Research Findings
Dissemination Conference
Tobacco Control Research Grant Program
The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA places much emphasis on generating research evidence for effective tobacco control measures. The Research Grant Program on tobacco control issues in Bangladesh was initiated to address the demand for information related to tobacco use in the country. This type of program on tobacco control is the first of its kind and the outcomes of those studies are very encouraging. This Dissemination Conference presents the findings of the studies which I believe will contribute toward the evidence base that can be used by the government and non-government sectors, and by leaders and activists, to further the progress in eliminating tobacco-caused deaths and diseases in Bangladesh.

The health consequences of tobacco use are enormous. Curbing the epidemic is of utmost importance, especially in low and middle income countries where the prevalence is increasing, with serious economic impact. The role of tobacco control research in Bangladesh would appear to be especially important because of diversity of culture and current forms of tobacco use. Bangladesh has had few dedicated researchers generating useful data drawing academic and policy attention on tobacco control issues and directing and improving tobacco-control efforts. I believe Johns Hopkins and BCCP’s initiative to launch this Research Grant program and to develop a community of tobacco researchers under the platform ‘Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)’ will contribute to addressing the gap, elevate the tobacco issue high on the policy agenda and identify strategies that could be uniquely effective in Bangladesh context.

Tobacco use has emerged as one of the foremost causes of preventable deaths and diseases today. It poses a great public health challenge in developing countries where tobacco use continues to grow due to steady population growth along with aggressive tobacco industry marketing efforts. This situation cannot be tackled alone. Given the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh and the joint efforts of Bloomberg partners, stakeholders, tobacco control leaders and activists using the evidence base being created by the researchers, Bangladesh will indeed see a reversal of the tobacco epidemic soon.

I wish all the best for the success of the initiative towards preventing tobacco-caused deaths and disease in Bangladesh.

Joanna Cohen, PHD, MHSC
Director, Institute for Global Tobacco Control
Bloomberg Associate Professor of Disease Prevention
Department of Health, Behavior and Society
Research based evidence is an important pre-requisite for designing effective strategies and programs. Today, we share with you the summary findings of the studies on tobacco control that were conducted under the second round of the Research Grant Program. This Grant Program was administered by BCCP and made possible with funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. This year a total of 20 research proposals, ten from the post-graduate students and other ten from the experienced researchers, were selected for funding.

Tobacco control is one of the important strategies of the Government of Bangladesh for prevention of non-communicable diseases, which is on the rise in Bangladesh. Tobacco use in Bangladesh poses a significant threat because the people here use it in many forms and it remains deep rooted in Bangladeshi culture. The World Health Organization, Bloomberg partners and many other NGOs, leaders and activists have joined hands with the government to implement the National Strategic Plan of Action for Tobacco Control and save the lives of millions of Bangladeshis every year. The Research Grant Program and establishment of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) are initiatives to unveil facts and figures in order to support the policymakers, leaders and activists in tobacco control to develop effective tobacco control strategies in Bangladesh.

The work presented here is the contribution of many people. Selecting the most suitable study project was an extremely critical job. The announcement for research proposals was made in the national dailies. The proposals received were reviewed by a Review Panel comprised of renowned researchers from home and abroad and ten proposals from each category were selected. To ensure quality data collection, a Research Capacity Building Workshop was also organized for short-listed candidates. The BCCP Research Team has been continuously monitoring the data collection efforts and provided input when necessary. I thank all the researchers for their excellent performance. I also appreciate the hardwork of the BCCP Research team who got the job done very nicely. I acknowledge the rigorous efforts of the Review Panel to select the best ones. I am grateful to IGTC for their financial support to the program for the interest of the tobacco control program in Bangladesh.

This is an important step towards coordinated tobacco control efforts in the country. I look forward to working closely with all partners, stakeholders, leaders and activists in public and private sectors towards reversing the use of tobacco in Bangladesh.

Mohammad Shahjahan
Director & CEO
Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs
JHSPH-BCCP
Tobacco Control Initiative in Bangladesh

Tobacco is the largest single cause of health inequality in several low-income countries including Bangladesh. As one of the 15 countries of the world with a heavy burden of tobacco-related health problems, Bangladesh carries a double burden of high production and high consumption of tobacco products. Among the low and middle income countries, Bangladesh is leading the way in controlling tobacco uses that is ultimately contributing to reduce tobacco-caused deaths and diseases in the country. Following signing and ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the Government of Bangladesh, enacted the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act 2005 and again amended the law in 2013. The Government has also formed the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to coordinate tobacco control initiatives in the country in collaboration with WHO, Bloomberg Initiative Partners, NGOs and professional bodies. National, district and sub-district taskforce committees have been formed to oversee enforcement of law at field level.

