



BRAC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
JAMES P. GRANT



BRAC UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Excellence

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

NRU Dhaka Hospital

Copyright © BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

February 2024

Published by
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health
BRAC University

Edited by
BRAC JPGSPH Communications Team

Cover Design
Mukul Barman

Design
Mohammad Rezaul Karim

Printed by
Progressive Printers (PVT) LTD.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The School's Journey at a Glance

2004

The School was founded with the vision to create a leading global public health institute

2006

1st Cohort of the MPH programme graduated
The School started serving as the Secretariat for Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

2007

Established the Centre for Professional Skills Development (CPSD)
Featured by WHO as one of the region's top 6 public health schools

2013

Established the Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

2012

Launched the Developing Midwives Project, Bangladesh's first-ever private sector midwifery education initiative

2008

Established the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Established the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

2016

Established the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

2017

Established the Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

2018

The Dean and the Associate Dean of the School were recognised as 'Heroines of Health' by GE Healthcare and Women in Global Health

2023

Established 3 new Research Hubs:
1. Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)
2. Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)
3. Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

2021

Established the Humanitarian Research Hub

2019

Received the Public Health Education Leadership Award by the South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Message from the Dean	2
Message from Deputy Dean.....	3
Message from former Dean	4
Numbers that matter	5
Accolades.....	6
Leadership at the School.....	7
Research Strategy Team	8
Hear from the staff	9
Festivities around the year	10
In loving memory	11

2

EDUCATION

Overview of Master of Public Health (MPH).....	13
MPH student experience.....	14
Updates from field visits	15
Hear from the MPH team.....	16
Student awards.....	17
Faculty and Teaching Fellow Awards.....	18
Overview of Midwifery Education Program (MEP)	19
Selected updates from the MEP program.....	20
MEP student experience	21
Hear from the MEP team	22

3

TRAINING

Overview	24
Selected updates	25

4

RESEARCH

Overview	27
Research Centres of Excellence	28
Research and Policy Hubs.....	29
Selected research projects.....	30-32
Research in focus Non-communicable Diseases	33
Research in focus: Climate Change	34-35
Field experience from researchers	36
Research internship highlights	37
Selected peer-reviewed publications.....	38
Selected conference abstracts	39

5

ADVOCACY

Overview	41
Selected updates.....	42
Webinars hosted by the School	43
Selected conference participation.....	44
Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW).....	45



About the School

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University, was founded by Late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in 2004 in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address the unmet public health challenges particular to the developing world. The School is dedicated to contributing to public health by offering unparalleled real-life, community-centric teaching and learning experiences on critical and emerging global public health challenges and creating public health leaders and innovative solutions. The School employs an interdisciplinary integration of Education, Training, Research and Advocacy to effectively address diverse health realities affecting disadvantaged communities.

Vision

To be the leading global Public Health Institute for the world's critical health challenges affecting disadvantaged communities

Mission

To create innovative public health leaders and solutions through cutting-edge, experiential Education, Training, Research and Advocacy

Partnership with



The School works in close collaboration with its institutional partner BRAC, the world's biggest NGO. Research partnership with BRAC allows the School to contribute evidence to inform BRAC's programmes and policies. BRAC field operations in communities offer a dynamic and diverse learning laboratory for our Master of Public Health (MPH) students.



Message from the Dean

As our School enters its 20th year of operation, I am honoured to present the BRAC JPGSPH Annual Report 2023 to you. This report captures snapshots of our collective efforts in contributing to the public health sector in Bangladesh and beyond. It has been a remarkable year for the School, marked by impactful collaborations, the development of emerging research areas, and the launch of exciting new grants.

Having joined the School just a few months ago, I am inspired by the dedication and passion of the BRAC JPGSPH community. Personally, it has been an inspiring period of new learning, collaborations, and understanding of the incredible impact that our School has on public health education and research, both globally and nationally.

Our Master of Public Health (MPH) programme continues to empower future public health leaders with experiential teaching and learning tailored to meet evolving public health demands. The Midwifery Education Programme (MEP) programme ensures the continuous generation of competent midwives who play a significant role in essential maternal and newborn care. Our researchers continue to push boundaries, resulting in insightful findings. Training initiatives at the school are designed to equip professionals from various sectors with practical skills and knowledge. The advocacy efforts led by our teams engage policymakers and communities, driving forward impactful changes in health policies and promoting equity in healthcare access.

Looking toward the future, we aim to expand our reach and deepen our impact within the public health landscape. With a strong commitment to excellence and innovation, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that encourages collaboration and the exchange of knowledge. The year ahead holds promising opportunities for us to continue making meaningful strides in research, education, training, and advocacy, shaping a healthier and more resilient future for all.

This document is a testament to the tireless work and commitment of the faculty, researchers, and staff at the School. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported the School and contributed to its success. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can create lasting change and make a difference in the lives of millions.

Laura Reichenbach, MPA, ScD

Dean, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)



Message from Deputy Dean

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our esteemed faculty, staff, and students at BRAC JPGSPH.

In the face of global uncertainties and public health crises, our School has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing knowledge, promoting solutions for public health challenges, and co-creating next generation leaders of public health. The diverse range of research, advocacy, and educational initiatives undertaken by the School continues to make a meaningful impact on lives of people nationally, regionally, and globally.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the collaborative spirit that defines our institution. Through your collective efforts, we have not only overcome obstacles but also forged new paths toward excellence in public health education and research.

In 2024, we are going to celebrate 20 years of our journey. Looking ahead, I am confident that BRAC JPGSPH will continue to be a beacon of innovation and leadership in the field of public health. Together, let us embrace the opportunities before us and work towards a healthier and more equitable world.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of our School.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kanti Mridha'.

Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, PhD

Deputy Dean and Director

Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University



Message from former Dean

After a decade of serving as the Dean (2013-2023) and overseeing BRAC JGSPH, I am excited to announce my transition to a new role within the institution. I am honoured to take on the position of Professor, holding the Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Poverty and Health, generously endowed by the late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the esteemed founder of BRAC. The Chair is dedicated to fostering intellectual engagement and scholarship. Reflecting on my journey since joining the school at its inception in 2004, as Associate Dean and Professor in 2011, and ultimately as Dean in August 2013—I am deeply grateful and proud of our collective achievements at the school.

As Dean, I embraced the opportunity and challenge of appreciating and experiencing the creativity of our students, faculty, and staff across the school. Deans are entrusted with providing the vision and leadership needed for their Schools to flourish and advance the University's teaching and research missions. This involves delivering a quality academic program, hiring excellent faculty and staff, overseeing peer-reviewed international research, fundraising, and stewarding the institution's resources—all of which I endeavored to do. I was fortunate to receive the Heroines of Health, global award in 2018 from GE Healthcare, Women in Global Health, at the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

One of my proudest accomplishments is our growth from a team of 66 in 2013 to over 200 colleagues. I co-founded Centres at the School, worked with colleagues to establish systems for accountability and competencies, and fostered a thriving research and teaching culture with innovative methodologies. During my tenure, a Johns Hopkins University publication in 2019 featured BRAC JGSPH as one of the top Schools in the region. Our graduates remain highly sought-after, with over 95% either continuing their work in Public Health or pursuing prestigious PhD programmes in North America, Australia, and Europe. I have had the privilege of closely collaborating with dedicated and committed colleagues and together, we have contributed to a thriving research and teaching environment that significantly influences policy and practice.

