth in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is ranked seventh globally in terms of the absolute number of stillbirths.

AND

The majority of stillbirths occur antenatally and over 40% could be preventable with improved monitoring and access to emergency obstetric care when required

BUT

The availability of functional ultrasound machines is not universal at health facilities of rural Bangladesh.

THEREFORE

We want to test the feasibility of low-cost and easy-to-use Telehealth ultrasound monitoring system devices in health facilities in rural Bangladesh.

Digitising health Education



Principal Investigator:
Anadil Alam



Co-Principal Investigator:
Shusmita Khan

Using learning platforms to make the “Physical education” chapter of the national school

Anecdotal evidence suggests that due to cultural sensitivity, a large portion of the teachers do not teach the ‘Physical Education’ chapter.

AND

Studies observed that describing contents and illustrations for younger children is often difficult.

BUT

Digital tools have the potential to support and strengthen classroom delivery of SRHR education

THEREFORE

We propose to digitise the "Physical Education" curriculum for classes VI-VIII on the Ghori Learning platform, catering separately to girls and boys. This digitised curriculum will be implemented in schools across diverse settings (urban/rural, Bangla/English, public/private). An assessment will gauge the module's adoption and measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices.

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