

Improving Essential Gynaecological Healthcare in Bangladesh: Addressing Major Burden with Training, Mentorship and Integration in Selected Public Health Facilities

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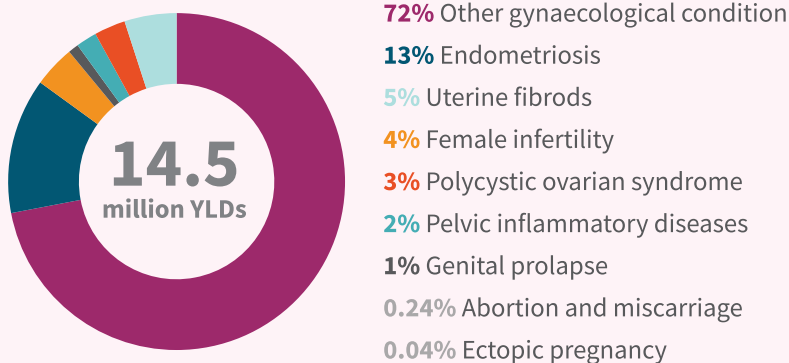
Background

Over the past three decades, remarkable advancements have been made in the realm of global women's health, particularly in areas concerning maternal health. However, a significant gap persists, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where gynaecological diseases exact a substantial toll of unacknowledged morbidity, avoidable suffering, and diminished quality of life for women

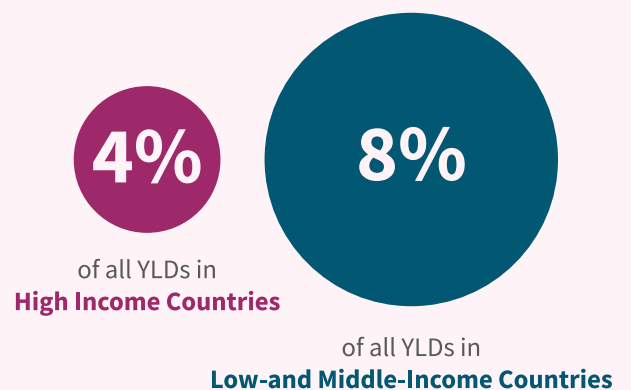
and girls. Despite an expanded focus on women's health priorities, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gynaecological diseases continue to endure a concerning level of neglect. Therefore, to address barriers such as limited access to gynaecological services and insufficiently trained healthcare providers, the Maternal Health Programme of the Directorate

General of Health Services (DGHS) in collaboration with Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and icddr,b with funding from GAC and Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS) foundation through Royal College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists (RCOG) implemented the Essential Gynaecological Skills (EGS) project.

Global percentage of all the years lost to disability (YLDs) among the women of 15-49 years of age group suffering from Benign Gynaecological Conditions (BGCs)



BGC contributing to YLDs



Major three gaps in existing gynaecological services in Bangladesh



Provider

Absence of in-service comprehensive training in gynaecology



Provision

Absence of structured data recording system for gynaecology



Patient

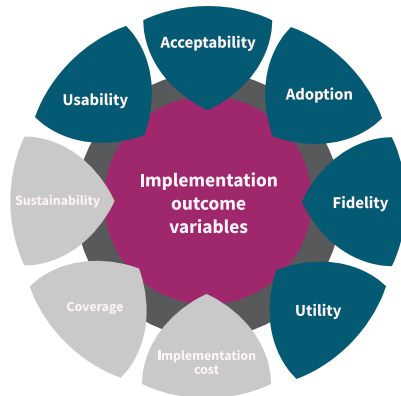
Absence of designated gynaecology service delivery area in outdoor

Objectives

Primary

Assess the implementation outcome(s) of introducing the EGS implementation package for improving gynaecological service delivery in public health facilities and improving women's health in Bangladesh.