I am delighted to introduce Dr Laura Reichenbach as the new Dean of the School. With her extensive two-decade background in research, management, and leadership in global health, Dr Reichenbach brings a proven track record of formulating, implementing, and publishing high-quality research aimed at enhancing the delivery and adoption of effective health interventions across diverse public health and development issues. Drawing from her field experience in South and Southeast Asia, she has been at the forefront of leading applied research to generate actionable evidence for improved health and development outcomes. I am firmly convinced that under her highly capable leadership, BRAC JGSPH will attain unprecedented heights, consistently flourishing and making significant contributions at both national and global levels.

Finally, I express my gratitude to our friends, partners, and funders for their continuous support and collaboration over the past two decades.

Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD

Professor, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty
Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Numbers that matter

658

Master of Public Health graduates since inception

28

graduates from the latest batch



310

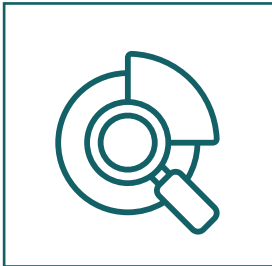
skills building seminars and workshops since inception

8990

professionals trained through these

872

professionals received training in 2023



348

research projects since inception

36

new research grants in 2023

45

research projects ongoing in 2023



425

peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in last 5 years

64

of these published in 2023

1220

Midwifery Education Programme graduates since inception

312

current students in midwifery education



403

advocacy engagements with stakeholders since inception

83

of these conducted in 2023



308

current staff members

258

multi-disciplinary research staff

55%

female representation among researchers

Accolades



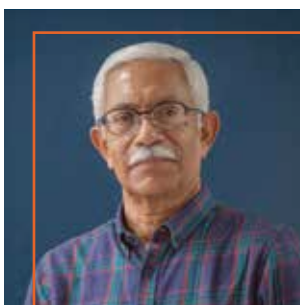
Professor Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Convenor, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), was appointed as **Visiting Fellow** at the **University of Notre Dame**



Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy Dean and Director of the Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) at the School, was selected as a **member** of the **WHO South East Asia Regional Expert Group on NCD (REG NCD)**



Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty and Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) became **Honorary Professor of International Public Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)**, United Kingdom



Professor Syed Masud Ahmed ranked as the **top 12th scientist in Medical and Health Sciences** in Bangladesh by the **AD Scientific Index**



Professor Kaosar Afsana, Lead, Humanitarian Hub, was selected as the recipient of the **Open Access Publication Award** in the Faculty category by BRAC University in recognition of the **highest number of open access article citations**

Leadership at the School



Laura Reichenbach

Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (SISU)



Malay Kanti Mridha

Professor, Deputy Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)



Sabina Faiz Rashid

Professor, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty and Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)



Syed Masud Ahmed

Professor and Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)



Kaosar Afsana

Professor and Lead, Humanitarian Hub



Zahidul Quayyum

Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)



Md. Tanvir Hasan

Associate Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)



Ataur Rahman

Director, Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD)

Research Strategy Team



Malay Kanti Mridha

Professor, Deputy Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)



Md. Tanvir Hasan

Associate Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)



Mrityika Barua

Assistant Professor & Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)



Farzana Misha

Assistant Professor and Lead, Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)



Bachera Aktar

Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)



Nahitun Naher

Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)



Atiya Rahman

Assistant Scientist, Humanitarian Hub



Riaz Hossain Khan

Assistant Scientist, The Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)



Farzana Quddus

Grants and Data Repository Manager

Hear from the staff



Md Sohel Rana

Manager, Administration

My journey at the School began in 2009, and it has been over 14 years of learning and growth. Throughout my time here, I have had the privilege of working under the guidance of various senior management teams, and witnessing many transitions. I am grateful to have thrived and evolved within the nurturing environment provided by this School.



Shyama Sultana

Manager, Human Resources

I joined the School as the Head of the Human Resources Department in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the relatively short duration, the experience has been immensely impactful for my personal and professional development. The collaborative work environment at the School has been truly inspiring, and has made this journey incredibly fulfilling.



Nazia Zebin

Communications Manager

Being a part of the School for nearly two years has been an enriching experience for me. The inclusive work culture nurtures creativity and collaboration which my team and I enjoy. I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of individuals who bring unique perspectives to the table, leading to amazing communication outcomes.



Md. Abdur Rouf Sarker

Technical Lead, IT

Spending twelve years at the School has been a rewarding experience. Working with public health experts as an IT professional is incredibly challenging, but I have learnt a lot from this experience and have put my skills to use in the real world. Working with the stakeholders and the leadership at the School has been a privilege.



From the left: Md. Khorshed Alam, Shah Ali, Mansura Akter, Md. Nurul Islam Akash, Mokles Miah and Afsar Ahmed representing the support team at the School

BRAC JPGSPH has been a guiding light, providing many opportunities for growth and learning. Through everyone's support, we've gained invaluable experiences and found a sense of belonging. Really grateful for the acceptance and love. Proud to be a part of this remarkable journey.





Pohela Boishakh



Boshonto Utshob



New Year Celebration



Boshonto Utshob

Festivities around the year

BRAC JPGSPH places a strong emphasis on cultural celebrations and internal events as an integral part of its work culture. These events play a crucial role in fostering unity and cultural richness within the School.



Poush Utshob



New Year Celebration



Poush Utshob



Pohela Boishakh



Women's Day

In loving memory

With heavy hearts that we remember and honour the lives of our beloved colleagues who passed away last year. They will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.



Al-Amin

Cleaning Staff

25 August 1994 - 22 August 2023



Al-Amin was a dedicated and valued individual who became an integral part of our community. His journey with us began in July of 2021. Al-Amin's unwavering commitment to his responsibilities continued until his passing in August 2023. Al-Amin was more than just diligent in his duties—he was a beacon of responsibility, consistently delivering his services with a sense of integrity that left a lasting impression on everyone around him.

In remembering Al-Amin, we not only celebrate his dedicated service but also the human touch he brought to his role and the connections he formed with those he worked alongside.



Golam Enamul Hasib Chowdhury

Deputy Director, MPH, and Government Liaison

31 May 1975 - 3 October 2023



Dr Golam Enamul Hasib Chowdhury, Deputy Director, MPH, and Government Liaison at the School, had a deep passion for academia and a commitment to public health. His journey with us started in 2008 when he made significant contributions through his involvement in research and teaching until 2016. He rejoined the School in 2022 and continued his journey with us.

