

ONLINE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN 2020

As COVID-19 slowly made its way to Bangladesh, BRAC JPGSPH geared to deal with the crises by spreading awareness and taking necessary measures (i.e., maintaining social distancing, mandating wearing facial mask and hand washing etc.) while arranging physical workshops, seminars and/or short courses during the pandemic. From March 2020 onwards, the School has been circulating weekly situation reports on COVID-19 throughout BRAC University. Between 1 to 18 March 2020, the School conducted three internal training sessions to acknowledge the public health emergency and to spread awareness among faculty, students and staff on standard practices during COVID-19 pandemic. The School conducted three internal training sessions, overseen by Professor Kaosar Afsana. Materials for the training were aggregated from World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and BRAC.

Since April 2020, BRAC JPGSPH has been hosting a series of webinars every week to address the public health emergency related to the virus, through sharing of useful resource material, dialogues and in-person meetings, locally and globally to a wider audience, including BRAC University, health organisations, key stakeholders, partners, and networks. Faculty and staff from the School are also being invited to webinars hosted by national and international organisations.

Also, an orientation and awareness programme on COVID-19 was organised for the staff of the BRAC Learning Centre (BLC), at Niketon, Dhaka, where the School's MPH international students reside. On November 1, 2020, an agreement was signed between Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD) and Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), with a grant of BDT 14,514,000 (US\$174,867) from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Under this agreement, CPSD will be undertaking 12 short courses and one pilot course between 2021 and 2022 under the following four themes:

- COVID-19 and its containment in Bangladesh: equity, voice and governance
- Transparency for Good Governance
- Voice and Participation
- Equity for Accessing Health Services.

Approximately 300 participants will be trained between 2021 and 2022. The potential participants will be programme planners and managers of the government, NGO and private sector, university faculty (particularly public health), and other professionals in the health sector, and journalists. Experiential learning methodology will be followed to conduct these short courses. A feedback session will also be organised after completion of each course, which will be useful for refining course content in the future. Additionally, each participant after the training would develop an action plan on how they would implement the newly acquired knowledge and skills in the field.

- WEEK LONG TRAINING ON AWARENESS

The School provided a one-week training session on what COVID-19 is, who gets affected, how to avoid it, etc. The training entailed details of the virus and provided awareness for all faculty members.

- COVID-19 TRAINING FOR SUPPORT STAFF

The support staff members of the School were also provided with an awareness training on COVID-19 during the first week of March so they could understand the public health emergency.

- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) TRAINING PLATFORM

BRAC JPGSPH used the WHO platform for any resources and information on COVID-19 early on in March. Several other training components have been prepared by BRAC JPGSPH during this time period. Moreover, global and local partners also have shared training materials with the School.

- ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY (ARISE):

Lead partner Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) research consortium with the School, organised webinars and shared resource materials on topics such as, awareness videos titled, “Test, Trace, Isolate”, “COVID Ready”, “What is COVID-19?”, “Who are more vulnerable?”, “Preventable measures?”, “Treatment at home?”, “Reliable sources of COVID-19 information?”, “How to maintain good mental health?”. ARISE is funded by UK Research and Innovation’s Global Challenges Research Fund and in partnership with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK; Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK; Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK; The University of York, UK; George Institute for Global Health, India; Slum/Shack Dwellers’ International (SDI), India; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya; Liverpool VCT Health (LVCT Health), Kenya; Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone; College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone.

- HOME CARE TRAINING

Training materials were created by BRAC JPGSPH on how to take care of oneself when at home with COVID-19 or taking care of someone else with COVID-19. The in-house training was developed both in Bangla and English.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN 2020

BRAC JPGSPH in 2020 arranged more than **57 skill development workshops, seminars and webinars.**

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- **COMMUNITY BASED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY (ARISE)**

6-Day Extensive Integrated Training on Capacity Strengthening for Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

Participants: Arise Team Members

Date: 11 - 16 January, 2020

Brief: The training was facilitated by Kim Ozano, Research Associate, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK and Awlad Hossain, Monitoring, Evaluation, Quality Assurance Specialist of Orbis International. Kim Ozano shared her expertise on CBPR methods and helped participants to apply the methods in the field, as part of pre-testing of the qualitative tools. The training was on different research tools such as Participatory Research Action (PRA), In-depth interview (IDI), Transect walk, Key Informant Interview (KII), Photo voice with IDI, community mapping, problem tree analysis, etc. They shared their varied experiences in different fields and contexts while applying such research tools. The thorough overview and exercise as effective, in addition to the field work methods taught.

