

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

AdSEARCHBITES

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2 | Issue 3

Experts Gathered to Finalise BCC Materials for Countrywide Trial of Menstrual Health and Hygiene

23 April 2025



Over 50% of Bangladeshi women and girls use cloths as menstrual absorbents, and the maintenance of cloth as menstrual absorbents is suboptimal, which leads to urogenital infections. However, menstruating women and girls are given little choice, as the sanitary pads available in the market are costly. With support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), one of the AdSEARCH innovations is assessing the feasibility of introducing a locally made disposable *cloth pad* named Sultana - icddr,b Reuseable Cloth Pad (SiRCP) and Sultana washer and dryer bag.

As a study activity, the Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) Advisory Group Meeting was held at icddr,b to finalise the Behavior Change Communication (BCC) materials for an MHH Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial (CRCT) in Bangladesh health systems. The meeting served as a milestone in aligning technical insights before launching the intervention phase. This innovation is led by icddr,b in collaboration with DGFP, DGHS, CBHC, iDE Bangladesh, and RHSTEP, and is aiming to evaluate the intervention's efficacy and effectiveness through routine menstrual

health and family welfare programmes of Government of Bangladesh.

The meeting brought together around 20 key stakeholders, including representatives from the government officials of DGHS, DGFP and Community-Based Healthcare (CBHC) services. The finalised SBCC materials, including a training manual and flipchart, will support efforts to strengthen menstrual health programmes for adolescent girls and women in selected regions of the country.

icddr,b presents "Thermal Jacket" at the 7th International Conference of BNF

23-24 April 2025

At the 7th International Conference of Bangladesh Neonatal Forum (BNF) 2025, icddr,b has presented the initial findings from a clinical trial of the "Thermal Jacket", an innovation partially supported by AdSEARCH, designed to manage hypothermia in preterm or low birth-weight neonates, especially in resource-limited settings.

Fariya Rahman, Research Investigator of MCHD, icddr,b, along

with other researchers, showcased the early outcomes of the trial. The presentation highlighted the use of Thermal Jacket as a supplement to Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) to enhance the thermal care uptake by the neonates in need. Moreover, the preliminary result also reveals that, Thermal Jacket is as efficacious as KMC to maintain normal body temperature and effective to improve thermal care uptake time manifolds

when given in the intervals of two KMC sessions. The Thermal Jacket has been developed by the scientists of icddr,b in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University and George Mason University, USA.



Dhaka University's ISRT Students Visit icddr,b's Matlab HDSS

29 April 2025



A group of 49 MSc students and four faculty members from the Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka, visited the Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) site in Matlab, Chandpur of icddr,b. Organised by AdSEARCH by icddr,b, the field visit aimed to provide hands-on exposure to real-world Public Health surveillance and research practices.

Dr Md. Al Fazal Khan, delivered an overview of the HDSS, discussing its historical development, key functions, and contributions to health policy at both national and global levels. Participants joined a guided tour of the field site, led by **Md. Bashiruddin Ahmed**, where they observed data collection methods, interacted with field staff, and explored the use of digital tools in long-term

demographic surveillance. The group also visited Matlab Hospital to see how research and surveillance data inform clinical services, particularly in maternal and child health. The visit offered valuable practical insights into the integration of research, data, and healthcare delivery in rural Bangladesh.



Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Md. Al Fazal Khan, Head, Matlab Health Research Centre, icddr,b
Md. Bashiruddin Ahmed, Field Research Officer, icddr,b

Development and Testing of a Mobile App on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) of Adolescents in Rural Bangladesh

5 May 2025



Adolescents aged 10–19 face significant knowledge gaps on SRH, often due to a lack of open discussion in families, limited content in school curricula, and discomfort among teachers in addressing these topics. To shed light on this, AdSEARCH has initiated the study titled, “Development and Testing of a Mobile App

on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents in Rural Bangladesh” to develop and test a mobile app covering SRHR information for adolescents. The study is led by **Dr Quamrun Nahar**, Head of Research, Maternal and Child Health Division, icddr,b. To review the app’s content on adolescent

SRH, a workshop has been arranged at the Shitolakshya conference room, icddr,b. The workshop gathered feedback from SRH experts and adolescents on the app's draft content to ensure it meets the needs of this age group. Inputs from parents and teachers were also considered during content development.

Sensitisation Workshop to Assess Cervical Cancer Screening Implementation in Rural Bangladesh

22 May 2025



A sensitisation workshop on "Assessing Implementation Outcomes of a Cervical Cancer Screening Package in Rural Primary Care Settings of Bangladesh" was held at Baliakandi Upazila Health Complex of Rajbari district.

The event brought together key health sector stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers to discuss the implementation status, challenges, and opportunities of cervical cancer screening at the primary healthcare level in rural areas.

Dr Md. Faruk Hosain, welcomed participants with an opening speech,

while **Prof. Dr Farhana Dewan**, spoke on the current status of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in Bangladesh.

Dr Quamrun Nahar, provided insights into the study design and objectives, and **Dr Sabrina Jabeen**, outlined the detailed implementation plan for the cervical cancer screening package. **Prof. Dr Salma Rouf**, spoke passionately about OGSB's ongoing efforts and commitment to combating HPV and cervical cancer in Bangladesh. The event also included an open discussion segment, allowing participants to share feedback, field experiences, and suggestions for

improving screening uptake and service delivery in rural settings.