In order to support the initiatives of the Government and other in-country Bloomberg Initiative partners, BCCP has been implementing a number of activities to reduce tobacco use in Bangladesh under the Bloomberg Worldwide Stop Smoking Initiative with financial support from the Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), Baltimore, USA.

Research Grant Program

In Bangladesh, tobacco control is considered a low priority issue compared to other health-related programs. Tobacco control-related research has historically not been a popular topic within the academic community in Bangladesh. Therefore, there is a dearth of facts and figures needed to design and develop an effective tobacco control program in Bangladesh. The overall objective of the research grant program is to popularize the tobacco control research in Bangladesh and generate local evidence to support effective tobacco control interventions in the country, and thus prevent deaths and diseases from tobacco use.
All Bangladeshi postgraduate students and researchers aspiring to contribute to tobacco control research in Bangladesh are eligible to apply for the research grant. Two types of research grants are available:

**Student Category:**
- The student should be enrolled in any postgraduate program (Masters, M. Phil. or Ph.D.).
- Applicant should be available in the country throughout the research period.

**Researcher Category:**
- Researchers having any Masters, M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree and affiliated with any university, institution or organization.
- Freelance Researchers having Masters, M.Phil. or Ph.D. can also submit proposals.

The research topic must be within the priority issues of the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use (monitor tobacco industry activities; protect people from tobacco smoke; warn about the dangers of tobacco through mass media campaigns and health warning labels; enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and raise taxes on tobacco). Proposals on generating local evidence that would contribute to developing new policy in line with the Articles of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2003/9241591013.pdf) or with components of World Health Organization’s MPOWER package (http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/en/) are recommended. Any innovative research topic on in-country tobacco control are encouraged. Interventional studies, proposals on quitting tobacco and evaluation of in-country tobacco control projects are considered as non-priority issues.
A Proposal Review Panel comprising of renowned researchers and tobacco control experts from home and abroad is formed to review the proposals. The Panel considers the following while selecting the winning proposals:

- Priority issues of Bloomberg Initiative
- Competitiveness
- Expected policy implications

The review panel follows a three-step review process. In the first step, preliminary screening is done to see whether proposals follow the proposal submission guideline. The 2nd step is the technical scoring while in the 3rd step applicants present their proposals to the review panel.

BCCP has a highly experienced and dedicated team having both technical and managerial expertise to manage the grant program. The research team is led by a Senior Deputy Director (Research and Evaluation) and has members of diversified background including statistician, anthropologist, epidemiologist, sociologist, and nutritionist. The team nurtures grantees by providing mentorship in every step of research work including questionnaire development, data collection, data entry, data analysis, and report writing.

Dissemination conference is organized to share the research findings of the studies. Students and faculties of different universities, institutions, medical colleges; and representatives of Government, donor agencies, NGOs, BI partners and grantees are invited to attend the conference. Print and electronic media are also invited to cover the news of the conference.
The 1st round of the grant program was implemented in 2013. Under this round, five student researchers and five experienced researchers were rigorously selected to undertake ten different research studies on tobacco control for a period of nine months. A dissemination conference was held in March 2014 to share the research findings of the studies. Following the success of the research grant program in 2013, the number of grants has been doubled in 2014. Among the proposals, ten each from both 'Student' and 'Researcher' categories were selected following an in-depth review process. The research work has been completed in November 2014 and the research findings are now available to the relevant stakeholders.

Process has been started to select winning proposals for the 3rd round. Twenty grants will be available for this round.

**Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)**

With the aim to provide a platform and support and guide the potential tobacco control researchers in Bangladesh, BTCRN was launched in 2013 under the auspices of JHSPH-BCCP Tobacco Control Project. The purpose of the Network is to develop a local evidence-based research repository to enhance effective tobacco control policy development and implementation in Bangladesh.

The overall objective of the Network is to promote and nurture a tobacco control research culture in Bangladesh.