His academic and professional achievements were remarkable, but what truly set him apart was his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the broader public health community. Dr Hasib's legacy is etched into the very fabric of our School, and his influence extends to the lives of those fortunate enough to have known him.



EDUCATION



Master of Public Health



Scan to learn more

Overview

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme offers transformative public health learning to develop next-generation public health leaders for emerging critical public health challenges. The uniqueness of the one year full-time international programme is its experiential community immersive teaching through rigorous urban and rural fieldwork.

658

graduates
from 34
countries
since
inception

36

experiential urban
and rural field sites
in 13 districts
including sites
of the Government
and BRAC

13

international
visiting faculty

98

national faculty,
practitioners,
and facilitators

24

academic
partners

Hear from the faculty



Alayne Adams

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Associate Professor, McGill University

What's exceptional about this programme is the opportunity to go where the issues are, speak to the people who are affected by them, and grapple with those issues head-on.



Richard Cash

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Senior Lecturer, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA

Much of what we've done here (BRAC JPGSPH) has a strong applied nature. It's not simply theory. It looks at how interventions and programmes positively impact health situations.



Nusrat Homaira

Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH
Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Research Fellow, UNSW
Respiratory Researcher, Sydney Children's Hospital

BRAC JPGSPH provides the students a unique opportunity to learn from each other as they come from diverse backgrounds. That's their strength.



Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury

Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH
Assistant Professor, Asian University for Women (AUW)

My journey with BRAC JPGSPH started as a student. This place shaped my learning as a public health professional as well as an educator.

Student experience | *Hear from the students of the 19th cohort*



Gloria Mushinda (Zambia) Through direct engagement with communities and health systems, I gained a deeper understanding of public health issues, seeing firsthand the social, economic, and cultural factors that influence health outcomes.



Md. Sajid Sultan Haque (Bangladesh) BRAC JPGSPH taught me the importance of addressing multiple factors and the need for advocacy. The School's field-based course curriculum and global classroom allowed me to learn from first-hand experience, fostering a sense of community and developing critical thinking.



Sneha Paul (Bangladesh) We visited multiple formal & informal settlements and healthcare facilities throughout the year. This taught us to be more empathetic towards people and their real-life challenges. It strengthened my dedication and commitment to this field as a public health professional.



Mohammed Aref Ali Saeed Ahmed (Yemen) Over the course of fifteen modules, I navigated a demanding schedule of learning objectives, guided by a diverse mix of both internal and international faculty. Additionally, the programme provided ample opportunities for immersive field visits to underprivileged communities, offering valuable experiential learning experiences.



Updates from field visits

As part of their experiential learning, the 19th cohort of MPH students participated in eight field trips in the course of their one-year MPH programme





At the **Student Research Day**, students showcased their individual Summative Learning Project (SLP) posters and delivered presentations on their projects' findings

Graduation ceremony of the 19th batch where celebrations were held for the graduating students from 8 countries



The School has been awarded multiple prestigious grants for its continued contribution to public health.



The School is one of the 7 global academic institutions selected by Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Fellowship.
86 students from our MPH programme have received the scholarship to date.

Hear from the team



“ It feels incredible to be part of an institution where teaching and learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. The last few years at the School have given me multiple opportunities to work with students of diverse backgrounds, and to learn from colleagues of different institutions about their remarkable work in public health. It is truly rewarding to see that I’m able to play a small part in shaping the next generation of leaders who will strive to make their community better. ”

Tahsin Madani Hossain
 Senior Coordinator
 Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme

Student awards

Outstanding students were honoured with awards in recognition of their remarkable dedication and achievements

Allan Rosenfield Award for Best Overall Performance



Devjani Chowdhury
(Bangladesh)



Md. Sajid Sultan Haque
(Bangladesh)

W. B. Greenough III Award for Best Dissertation



Md. Sajid Sultan Haque
(Bangladesh)



Gloria Mushinda
(Zambia)



Shagufta
(Pakistan)

Richard Cash Award for Best Poster



Zumana Hayat Khan
(Bangladesh)



Sneha Paul
(Bangladesh)



Sanjida Tapushi Adiba
(Bangladesh)

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG Award for Leadership



D M Rezoan Kobir
(Bangladesh)



Gloria Mushinda
(Zambia)

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG Award for Leadership (Honourable Mention)



Zumana Hayat Khan
(Bangladesh)



Azzam Ali Mohammed Fare'a
(Yemen)



Mokhtar Ashor
(Afghanistan)



Anish Dhodari
(Nepal)

Faculty and Teaching Fellow Awards

Esteemed faculty members were awarded in acknowledgement their unwavering commitment and immense contributions

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award



Timothy Grant Evans
Adjunct Professor
Health Systems Management



Richard Cash
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases



Steve Luby
Guest Facilitator & Coordinator
Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award (Honourable Mention)



Alayne Adams
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Qualitative Research Methods



Tahmeed Ahmed
Professor & Coordinator
Public Health Nutrition



Malabika Sarker
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Monitoring and Evaluation of
Public Health Programmes

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Fellow Award



Farzana Sehrin
Health Economics &
Health Care Financing



Suborna Sultana
Biostatistics



Priom Saha
Biostatistics

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Fellow Award (Honourable Mention)



Muhammad Riaz Hossain
Health Systems Management



Baby Naznin
Health Economics & Health Care Financing



Md Sajib Rana
Anthropological Approaches
to Public Health



Midwifery Education Programme



Scan to learn more

Overview

Since 2012, the Midwifery Education Programme (MEP) has been developing competent and committed midwives. Its 3-year diploma in midwifery aims to reduce maternal-neonatal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh.

312

current
students

1580

students
enrolled

1220

students
graduated
(97%)

1028

licensed
(99%)

963

employed
(94%)

Selected updates



MEP launched a policy brief on the progress and current scenario of midwifery in Bangladesh

The policy brief titled "Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care: Advancement Made in Bangladesh" was assigned by WHO SEARO, under the leadership support of the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), Government of Bangladesh.



MEP published a research paper titled 'Understanding the Work Environment and Use of Midwifery Skills: A Study on Midwives' on the occasion of International Safe Motherhood Day 2023

The study reported that the number of safe and normal deliveries will rise and the risk of maternal and newborn deaths will decrease if midwives are made available in every corner of the country.



MEP organised a Faculty Development Training (FDT) with 42 midwifery teachers from 20 private midwifery institutes

The training focused on updating midwifery education, curriculum, exam procedures, post-partum management, eclampsia awareness, neonatal resuscitation, respectful maternity care, mental health first aid, and orientation on Bangladesh midwifery society.

UNFPA Midwifery Team visited the Midwife Led Care Centre in Dhaka

The team expressed admiration for MEP's proactive initiatives. They met with student leaders and faculty members, explored facilities, and conducted a question-and-answer session, providing thoughtful and informative responses to students' inquiries.



Student experience

“



Rumi Akter, 8th batch

We are taught through lectures, group work, and presentations. Teachers show relevant video clips and documentaries to make it easier for us to understand any topic. They put a lot of emphasis on developing our practical skills as well.