Dr S. M. Abdullah-al-Murad, delivered the speech as the Chief Guest, emphasising the government's commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare through scalable screening programmes. **Dr SM Masud**, concluded the session with a closing speech, thanking all participants and urging continued collaboration.

The workshop concluded with a networking lunch, providing an informal platform for further exchange among health professionals and stakeholders.

Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Md. Faruk Hosain, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UH&FPO), Baliakandi
Prof. Dr Farhana Dewan, President, Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society, Bangladesh (OGSB)
Dr Quamrun Nahar, Head of Research, MCHD, icddr,b
Dr Sabrina Jabeen, Assistant Scientist, MCHD, icddr,b
Prof. Dr Salma Rouf, General Secretary, OGSB
Dr S. M. Abdullah-al-Murad, Line Director, MNC&AH, DGHS
Dr SM Masud, Civil Surgeon, Rajbari District

Sensitisation Workshop on Introducing TENS Machine for Labour Pain Management in Bangladesh

24 May 2025



Another sensitisation workshop on the introduction of the TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) machine to manage labour pain among women in Bangladesh was held at the Green Life Medical College Hospital, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. This was the fourth sensitisation workshop conducted under this initiative.

The event started with a welcome address and introduction by **Prof. Dr Humaira Naushaba**, Vice Principal of Green Life Medical College. **Prof. Dr Salma Rouf**, presented on labour pain management in Bangladesh. **Dr Sahar Raza**, Principal Investigator of the TENSrol study, gave an overview

followed by an open discussion featuring **Prof. Dr Joya Sree Roy**, **Dr Md. Mainul Ahasan**, and **Prof. Dr Lima Shompa**. The workshop concluded with closing remarks by **Prof. Dr Khodeja Begum (Jhumi)**, and a practical demonstration of the TENS machine.

Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news):

Prof. Dr Humaira Naushaba, Vice Principal, Green Life Medical College
Prof. Dr Salma Rouf, Secretary General, OGSB
Dr Sahar Raza, Research Investigator, icddr,b
Prof. Dr Joya Sree Roy, Consultant, OBGYN, Green Life Medical College & Hospital
Dr Md. Mainul Ahasan, Managing Director, Green Life Hospital
Prof Dr Lima Shompa, Professor OBGYN, Green Life Medical College & Hospital
Prof. Dr Khodeja Begum (Jhumi), Head, OBGYN, Green Life Medical College

Women's Health Matters: A Seminar for Policy Engagement

31 May 2025



With technical support from AdSEARCH by icddr,b, the MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health (MIFWOH) has organised a seminar titled "Women's Health Matters" at the BMRC Auditorium. Collaborators include the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB), the International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS), and the Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery Society of Bangladesh (FPMRSSB).

Dr Md. Sarwar Bari, Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, graced the event as the Chief Guest. The day-long event featured two special

plenary sessions on improving women's health services and strengthening support systems, with six panelists from the Healthcare Reform Commission and the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, along with medical professionals, policy-makers, researchers, and stakeholders. The sessions titled "Unlocking Potential: Expanding Opportunities to Improve Women's Health Services in Bangladesh" and "Pathways to Support and Strengthen Women's Health: A Call to Action" discussed the key challenges, opportunities in advancing women's health services across the country and an engaging

conversation on proposed reforms by both the commission with the media. Along with the inauguration, **Prof. Sayeba Akhter** delivered the Keynote Presentation on Women's Health Matters: Bangladesh Perspective.

Dr Momena Khatun, Health Technical Specialist of FSSP, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) made her special remarks followed by the chief guest's speech and a vote of thanks delivered by **Prof. Md Zahangir Kabir**.

Major Attendees (chronology as appeared in the news):

Dr Md. Sarwar Bari, Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
Prof. Sayeba Akhter, Chairman, BMRC & Founder, MIFWOH
Dr Momena Khatun, Health Technical Specialist, FSSP of GAC
Prof. Md Zahangir Kabir, Chairman of MIFWOH.

Publication Alert:



Anxiety and depression among reproductive-aged women in Bangladesh: burden, determinants, and care-seeking practices based on a nationally representative demographic and health survey

Authors: Sahar Raza, Rajon Banik, Syed Toukir Ahmed Noor, Abu Sayeed, Anindita Saha, Esrat Jahan, Ashiquzzaman, Md. Abu Bakkar Siddique, Anisuddin Ahmed & Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman

Journal: Archives of Women's Mental Health

Published date: 18 February 2025

Read More: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00737-025-01564-3>

nature
scientific reports

Depressive, anxiety symptoms and their co-occurrence among women seeking antenatal care in Bangladesh

Authors: Md Hafizur Rahman, Ridwana Maher Manna, Nasimul Ghani Usmani, Pradip Chandra, Md. Abdullah Al Mamun, Md Robed Amin, Maruf Ahmed Khan, Helal Uddin Ahmed, S. M. Hasibul Islam, Md. Shariful Islam, Tasnu Ara, Ema Akter, Anisuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Sohel Shomik, Shams El Arifeen, Anika Tasnim Hossain & Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman

Journal: Springer Nature

Published date: 17 May 2025

Read more: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-01801-w>

AdSEARCH Bites **Previous Issues:**



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



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

68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212

Email: adsearch_official@icddr.org | **Website:** adsearch.icddr.org

icddr-adsearch

/icddr.adsearch



This monthly newsletter brings to you by MCHD Communications Team of icddr,b.

Please share your news and stories or feedback at ANUBHAB.CHAKRABORTY@icddr.org