**The specific objectives of the Network are:**

- Review Bangladesh-specific tobacco control related research activities and identify gaps;
- Document and disseminate tobacco control research findings that can be used to enhance support for tobacco control policy development and implementation; and,
- Serve as a resource for partners, implementers, activists and the Government with respect to tobacco control research.
Functions and activities

- Identify strategic partners for tobacco control-related research;
- Organize and host tobacco control research conferences, scientific seminars and meetings;
- Assist members in documenting their tobacco control related research findings, lessons learned and best practices, and publishing them in national and international journals;
- Establish a virtual and printed material library as a Resource Center;
- Publish newsletters;
- Organize research capacity building workshops;
- Promote collaboration, coordination and networking among relevant national and international stakeholders including development partners and government;
- Identify and explore sources of financial and technical assistance potentially available to the members of BTCRN;
- Offer competitive Grant Program for tobacco control research; and
- Conduct any other activity that is thought necessary for promotion of tobacco control research.

Membership

The BTCRN offers both institutional and individual membership, including student membership. Any Bangladeshi university, institution, national and local NGO, government, and individual who is interested in tobacco control and signs a declaration that they are in no way affiliated with the tobacco industry, including engaging in advertising or distribution of tobacco or tobacco-related products can be a member of the Network.

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The network is going to be registered with the Joint Stock Companies and Firms under Societies Act.
Research Grant Recipients 2014 and the Abstracts

Student Category
Anisul Islam

Research Title:
Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostels and their Homes in Dhaka City

Anisul Islam is an MBA student of the Jagannath University, Dhaka. He was awarded a student grant for his study on Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostels and their Homes in Dhaka City. Mr. Islam has concern over the public health issues and want to improve his knowledge base on healthy life practice through studies on human habits.
Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostels and their Homes in Dhaka City

Author: Anisul Islam

**Background:** Tobacco consumption is a widespread phenomenon in Bangladesh and is often found to be disproportionately higher among the youth and lower socioeconomic groups. Smoking behavior among students living in hostels and their own residences in Dhaka city may be similar to the rates documented elsewhere among the same age groups. **Objective:** The objectives of the study were to investigate the smoking behavior among undergraduate students and a comparative scenario between the students residing in hostels and in their family residences. **Methodology:** This was a location-based comparative cross-sectional descriptive study conducted in six educational institutions of Dhaka city with 500 representative samples of undergraduate students living at hostel/mess and at their parents/relatives house. Inferential statistical analysis was done to establish the relationship between different variables such as income, age, etc. on tobacco use. **Findings:** The study revealed that overall prevalence of smoking was 42% among the students, it was higher among students who lived in hostels/mess (47%) compared to their counterparts living in their parents/relatives house (37%). The results indicated that there is less restriction of smoking for those who live in hostels/residential halls compared to those living in their parents/relatives home and that difference was statistically significant. On the other hand, a highest majority of respondents, irrespective of place of residence, smoked in the company of their friends. The study results also showed that most of the respondents (about 98%) were aware about the bad effects of smoking including health hazards. However, one-third of the non-smoker respondents were not sure that they would initiate smoking within the next five years. It was again found that majority of the respondents, irrespective of residential status, were being exposed to tobacco control information either through print/electronic media or social networking. **Conclusions:** Although the difference was marginal, the students living in hostel/mess have different types of peers’ influences that may lead them to take up smoking on a daily basis. An intervention could be develop that raise awareness on the health hazards of smoking for many vulnerable young smokers.
Dr. S.M. Shahidul Islam

Research Title:
Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City

Dr. S.M. Shahidul Islam is an MPH student of the University of South Asia. He received the Student Grant to conduct his research on “Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among the Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City”. He has a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from the Pioneer Dental College and works as a Dental Surgeon and Departmental Head in the Medical College for Women and Hospital, Dhaka. He aims to pursue his career in a research intensive environment on public health issues.
Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City

Author: Dr. S.M. Shahidul Islam

Background: In Southeast Asia, tobacco is used in diverse forms including cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. The tobacco chewing has serious health effects that increase risk of cancer of the mouth and throat, as well as gum recession and bone loss around the teeth. So, there is a need to determine the burden of oral diseases in Bangladesh due to smokeless tobacco consumption. Objectives: The present study was designed to assess the relationship between different oral diseases and chewing tobacco use among slum dwellers in Mirpur area. Methodology: A cross-sectional research design has been implemented among purposively selected 700 slum dwellers in the Mirpur area of Dhaka City. Descriptive analyses were done to summarize information and Chi-squared test was used to see the differences of oral diseases among tobacco users and tobacco non-users. Findings: The study result documented that the average age of the respondents was 37 years. Almost all of the respondents among tobacco using group chewed tobacco on a daily basis. Respondents were assessed during interview. A checklist of 15 common oral diseases was used and the analysis showed that all of the oral diseases were found to be significantly higher among tobacco users than tobacco non-users. Lack of formal education and increasing age was also associated with the presence of greater number of oral diseases among the respondents. Conclusion: The study provides useful information regarding the prevalence of oral diseases among lower socioeconomic groups in Dhaka City. It can be utilized for formulate tobacco control programs and policies aimed at those in lower socio economic group in order to reduce their burden of oral diseases.
Research Title:
E-Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City