We have a dedicated skills lab for us to practice and develop our skills.



Arju Akter, 9th batch

We all come from different backgrounds and different districts of the country. The hostel life was challenging in the beginning. But when classes started, we found the education system was designed in a way that best supports our learning as well as helps us cope with the new environment.



Shawsoto Sarker, 10th batch

At first I was scared of studying in the English version. But once the programme started, my English improved a lot. Our teachers are very friendly and caring, too. They always motivate us and push us to do better every day. I feel like I found a home away from home. I want to become a great midwife and also go for higher studies and become a lecturer someday.

”

Hear from the team



“ Leading the Midwifery Education Programme at the School has been a gratifying experience. Together, as a team, we have excelled in midwifery education by emphasising leadership development, community engagement, positive mindset cultivation, and mental health well-being. Over a decade, we have created an impact in our student's life by fostering women's empowerment, nurturing successful entrepreneurs, grooming future leaders, and instigating transformative change in generations to come. ”

Sharmina Rahman

Head, Midwifery Education Programme (MEP)





TRAINING

SHORT COURSE ON BASIC QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

DATE : 29-30 OCTOBER 2023
TIME : 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Organised by:
Centre for Professional Skills Development
BRAC James Joyce Centre
6th Floor, Moulvi Bazar
Bir Uttom Avenue



Scan to learn more

Training

Overview

In our pursuit of excellence in public health, BRAC JPGSPH engages in robust training initiatives. At the heart of our training endeavors stands the Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD), our distinguished international training hub designed to empower health professionals globally, regionally, and nationally.

Complementing CPSD's dedicated efforts, the School integrates training components seamlessly across our diverse portfolio of research projects. From practitioners to policymakers, our holistic training programmes cater to a broad spectrum of public health stakeholders, reinforcing our commitment to fostering expertise and knowledge dissemination across the field.

310

skills building
seminars and
workshops since
inception

8990

professionals
trained since
inception

39

training sessions
conducted
in 2023

872

professionals
trained in 2023

Selected updates



Short course on Qualitative Data Analysis using NVivo 12 Pro



Short course on Health Economics and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Policies



Short course on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning



Short course on Basic Qualitative Research Methodology



Training session to educate primary health care providers on using simple apps



Five-day regional writing workshop in collaboration with HERD Int'l, Nepal, as capacity strengthening under CHORUS project



Interactive student workshops and poster presentations with 240+ students from 6 Universities to raise awareness on the rights of structurally silenced women



Training on the fundamental understanding of SurveyCTO



RESEARCH



Research



Scan to learn more

Overview

The School's broad global and national collaborations and networks enable multi-disciplinary research teams to oversee operations at the 5 Research Centres and 4 Research Hubs. These entities delve into various fields encompassing urban and rural health, socioeconomic development, poverty, marginalised communities (e.g., refugees, slum dwellers, ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, adolescents), infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, gender equity and rights, maternal and child health, urban equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, digital health, violence against women and children, human rights, health systems and workforce, antimicrobial resistance, health equity, healthcare financing, and financial inclusion and well-being across urban and rural landscapes within the country.

340

research projects since inception

425

peer-reviewed articles published in international journals since 2017

200

international research partners in the last 5 years

60

peer-reviewed publications on average per year

45

research projects in 2023

Research Centres of Excellence



The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Established in 2008, the Centre promotes a broader understanding of Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and the region through research, advocacy, and capacity-building activities. It generates and translates knowledge into advocacy-based action for social and structural changes.



The Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Established in 2012, the Centre generates evidence to inform key stakeholders on necessary health system interventions or modifying existing interventions. Research areas include universal health coverage, equity, and social determinants of health, Human Resources for Health (HRH), pharmaceutical R&D.



The Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Established in 2013, the Centre addresses existing challenges of the urban health system to ensure equity for the urban poor. Research areas include climate change, environment, migration, strengthening of health systems, urban health governance, innovations in service delivery models, developing strategies for building equitable healthy cities.



The Centre of Excellence for the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Established in 2016, the Centre aims to link research and practice to accelerate the implementation and scale-up of health policies, programmes, and practices by emphasising partnerships between implementors, researchers, and stakeholders. Research areas include maternal, neonatal, child health, disability, health systems, vaccination, climate change, migration.



The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Established in 2017, the Centre develops research, training, guidelines, policies, partnerships, and networks to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh and the Global South. Research areas include NCDs, malnutrition, practices in clinical and population settings, etc.

Research and Policy Hubs

Humanitarian Research Hub

Established in 2021, the Humanitarian Hub carries forward the humanitarian research that started at the School in 2018. The Hub conducts research in collaboration with the Centres of Excellence on the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and host populations to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve their health and well-being.

Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)

Established in 2023, the Hub offers teaching, programme design, and research efforts involving health, education, and the economy of climate change.

Hub for Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

Established in 2023, the Hub aims to strengthen the capacity of junior and mid-level researchers and development practitioners in qualitative research.

Hub for Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)

Established in 2023, the Hub engages in capacity building in accessing, acquiring, and making available public health practice and policy evidence.

Diverse research methodologies at the school

Implementation research

Ethnographic case studies

Impact evaluations

Economic evaluations

Qualitative research

Programme evaluations

Quantitative research

Community-based participatory research

Randomised control trials

Surveillance

Process evaluations

Deliberative interviews

Photo and voice narratives

Geospatial experimental method

Digital ethnography

Participatory action research

Visual diaries

Selected research projects

CLEAR | Effective Digital Health Platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Services: A Mixed-methods Approach to Understanding User Experiences, Needs, and Rights in Bangladesh

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS • DONOR: FCDO, UK

Focused on assessing the validity and reliability of digital health platforms for SRHR among 18–35-year-olds, this project emphasises transparency and accountability within existing and future service providers to establish sustainable digital health systems. With the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating digital healthcare services in Bangladesh, the project aims to address gaps in user protection; particularly for marginalised communities. Utilising a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, including digital ethnography, the research seeks to identify challenges, enhance sustainability, and promote transparency and accountability in digital health services, with actionable strategies proposed for advancement.

Our Voices Our Future

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS • DONOR: CREA

Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) is a consortium led by the global South, including partners like CREA, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), with BRAC JPGSPH collaborating as a national-level partner. The consortium aims to amplify the voices of structurally silenced women in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan, and Uganda.

In 2023, the project team conducted multiple workshops on the rights of structurally silenced women to enable younger generations to understand the systemic barriers faced by women. The workshops were conducted in 6 public universities where over 240 students participated.

The OVOF team also collaborated with BRAC JPGSPH to mark the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. They showcased artwork from the Art Fellowship Programme, a joint initiative by the School and Orodho Foundation.

Community-Led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems (CHORUS)

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH • DONOR: FCDO, UK

CHORUS is a multi-country research programme consortium being implemented in 4 countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Nigeria) that aims to strengthen urban health systems by addressing practical challenges of delivering equitable health services.