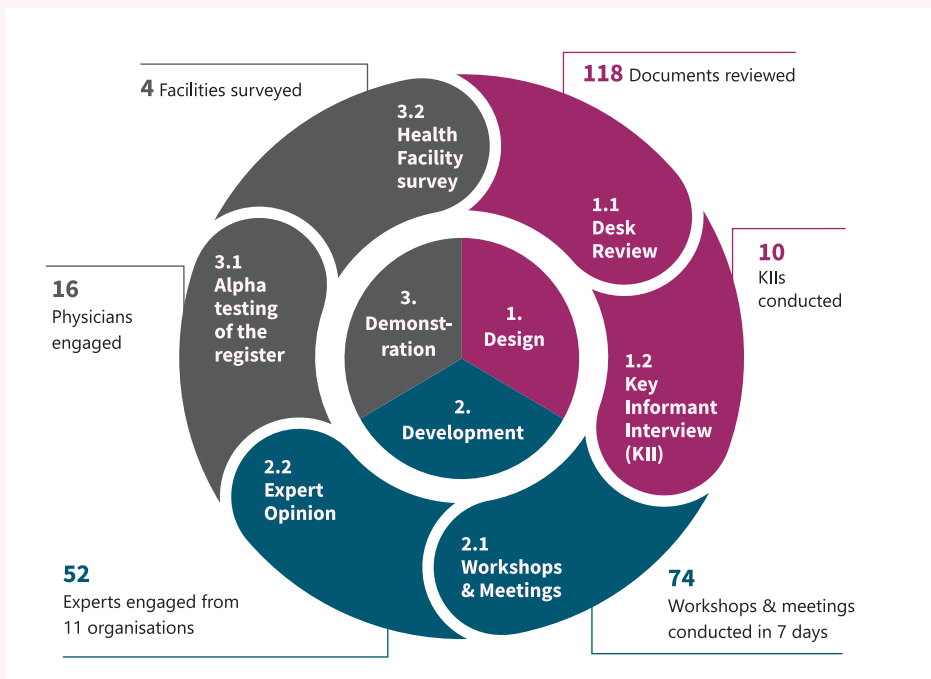
Secondary



Moreover,

- Explore the barriers and enablers of introducing EGS service implementation package.
- Assess the EGS training programme.

Development of EGS Implementation Package



Research Design:

Implementation Research

Duration: May 2022 - June 2024

From inception to implementation, the overall process was driven with integrated four staged ISIE stakeholder engagement framework:

1. Identification
2. Sensitisation
3. Involvement
4. Engagement

Partnership and Technical Working Group Formation

A Technical Working Group (TWG) was established under the leadership of the Maternal Health Programme, comprising representatives from the DGHS, DGFP, RCOG, OGSB, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children, Ipas Bangladesh and icddr,b. icddr,b oversaw the overall coordination and maintained communication with all partners. The training modules developed by the RCOG were adapted for Bangladeshi context. Concurrently, TWG developed a data recording system in consultation with DGHS and healthcare providers. Upon approval and endorsement of the data recording system by the Government of Bangladesh, the EGS implementation package was finalised for implementation in selected health facilities.



Design, Development and Demonstration

National Level

- April 2024**
National Dissemination
- April 2023**
Inhouse Pretesting of Gynaecological Data Recording System
- April 2023**
Activity Update Meetings
- April 2023**
EGS Implementation Package endorsement
- March, April 2023**
Out-house Pretesting of Gynaecological Data Recording System
- March to April 2023**
Gynaecological Data Recording System Pretesting
- December 2022 to May 2023**
EGS Implementation Package Development
- December 2022 to October 2023**
Formation of Technical Working Group
- December 2022**
Formation of Technical Working Group
- August 2022**
Sensitisation Workshop
- December 2022**
Consultative Workshop
- July to August 2022**
Key Informant Interview
- May to August 2022**
Desk Review

District Level

- November, 2023**
Local Stakeholder Engagement Workshops
- June to December, 2023**
Data Collection
- June to December, 2023**
Biweekly Case Review and Bimonthly Performance Appraisal
- May, June 2023**
Implementation of Data Recording System
- November 2023**
Champion's Public Talk
- September 2023**
Refresher Training
- June 2023**
Champion Selection and GWG Formation
- May, June 2023**
Data collection
- May, June 2023**
Field Level Training
- May, June 2023**
Expert Trainers Training
- May 2023**
Sensitisation Workshop-Dinajpur
- April 2023**
Sensitisation Workshop-Kushtia
- March to April, 2023**
Pre-sensitisation Planning meetings
- March, April 2023**
Patient Flow Assessment
- August 2022**
Co-ordination Meetings