Md. Bodrudoza Alam received a Student Grant to conduct a study on E-Cigarette Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City. Mr. Alam currently works at SAIC Institute of Medical Technology (SIMT) as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy. He has an MPH degree from the Atish Dipankar University of Science & Technology (ADUST) and aims at pursuing his career in a research-intensive environment.
E- Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City

Author: Md. Bodrudoza Alam

**Background:** Electronic cigarettes (E-cigarettes) have gained considerable attention since their introduction in the European and American markets. Research on these products and their use has received little attention in Bangladesh. The young people are especially vulnerable so it is important to find out the current users of E-cigarettes and its implications on tobacco control policies in Bangladesh. **Objective:** To assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of the use of e-cigarette among the private university students in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. **Methodology:** This was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted among 599 samples of private university students in Dhaka city during February-November, 2014. Descriptive statistics were initially used for all variables and Pearson’s Chi-square (\( \chi^2 \)) test was then carried out to find out the association. **Results:** Overall, nearly three-quarters (74%) of the respondents had heard about e-cigarettes and over half of them were familiar with e-cigarettes through their friends. Over a third of the respondents mentioned they heard about e-cigarettes from the internet or from TV channels. Among those who had heard about e-cigarettes, about 2% of them were current e-cigarette smokers and were able to smoke in several places where smoking is legally banned. Majority of respondents smoked e-cigarettes either alone or with friends and three-quarters of the current smokers started smoking e-cigarettes after they had enrolled into the university. The study found that, only 3.0% were former e-cigarette smokers and majority of them stopped smoking because it failed to satisfy their craving. Overall 39% of the respondents reported e-cigarette smoking did not pose any threat to health and large proportions said it was better than conventional cigarettes. Very few respondents expressed concern about the safety and potential health effects of e-cigarettes; they wanted the product to be regulated by government agencies. **Conclusion:** This study addresses some of the concerns and knowledge gaps regarding e-cigarettes. Thus, accurate information should be provided to the general public regarding e-cigarette. Further research can be done to find out more about the use of e-cigarettes in Bangladesh and also help formulate policies addressing its use. In addition, further studies are needed to know the long term impact of electronic cigarettes on health.
Research Title:
Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students

Md. Mushfiqur Rahman Shohag is a student of M.Phil program at the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of the University of Dhaka. He has just finished his contractual period with the joint venture research collaboration program of English in Action undertaken by University of Dhaka and Open University (UK). He has interest in Research that would foster change for the advancement national education system and social transformation. He received the research grant from the “Student” category.
Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students

Author: Md. Mushfiqur Rahman Shohag

**Background:** Bangladesh is one of the most populated and among the highest tobacco using countries of the world. Smoking initiation starts at a young age and various determinants lead young people to consume tobacco such as peer pressure, curiosity, anxiety, influence of the media etc. So this problem needs to be be addressed to make young people aware of the hazards of smoking and proper measures need to be taken to prevent smoking among them. **Objective:** This study focused on the knowledge, attitude and practices towards use of tobacco among university students, identified the factors leading to their smoking habit including their opinion towards tobacco control policies.

**Methodology:** A mixed method cross-sectional study was conducted in six different universities in Dhaka city from February-November, 2014. Face-to-face interviews were conducted among a total of 440 respondents using a semi-structured questionnaire and eight focus group discussions (FGDs) were also conducted. Both thematic and quantitative analysis was done with necessary graphical and tabular representation. **Findings:** More than one-third (37%) of the university students were current tobacco users and were mainly using cigarettes. The results indicate peer pressure made students try cigarettes for the first time and got them addicted. The FGDs results also supported these findings. Almost all respondents knew about the bad effects of direct and passive smoking. Majority of the respondents believed there was a relationship between smoking and further drug addiction, which was confirmed by the FGDs. The results also indicated that for some the smoking habit of family members somehow made them curious and lead them to take the first puff. A majority of the respondents knew about the existing tobacco control law but mentioned the law was violated in the university areas because of the lack of willingness, awareness and commitment of the authorities.