In 2023, CHORUS, in collaboration with ARISE Consortia, hosted a global webinar on “Intersectional and Gendered Approach to Health in Informal Settlements”, with 15 institutions from 8 countries. The School is a proud partner in both consortia.

The project team also hosted workshops to sensitise journalists on three major urban health issues – ideal modality for urban primary health care provision, cost-effective interventions for preventing non-communicable diseases, and identifying poor in small urban areas; which will contribute to meaningful reporting on these urban health problems in electronic and print media, influencing policy decisions.

Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH • DONOR: WELLCOME TRUST, UK

This multi-country research project is being conducted in 6 cities in 5 countries (Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, the UK, and China), in partnership with 14 institutions from 6 countries.

This study aims at developing actionable policy scenarios considering the health impacts of various sectors on health outcomes, validating them with stakeholders, thus contributing to advancing urban health policy and practice globally through renowned partnerships

In 2023, the research team identified vulnerable waterlogged areas in Dhaka city, engaging students and teachers from nine schools. 1300+ students participated, reaching out to 600+ more students and 600+ community members. They also hosted a public engagement event on waste management and waterlogging in Dhaka city, with representatives from the government.

Facilitators and Barriers of Management of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Bangladesh: An Implementation Research Through Gender Lens

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP • DONOR: WHO-TDR

Investigating the management of MDR-TB in Bangladesh, this study aims to uncover the factors facilitating or hindering effective treatment delivery. Exploring how gender interacts with other social variables within the context of MDR-TB, the research seeks to illuminate gender-specific experiences shaped by contextual and structural determinants.

The research team completed field activities for data collection, including a household survey with 462 MDR-TB patients, and conducted over 180 qualitative interviews (IDI, KII, FGDs) with diverse respondent groups such as patients, caregivers, health service providers, and policymakers.

Clinical Impact and Economic Features of a Community Health Worker-led Low-Sodium Salt Intervention to Reduce Blood Pressure at the Population Level in Rural Bangladesh: A Cluster-Randomized Trial

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP • DONOR: LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a low-sodium salt substitute (LSSS) in reducing blood pressure among adults aged 18 years and older in rural Bangladesh. Comparing various intervention delivery methods, the research seeks to identify the most effective approach for providing low-sodium salt. Additionally, the study assesses the willingness-to-pay of the target population for LSSS, contributing valuable insights to public health interventions.

A Global Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and Antimicrobial Resistance (SoNAR-Global)

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE • DONOR: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

This project aims to establish an open-access platform for SoNAR-Global activities, fostering widespread dissemination. It involves adapting, testing, and assessing vulnerability assessment tools and engagement models to enhance collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the project will develop, pilot, and evaluate training curricula for social scientists in infectious threat preparedness and response, bridging social science knowledge gaps among non-social science professionals.

Feasibility of Implementing Trauma Registry and Trauma Systems Improvement Program in Four District Hospitals of Bangladesh with High Road Traffic Injury (RTI) Burden

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE • DONOR: THE WORLD BANK

This project aims to assess the feasibility of implementing a trauma registry and trauma system improvement program (TSIP) in 4 high road traffic injury burden districts. It includes identifying and utilising reliable audit filters to monitor TSIP progress effectively. By exploring implementation strategies, the project seeks to enhance trauma care systems, ultimately improving outcomes for individuals affected by road traffic injuries.

Improving Food and Nutrition Security by Enhancing Women's Empowerment

HUMANITARIAN HUB • DONOR: DUTCH RESEARCH COUNCIL AND UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

This project aims to develop a conceptual framework delineating the pathways linking various forms of women's empowerment to enhanced household nutrition outcomes. It also seeks to explore psychological and social constraints, such as aspirations and agency, as potential moderators of women's empowerment impacts. By informing policymakers and practitioners about key study findings, the project aims to contribute to informed decision-making and the implementation of effective strategies to improve nutrition outcomes.

Menstrual Regulation, Abortion, and Post-Abortion Care among the Rohingyas in Bangladesh

HUMANITARIAN HUB • DONOR: GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE (GI)

This study aims to examine the availability of maternal and reproductive health services, including MR, abortion, and PAC, within Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps. It seeks to understand the knowledge and utilisation of these services among ever-married community members, exploring the influence of preferences, stigma, and health literacy on abortion-related behaviours. Additionally, the research aims to contextualise these experiences by assessing the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of community leaders and men regarding the management of unintended pregnancies.

Understanding the Patterns and Determinants of Health in South Asian People - South Asia Biobank

CENTRE FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND NUTRITION • DONOR: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE RESEARCH (NIHR), UK AND WELLCOME TRUST, UK

This initiative focused on strengthening Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) surveillance. Utilising standardised methods, it conducted structured assessments on a diverse sample of individuals aged 18 and above in surveillance sites. Biological samples were systematically collected for epidemiological research, and a longitudinal follow-up enabled the identification of fatal and non-fatal NCD outcomes, aiding in quantifying the NCD relationship and identifying disease biomarkers. The crucial data generated was disseminated to stakeholders, informing resource allocation decisions and influencing health system priorities.

RESEARCH IN FOCUS

Non-Communicable Diseases

The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) at the School aims to improve health outcomes and quality of life for individuals affected by NCDs through partnerships with the Government, healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities.

Last year, researchers at the School conducted a study on the development and testing of an upazila-specific model of 'Whole-of-Government', and 'Whole-of-Society' approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in a sub-district of Bangladesh. An overall summary of the study is illustrated below.

Objectives of the study:

- Identify relevant stakeholders to the prevention and control of NCDs at sub-district level
- Define the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders
- Develop an Upazila-specific intervention model for NCD prevention and control
- Implement the Upazila-specific model and carry out a process documentation
- Evaluate the Upazila-specific model with regard to NCD specific outcomes

Study site:

Birganj Upazila, Dinajpur, Bangladesh



34

stakeholders participated in model development



92

stakeholders interviewed



71

harmonised health facility assessments



2893/1641

40+ adult/adolescent participated in community survey



428

participants attended training on NCD prevention and control



213,539

people in the intervention area

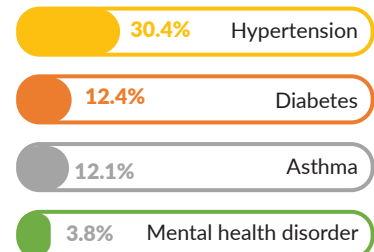
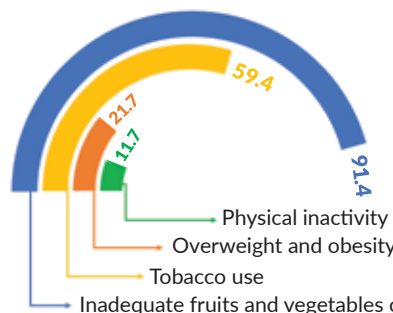


Fig: Prevalence of major NCDs and risk factors of NCDs among adults aged 40+



RESEARCH IN FOCUS

Climate change

In recent years, climate change has become one of the most important areas of public health. In order to address this impending public health issue, the School established the Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH) in January 2023.