Co-Developing with Communities the GIS Map and Building Capacity

Participants: Arise Team Members

Date: January, 2020

Brief: A day-long training session by Abdul Awal, Research Associate of BRAC JPGSPH. Point mapping, line mapping, etc. was taught in the session. The ARISE team members received a general overview on GIS mapping and had an exercise to conduct.

Creating Gender Safe Spaces: Safeguarding Training to Inform Policies and Programmes

Participants: ARISE team members

Date: January 2020

Description: This session was initiated by Sally Theobald, Social Scientist from Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). She mentioned the policy and afterwards presented four case scenarios, which enabled participants to understand the concept and how it can be viewed from different perspectives and situations.

Organised by: BRAC JPGSPH ARISE is funded by UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research Fund and partnered with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK; Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK; Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK; The University of York, UK; George Institute for Global Health, India; Slum/Shack Dwellers' International (SDI), India; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya; Liverpool VCT Health (LVCT Health), Kenya; Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone; College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone.

- ORIENTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH: BRIDGING THE GAPS BETWEEN IMPLEMENTERS AND RESEARCHERS

Participants: 29 | **Duration:** 01 Day

Date: 18 January, 2020

Facilitators: Dr Shaikh A. Shahed Hossain, Associate Scientist, Universal Health Coverage, Health System and Population Studies Division, icddr,b; Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH.

Brief: The purpose of this one-day training was to orient early career academicians to the concept of Implementation Research (IR) and its use in understanding and addressing barriers to effective and quality delivery of health interventions, strategies and policies in health systems. In particular, this module offered an introductory understanding of the concepts, process and key practical issues and considerations related to designing and implementing an implementation research. At the end of the course, the participants would have a good overall understanding of the following:

- What Implementation Research is, how this is different than traditional research approach in Public Health or Social Science;
- Why we need Implementation Research in Public Health and beyond;
- How Implementation Research can contribute to developing better health systems.

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH.

Organised by: Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

- **RESEARCH SKILL DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOPING INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS**

Participants: 3 | Duration: 1 Day

Date: 6 February, 2020

Facilitator: Dr Angel Foster, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa.

Brief: In the beginning of the training, the overview of the project was shared with the country team. The main discussion was about the list of indicators (sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health services and outcomes) and the rationale behind the indicators. The training also discussed the data collection methods of the project.

Organised by: Dr Angel Foster, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa.

- **GENDER AND ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE (GAGE) TOOLS**

Participants: 7 | Duration: 3 Days

Date: 12, 15 and 16 March, 2020

Facilitators: Mohammad Riaz Hossain, Assistant Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH; AKM Mazharul Islam, Visiting Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH; Maheen Sultan, Head, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD).

Brief: This training programme, funded and partnered by GAGE ODI, held at BRAC JPGSPH was conducted with the objectives to:

- Understand the objectives and methodology of GAGE research projects.
- Understand ethical issues in GAGE research projects.
- Understand and practice the GAGE qualitative research tools for skillful data collection.
- Learn about research sites and research samples.
- Learn about data management.

Organised by: Centre for Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) and Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

- **TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE: SYNTHESIS AND TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FROM POLIO ERADICATION (STRIPE)**

Participants: 15 | Duration: 5 Days

Date: 9-13 March, 2020

Facilitators: Olakunle O. Alonge, Assistant Professor, International Health (Primary), Division: Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Svea Closser, Associate Professor, International Health (Primary), Division: Social and Behavioural Interventions, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Anna Kalbarczyk, Assistant Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health.

Brief: The STRIPE consortium focused on knowledge mapping activities in year 1, knowledge synthesis and development of the course in year 2. The course includes 12 modules under various global knowledge domains. This Training of the Trainers (ToT) meeting was organised at John Hopkins University (JHU) Campus, Baltimore, USA to demonstrate different teaching techniques to the STRIPE teaching team members from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Nigeria. Members from John Hopkins University also took part in the training. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, India and Indonesia attended virtually.

The teaching techniques were covered under the ToT: Course Evaluation, Lecture Approach, Case Study Approach, Flipped Classroom, Discussion Approach, Debate, Theory of change and quality, improvement/ IR tools, audio and video recording of the lectures and discussions

Organised by: John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

- **CAPACITY BUILDING ON TOOLS AND GUIDELINES: DEMAND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES SKILLS DEMAND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN BANGLADESH 2020**

Participants: 8 | Duration: 2 Days

Date: 19 - 20 July, 2020

Facilitators: Mir Raihanul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Brief: An online (Zoom) group training was organised for the study team members. First half of the day one training consisted of participatory discussion on study background, objective, method, data collection plan and quality control measures. Second half of the training consisted of detailed discussions on the set of tools. On the second day of the training a field pre-testing of the tools was organised. The training ended with debriefings and by providing necessary feedback, suggestions and guidance to the team for quality data collection.