EGS Implementation Package

EGS Trainee and Facilitator Manual



Outdoor Gynaecological Service Register



Monthly Reporting Form



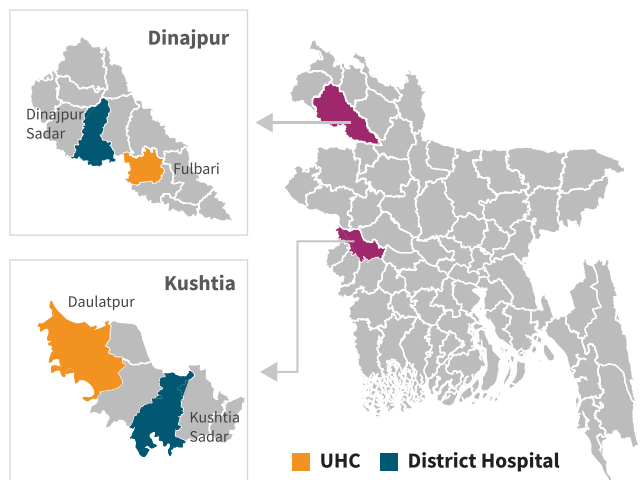
Referral Form



EGS Job Aid



Implementation Sites



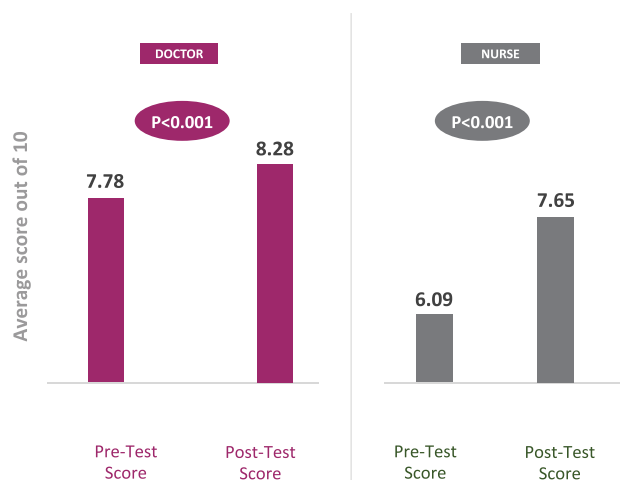
The EGS implementation package was piloted in the Dinajpur and Kushtia districts. District hospitals from both districts, Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex from Kushtia and Fulbari Upazila Health Complex from Dinajpur, were also selected as the implementation sites.

Learning

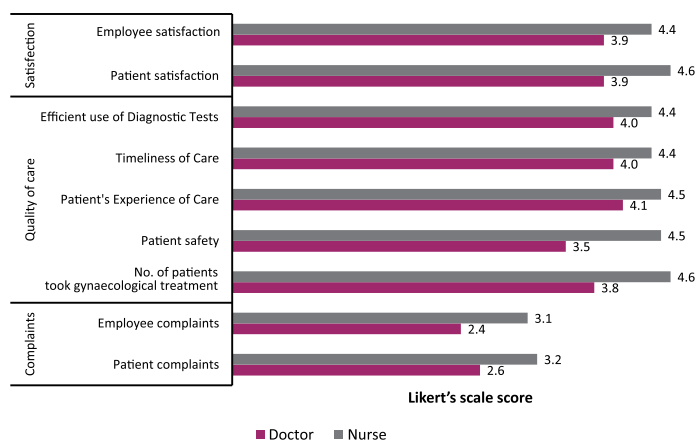
Training

Increase of knowledge and skills of trainees (by provider) from EGS implementation package training

(N=75; Doctor=32; Nurse=43)



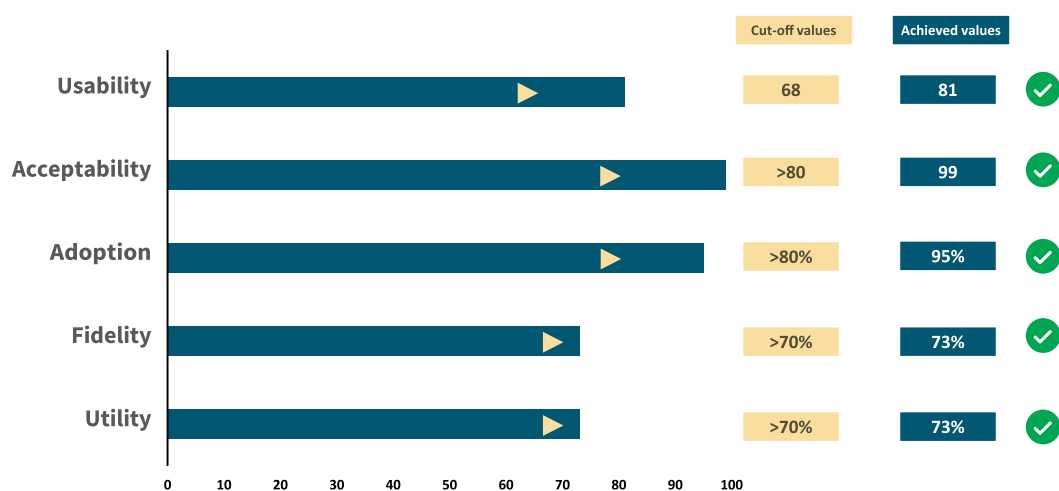
Response of trainees regarding the positive influence of EGS training in the patient management of their designated facilities, presented in an average score of a five-point Likert scale (N=56; Doctor= 23; Nurse=33)*



Likert scale score:

1= Applies but no influence, 2=Some influence, 3=Moderate influence
4= Significant influence, 5= Very significant influence

Outcome variables



The outdoor gynaecological register was usable and acceptable among the providers. It also reached the benchmarks for adoption (data recording), fidelity (data completeness) and utility (quality of care).

Way-forward

- DGHS, OGSB, and other technical and development partners have endorsed EGS.
- DGHS has proposed to include the EGS implementation package in the next five-year sector plan.



Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AdSEARCH) by icddr,b

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