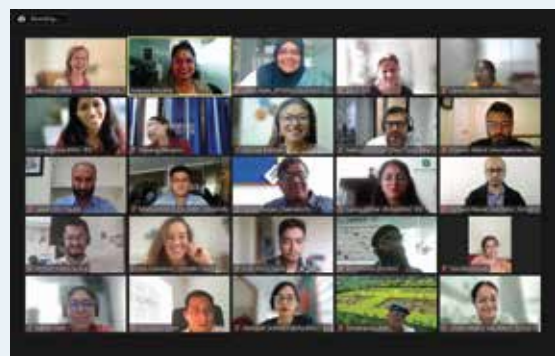
Bangladesh is grappling with climate change and public health risks due to rising sea levels, cyclones, and weather changes. The School has been conducting research projects to understand these vulnerabilities, develop adaptive measures, and develop sustainable strategies to protect public health and ensure community resilience.



At the COP28 held in Dubai, UAE last year, the School hosted a session titled “Advancing Climate-Adaptive Health Systems in South Asia” at the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub Pavilion. Professor Kaosar Afsana moderated the panel and Assistant Professor Farzana Misha attended as a panellist.

Connecting Climate Minds

The Connecting Climate Minds project is conducted by a global team; led by the School in Central and South Asia, and coordinated globally by Climate Cares at Imperial College London. The project is working to foster connections between people all over the world to come together to understand and respond to the deep interconnections between climate change and mental health. Funded by Wellcome Trust, Connecting Climate Minds brings together expertise across research, policy, design, and lived experience from across the globe.



Two regional dialogues for Connecting Climate Minds in Central and Southern Asia were held in 2023, which was attended by 120+ experts, lived experience individuals, and youth ambassadors from 14 countries. The dialogue included interactive sessions on the varied definitions and understandings of important concepts such as climate vulnerability and mental health across the Central and South Asian region.

Climate Adaptation and Climate-Driven Migration in South Asia

The research is using an interdisciplinary research team to model, map, and develop interventions for climate change adaptation. Using a landscape analysis, the research looks to map the latest research and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in Bangladesh. The Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard University is a research partner and the study is funded by The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute at Harvard University.

In November 2023, Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid attended elaborated on climate change adaptation in Bangladesh as a panellist in a workshop on 'Adapting to Climate Change in South Asia and West Africa' in Harvard University, USA. The conversations focused on where impacts are expected, local vulnerabilities and risks in these regions. Climate change responses concerning different stakeholders, regional contexts, and preparation and planning capacities at local, regional, and international levels were discussed.



In March 2023, Dean Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor Farzana Misha, and Research Fellow Sameen Nasar were invited to the international conference on climate change by the Mittal Institute at Harvard University. The project was launched during this conference.

Consultation on communities of practice for transdisciplinary research and action in climate change and health in Asia (CoP)

The mixed-method study was conducted with the primary objective of understanding how relevant stakeholders across research, policy, implementation, affected communities, and supporting organizations in Asia can be better supported to shape, undertake, and use transdisciplinary research, and advance action in climate and health (i.e., barriers and opportunities). The study was funded by Wellcome Trust with Quicksand Design Studio PVT Limited, India as the project partner and Empatika in Indonesia, Curiosity Design Research in the Philippines, and Beyond Group in Lebanon and Jordan as part of the consortium of partners.

Climate change, migration and health systems resilience in Haiti and Bangladesh (CLIMHB)

The mixed-method study was conducted to analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows. The study funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), was conducted in partnership with CEPED – IRD.

Field experience from researchers



While working on different research methodologies, conducting review work (especially scoping review) equipped me with a unique skill set imperative to ensuring the accuracy and robustness of studies, thereby supporting evidence-based decision-making and effective public health interventions.

Obaida Karim, Senior Research Associate



In my diverse research journey, I've learned that genuine empathy is the cornerstone of impactful work. Engaging with diverse backgrounds has broadened my perspective, while overcoming challenges has fueled my resilience. I've come to understand that transparent data collection is paramount for achieving meaningful outcomes.

Jony Barnard Mackfield, Senior Field Coordinator



Engaging with diverse community members has honed my research skills through real-world experiences in remote and challenging environments, like the Haor area in Sunamganj district, where I've traversed via motorbikes, boats, and on foot. Field implementation of research projects offers a unique privilege to explore truths from varied perspectives, from high-ranking officials to marginalized groups like day labourers, sex workers, and persons with disabilities.

Zarin Tasnim, Senior Research Associate



I am passionate about exploring issues affecting marginalised populations. My travels to remote areas with limited communication and infrastructure have transformed my compassion into actionable initiatives. Through field visits, I've gained a profound understanding of public health. Working with diverse communities has empowered me, shaping me into an independent woman ready to make a meaningful impact.

Jannatul Sumrina Hridhi, Research Associate



My experience at BRAC JPGSPH has been transformative, providing me with the opportunity to engage directly with the Rohingya community and deepen my understanding of their struggles related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Despite the inherent challenges of gathering sensitive SRHR data, each obstacle strengthens my resolve to enhance this sector and advocate tirelessly for marginalized populations.

Pragna Paramita Mondal, Research Associate



During my tenure, I've intimately observed the hurdles confronted by underprivileged children during their early developmental years, particularly in areas of social and emotional learning, and mental well-being. I firmly advocate for the implementation of evidence-based interventions within the education system to enhance the social, mental, and emotional resilience of these vulnerable children.

Md. Reza-E Rabbi, Senior Research Assistant



Research internship highlights



Kanako Kon

Student, Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health

At BRAC JPGSPH, I'm delving into unresolved public health issues through research. Their community-centred approach amplifies marginalised voices, shaping healthcare policies in Bangladesh. My internship, guided by Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid and supportive colleagues, provides invaluable insights into obstetric fistula patients' treatment-seeking behaviour. This experience is pivotal for understanding marginalised communities and addressing prevalent challenges. Grateful for this opportunity at BRAC JPGSPH.



Abdullah Asif

MBBS, Senior Research Assistant

My internship at the School was transformative, bridging clinical practice with public health impact. Delving into qualitative and quantitative research, I gained invaluable insights into public nutrition, MIYCN specifically. Fieldwork expeditions honed practical skills, while exposure to industry-standard applications enhanced data analysis proficiency. This experience, beyond immediate learning, instilled core principles of public health research, setting the stage for my current role as a Senior Research Assistant, a testament to its transformative power.



Aushmita Akbar

MSPH Candidate at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

My internship at BRAC JPGSPH exceeded expectations. Recommended by a friend at Johns Hopkins, it provided invaluable research experience and exposure to digital health. This international stint not only enriched my MSPH journey but also ignited a passion for global health challenges. Collaborating with exceptional individuals, I gained insights that will shape my future endeavours and reinforce my commitment to making a difference on the international stage.