Organised by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC), BRAC JPGSPH.

- **ONLINE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON “QUALITATIVE RESEARCH”**

Participants: 18 | **Duration:** 02 Days

Date: 25 - 26 August, 2020

Facilitator: Dr AKM Mazharul Islam, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Visiting Professor and Course Facilitator, Anthropological Approaches to Public Health and Resource Person, Methodology Workshop, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-Facilitators: Tasfiah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH; Rituja Shome, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Brief: In this workshop, the participants were introduced with few important anthropological and qualitative research tools and techniques of data collection. By practically using those tools, they learned how to collect relevant data, make narratives and analyse and how to interpret those in research. Implemented by Right Here Right Now (RHRN), the project is funded by Rutgers and partnered with BRAC Education Programme, BRAC; Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP); Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu); Naripokkho; Socio-Economic Rural Advancement Committee (SERAC)- Bangladesh; Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB); Obojob; Bangladesh Legal Aid And Services Trust (Blast); United for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance; Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Dance4Life; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (Hivos) and BRAC JPGSPH.

Organised by: Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

SKILLS BUILDING COURSES IN 2020

- **CAPACITY BUILDING ON FUNDAMENTALS OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH "THINKING QUALITATIVELY"**

Participants: 27 | **Duration:** 03 Days

Date: 25 - 27 February, 2020

Facilitator: Dr Shahaduz Zaman, Reader in Medical Anthropology and Global Health at the Department of Global Health and Infection, University of Sussex, UK.

Brief: During the past decade, there has been an increasing use of qualitative post research across various disciplines. It is now well acknowledged that complexity of human life can not only be captured through quantitative means. Qualitative research is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations. In this training workshop participants were introduced to the basic ideas behind the qualitative research. They learned about data collection, analysis and interpretation in qualitative research.

Organised by: Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

- **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS**

Participants: 17 | Duration: 05 Days

Date: 8 - 12 March, 2020

Facilitators: Dr Md Tanvir Hasan, Assistant Professor, Director of Research and Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition, BRAC JPGSPH.

Brief: In response to the growing demand for training in statistical methods and use of statistical software, this course was the first one of a series of courses to be offered by CPSD on application of STATA. A five-day long course, designed with a view to helping academics, researchers, analysts and professionals coming from different backgrounds to learn statistical computing and apply this knowledge in their respective fields. This course provided participants with an introduction to STATA including data management, performing statistical analysis such as statistical tests and regression modelling, producing and interpreting statistical tables and graphs to display quantitative information.

Organised by: Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

- **SHORT COURSE ON "EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME" FOR IMED OFFICIALS**

Participants: 25 | Duration: 03 Days

Date: 6 - 8 December, 2020

Facilitators: Dr Humayra Binte Anwar, Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Yameen Mazumder, Senior Project Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH; Dr Malabika Sarker, Professor, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH.

Brief: This course was part of the UNICEF 'Capacity Development for Monitoring and Reporting to Increase Effective Coverage of Basic Social Services for Women and Children'

(CDMRI-ECBSS Phase-II) and addressed the specific objective of developing a national monitoring and evaluation policy, strategy formulation to implement the policy and capacity development of government officials on Result Based Monitoring (RBM) based M&E.

Facilitated by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up, BRAC JPGSPH.

Organised by: Centre for Professional Skills Development on Public Health (CPSD), BRAC JPGSPH.

SEMINARS IN 2020

- SEMINAR ON “GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY TO GENERATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR CLINICAL PRACTICES”

Date: 2 January, 2020

Presenter: Dr Fazlay S. Faruque is a tenured Professor of Preventive Medicine at the John D. Bower School of Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Centre (UMMC). He joined UMMC in 2000 as the Director of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing programme with a faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor. He has a PhD in Geological Engineering, 30 years of experience in teaching and research in the areas of geospatial science with a focus on environmental health.

Brief: Dr Faruque presented the technological advancement of Geospatial technology and utilisation of environment exposures data in clinical practice in the context of incorporating environmental exposure data and the necessity of such reliable data in current clinical practice.

- SEMINAR ON "THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"

Date: 9 February, 2020

Presenter: Sylvia Borren has worked all her life for civil society organisations, both professionally and as a volunteer. She was part of the Dutch and global women's sexual rights movements and is now advisor to the UN Women National Committee Netherlands and ATRIA (Institute on Gender Equality and Women's History). Ms Borren was part of the anti-poverty movement (director of Oxfam Novib 1994-2008, and co-chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)).