Selected peer-reviewed publications

Factors affecting motivation of close-to-community sexual and reproductive health workers in low-income urban settlements in Bangladesh: A qualitative study

Authors: [Ilias Mahmud](#), [Sumona Siddiqua](#), [Irin Akhter](#), [Malabika Sarker](#), [Sally Theobald](#), [Sabina Faiz Rashid](#)

Published in **PLOS One**

The wellbeing of garment workers in Bangladesh during COVID-19 - does gender matter?

Authors: [Farida Chowdhury Khan](#), [Farzana Misha](#), [Nadine Murshid](#), [Atonu Rabbani](#) and [Bakhtear Talukdar](#)

Published in **International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies**

Changing dimensions in immunization: Implementation research on the E-tracker intervention for improving vaccination of children in Dhaka and Moulvibazar, Bangladesh

Authors: [Humayra Anwar](#), [Saima Mehjabeen](#), [Avijit Saha](#), [Md. Tanvir Hossen](#), [Md. Monjurul Islam Fuad](#), [Zahid Hasan](#), [Md Jahid Hossen Shahed](#), [Malabika Sarker](#)

Published in **Population Medicine**

A qualitative exploration of challenges in childhood TB patients identification and diagnosis in Bangladesh

Authors: [Sharmin Akter Shitol](#), [Avijit Saha](#), [Mrittika Barua](#), [Kazi Md Saleheen Towhid](#), [Akramul Islam](#), [Malabika Sarker](#)

Published in **Heliyon**

Smokeless and combustible tobacco use among 148,944 South Asian adults: a cross-sectional study of South Asia Biobank

Authors: [Wubin Xie](#), [Malay Kanti Mridha](#), [Anaya Gupta](#), [Dian Kusuma](#), [Awais Muhammad Butt](#), [Mehedi Hasan](#), [Soren Brage](#), [Marie Loh](#), [Khadija Irfan Khawaja](#), [Rajendra Pradeepa](#), [Vinita Jha](#), [Anuradhani Kasturiratne](#), [Prasad Katulanda](#), [Ranjit Mohan Anjana](#), [John C Chambers](#)

Published in **BMC Public Health**

Health sector corruption in the times of COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh: Newspapers as mirrors of society

Authors: [Mahrubia Khanam](#), [Noshin Sayiara Shuchi](#), [Raihana S. Kamal](#), [Syed Masud Ahmed](#)

Published in **Heliyon**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices and deworming improve nutritional status and anemia of unmarried adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh

Authors: [Saira Parveen Jolly](#), [Tridib Roy Chowdhury](#), [Tanbi Tanaya Sarker](#), [Kaosar Afsana](#)

Published in **Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition**

Assessing implementation outcomes for launching balanced energy protein supplementation: A formative study in rural Bangladesh

Authors: [Anna Kalbarczyk](#), [Mary de Boer](#), [Nazrana Khaled](#), [Barnali Chakraborty](#), [Atiya Rahman](#), [Eleonor Zavala](#), [Hafizur Rahman](#), [Hasmot Ali](#), [Rezwanul Haque](#), [Kaniz Ayesha](#), [Towfida J. Siddiqua](#), [Kaosar Afsana](#), [Parul Christian](#), [Andrew Thorne-Lyman](#)

Published in **Maternal & Child Nutrition**

Fatty acid profile emphasizing trans-fatty acids in commercially available soybean and palm oils and its probable intake in Bangladesh

Authors: [Sneha Sarwar](#), [Nazma Shaheen](#), [Md. Musharraf Ashraf](#), [Nisarga Bahar](#), [Fahmida Akter](#), [Md Mokbul Hossain](#), [Malay Kanti Mridha](#), [Mohammad Abu Monsur Kajal](#), [Sk. Shahriar Bin Rasul](#), [Rudaba Khondker](#), [Ashek Mahfuz](#), [Mduduzi NN Mbuya](#), [Abu Ahmed Shamim](#)

Published in **Food Chemistry Advances**

Rising pharmaceutical innovation in the Global South: a landscape study

Authors: [Marcela Vieira](#), [Tatiana Andia](#), [Obaida Karim](#), [Sanjida Ahmed Srishti](#), [Sebastian Alfonso Pineda](#), [Adrian Alonso Ruiz](#), [Kaitlin Large](#), [Yiqi Liu](#), [Suerie Moon](#), [Nahitun Naher](#), [Azizah Siddiqui](#), [Syed Masud Ahmed](#)

Published in **Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice**



Scan to learn more

Selected conference abstracts

Assessment of the chemical stability of clay materials with different reactive surface areas under varying pH environments: A numerical modeling approach

Authors: Riaz Hossain Khan

Accepted: 16 December 2023 in American Geophysical Union

Co-producing and Co-creating Knowledge on Ambient Lighting, Air and Noise Pollution, Gendered Accessibility and Transport for an Equitable Healthy Dhaka City

Authors: Sabrina Mustabin Jaigirdar, Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Khadiza Tul Kobra Nahin, Riaz Hossain Khan, Frans Berkhout, [Zahidul Quayyum](#)

Accepted: 6 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Community and stakeholders' perceptions about poor ambient lighting in Dhaka City

Authors: Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Anisur Rahman Bayazid, Rumpa Akter, Riaz Hossain Khan, [Zahidul Quayyum](#), Judith Irene Rodriguez, Gary Adamkiewicz

Accepted: 6 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Natural and anthropogenic effects on the occurrence of high air pollution levels in Dhaka and neighboring cities and its health consequences

Authors: Riaz Hossain Khan, [Zahidul Quayyum](#)

Accepted: 21 November 2023 in European Congress on Global Health (ECTMIH2023)

Mapping Urban Waterlogging Zones using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS Modeling: A Case Study of Dhaka City

Authors: [Khadiza Tul Kobra Nahin](#)

Accepted: 9 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Birth and death registration: Qualitative exploration of barriers and gender differences in selected locations in Bangladesh

Authors: [Mrityika Barua](#), [Avijit Saha](#), [Muhammad Abdul Mannan](#), [Jahedul Islam](#), [Shahrear Alam](#), [Protyasha Ghosh](#), [Saima Mehjabeen](#), [Syeda Tahmina Ahmed](#), [Sayema Akter](#), [Moyeen Uddin](#), [Nazrul Islam](#), [Anushka Mangharam](#)

Accepted: 26 April 2023 in 17th World Congress on Public Health Supplement 2023

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18332/popmed/163655>

How prepared are we to fight the future pandemics: A qualitative exploration of Bangladesh's Health Sector readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic and recommended best practices

Authors: [Protyasha Ghosh](#), [Shahrear Alam](#), [Muhammad Abdul Mannan](#), [Jahedul Islam](#), [Mizanur Rahman](#), [Avijit Saha](#), [Mrityika Barua](#)

Accepted: 27 December 2024 in 9th International Public Health Conference 2023 (Hybrid)

A qualitative exploration of challenges in childhood TB patients identification and diagnosis in Bangladesh

Authors: [Malabika Sarker](#), [Sharmin Shitol](#), [Avijit Saha](#), [Mrityika Barua](#), [Kazi Towhid](#), [Akramul Islam](#)

Accepted: 26 April 2024 in The World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) 2023

DOI: [10.18332/popmed/163993](https://doi.org/10.18332/popmed/163993)

Community and stakeholders' perceptions about poor ambient lighting in Dhaka City

Authors: Syeda Tahmina Ahmed

Accepted: 9 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Co-producing and co-creating knowledge on ambient lighting, air and noise pollution, gendered accessibility and transport for an equitable healthy Dhaka city

Authors: Sabrina Mustabin Jaigirdar et al.

Accepted: 22 November 2023 in European Congress on Global Health (ECTMIH2023)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13931>



NRU. Dhaka Hospital

ADVOCACY



Advocacy



Scan to learn more

Overview

The School is committed to making a lasting impact on public health practices at national, regional, and global levels through rigorous research and evidence generation and advocating towards transforming policies and practices to improve the well-being of all individuals. We actively use our platform to engage in advocacy by sharing our findings in conferences, seminars, webinars, workshops, exhibitions, media engagement, and dissemination.

403

active engagements
with stakeholders
since inception

295

news articles and
blogs published
since 2020

83

active engagements
with stakeholders
in 2023

63

webinars
since 2020

Selected updates



CONFERENCE

Regional Symposium & Strategic Summit on Population Health Informatics with 115+ public health experts from 7 countries and launching of a regional Hub on population health Informatics in South and Southeast Asia

Hosted by the School In collaboration with the City University of New York



CAMPAIGN

Public engagement to raise awareness on waterlogging and waste management in Dhaka city with students and teachers from 9 secondary schools

Under Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities global project



DISSEMINATION

Evidence shared on Community health workers' role in primary health care and health systems in Bangladesh

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO



DISSEMINATION

Findings shared from a feasibility study done on Improving Trauma Care in 4 districts of Bangladesh

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Bank



DISSEMINATION

Evidence generated through study on strengthening surveillance of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors, which established a nationwide NCD surveillance system
In alignment with Government policy



DISSEMINATION

Evidence shared on effective digital health platform for SRHR services

Under COVID-19 Learning, Evidence, and Research (CLEAR) programme



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Workshop with Health Reporters Forum of Bangladesh on urban health issues to foster meaningful health reporting

Under the CHORUS global project



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Understanding the nature of anti-feminist backlash in digital spaces and developing counter-strategies

Countering Backlash project in collaboration with BRAC Institute of Governance and Development



WORKSHOP

Engaging young men in thinking about problems of both men and women in their communities

Under the Countering Backlash project in collaboration with Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity (ARISE) consortium



ART EXHIBITION

Youth's perspective on rights of structurally silenced women, showcasing works of 10 young artists in partnership with Orodhho Foundation

Under Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) project with CREA



Artwork from Subrina Islam, young artist featured through exhibition under Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) project

Webinars hosted by the School

In 2023, the School held 7 engaging webinars to foster knowledge and raise awareness on topics including the dengue outbreak, climate change, air and noise quality in Dhaka, community health workers' mental health, financial protection in health, public health response in humanitarian settings and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Rohingya camps. The webinars were telecasted live on Facebook with global and national attendees.

Selected conference participation

Researchers at the School actively participate in global and national conferences, sharing research findings and fostering collaboration in diverse academic arenas. Our researchers attended the following conferences in 2023.

- Devex @ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) | New York, USA
- International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) 2023 | Atlanta, USA
- International Conference on Climate Change | Mittal Institute at Harvard University | New Delhi, India
- Asian Congress on Nutrition | Chengdu, China
- 13th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) | Utrecht, Netherlands
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference 2023 | Keele University, Newcastle, UK
- 18th International Congress of Twin Studies | Budapest, Hungary
- Women Deliver conference | Kigali, Rwanda
- Annual Global Health Conference by Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH 2023) | Washington D.C., USA
- 17th World Congress on Public Health | Rome, Italy
- International Congress of Nutrition | Tokyo, Japan
- Gender and South Asia Research Network meeting | Liverpool, UK
- International Conference on Anti-Feminist Backlash in the Global South | Beirut, Lebanon
- 33rd ICM Triennial Congress 2023 | Bali, Indonesia
- Workshop on Adapting to Climate Change in South Asia and West Africa | Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
- Global BRAC Climate Workshop | Gazipur, Bangladesh
- Roundtable discussion on 50 years of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bangladesh organised by Prothom Alo | Dhaka Bangladesh
- 9th International Public Health Conference 2023 | Dhaka, Bangladesh



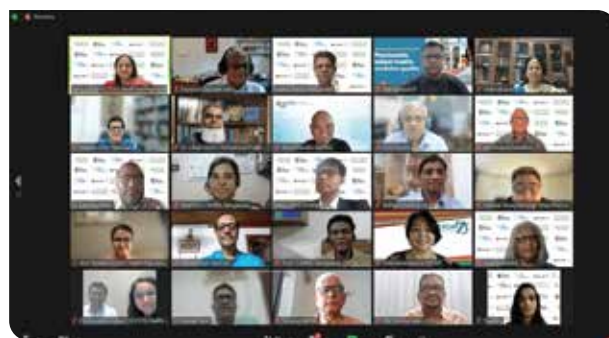
Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

Established in 2006, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) is a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network dedicated to improving the health system in Bangladesh through critical reviews of policies and programmes and recommendations of appropriate actions for change. BRAC JPGSPH has been serving as BHW's secretariat since its inception.

Selected updates



Book launch: 50 Years of Bangladesh: Advances in Health, showcasing Bangladesh's progress in the health sector



Global learning collaborative for health system resilience Bangladesh chapter launch with BRAC JPGSPH and BHW as co-drivers



Roundtable discussion in collaboration with Prothom Alo on future possibilities in the health sector



Plenary Session on accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh as part of an international health economics conference



Life skill training for Health Rights Youth Forum by District Health Rights Forum in 8 districts of Bangladesh



Coordination meeting held on quality improvement of Community Clinic services with representatives of the local government, community clinics, and health rights forums



BRAC JPGSPH officially started its journey in 2004. This year marks the 20th year of the School's excellence in public health education and research. The School has continually strived for academic and research excellence since its inception. Over the past two decades, the School has played a pivotal role in shaping public health policies and initiatives. It has fostered a culture of collaboration and community engagement.

Follow us on social media and use **#20YearsOfBRACJPGSPH** to connect with the special celebrations of this exciting milestone.

**BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health
BRAC University**

6th, 7th & 9th Floor, Medona Tower
28 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Bir Uttom A K Khandakar Road,
Dhaka – 1213, Bangladesh, Telephone: +880-2-48812213-18
Email: jpgsph.comms@bracu.ac.bd

www.bracjpgsph.org



Access our newsletters