**Conclusion:** It is perceived from the study that the prevalence of smoking among university students is high which is very alarming for a developing country like Bangladesh. Cumulative efforts from all the sections of the society are required to fight this social vice. Mass campaigning against its use, creating awareness among the youth should be a priority for the nation as a whole. However, further research could be done by involving a larger sample size covering broader geographical areas in Bangladesh.
Research Title:
Perception of smoking-related risks and benefits among selected urban and rural adolescent students

Md. Rijwan Bhuiyan was awarded a student grant to conduct a study on “Perception of smoking-related risks and benefits among selected urban and rural adolescent students”. Mr. Bhuiyan is a student of M.Phil in Public Health with major in Health Promotion and Health Education at Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS). He is the founder of the Institute for Health Promotion and Research (IHPR). He is devoted to work for Health Promotion in Bangladesh and has already published four articles both in national and international journals.
Perception of smoking-related risks and benefits among selected urban and rural adolescent students

Author: Md. Rijwan Bhuiyan

**Background:** Adolescents' perception of smoking may play an important role in determining their subsequent smoking related behavior and intention to smoke. Knowing about their perception of risks and benefits regarding smoking could be helpful in designing an intervention or educational program. **Objective:** The objective was to assess the perception of smoking-related risks and benefits among selected urban and rural adolescent students in Bangladesh. **Methodology:** A mixed method cross-sectional study was carried out among 416 non-smoker adolescent students in selected urban and rural areas of Dhaka district. Quantitative data were collected through face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured questionnaire. Qualitative data were collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The adolescents were asked to estimate their likelihood (0%–100%) of experiencing various smoking-related risks in a hypothetical scenario. **Findings:** Study revealed that among non-smoking adolescents, about one-third of them tried smoking even a single puff in their lifetime and almost half (43%) were susceptible to initiation of smoking in future. However, in case of smoking-related risks and benefits, on average, adolescents perceived that they had about 78% chance or likelihood of experiencing smoking related risks and 20% chance of getting benefits from smoking. The study showed that adolescents who lived in urban areas had a greater understanding about smoking related risks (urban 81%) than adolescents who live in rural areas (rural 75%). Again, adolescents who live in urban areas understood there was less smoking related benefits (urban 17%) than adolescents who lived in rural areas (rural 23%). In case of perception of risks and benefits among 'susceptible' and 'non susceptible' adolescents, study found that adolescents who are susceptible had a lower smoking related risks perception than adolescents who are not susceptible. But no significant difference was found in smoking related benefits perception among the susceptible and not susceptible groups. **Conclusion:** The study suggests that risks and benefits perception of smoking differ among urban and rural adolescents. So to discourage adolescents from initiating smoking behavior, an intervention program could be considered based on their perceptions of smoking and on geographic location.
Research Title:
Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke Free

Akil Hossain is a student of Master of Science in Environmental Science at the Khulna University. He wants to expand his knowledge and is looking to build a career that offers the opportunity to work for people, and generate and disseminate health knowledge among the people. He received the research grant from the 'Student' category.
Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke Free

Author: Akil Hossain

Background: Globally smoking is considered a leading risk factor for non-communicable diseases. Teen smoking is of a major concern as long term smoking exposes people to numerous health hazards. More effort may be needed to keep teenagers smoke free. Objectives: This research was conducted to find out the reasons behind teen smoking initiation and find out the ways to keep them smoke free. Methodology: The research was carried out from February to November, 2014 using a mixed methods approach among 408 representative samples of adolescents over purposively selected 12 schools and colleges in the two districts of Khulna division in Bangladesh. Additionally 8 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted among students and 24 key informants interviews were conducted with teachers and parents. Comparative analysis has been done primarily with descriptive statistics including cross-tabulation with Chi-square test. Findings: The study documented that about 14% of the teens were smokers and rural areas had greater prevalence of smoking than urban areas. There was a strong relationship of teenage smoking initiation when members of their own family or friends smoked. Peer pressure, inappropriate company, curiosity, desire to fit in with friends, alleviate frustration, copying parents or elders were the main causes of smoking among the teenage respondents in this study. About half of the respondents observed promotional activities in their areas. Almost all of respondents have some knowledge about the consequences of smoking. Majority of the FGD participants opined that bad companions, and copying parent and elderly persons were the main reasons for their smoking habit. On the other hand, many of the key informants mentioned that promotional activities of the tobacco industries have contributed to the initiation of smoking among teenagers. Conclusion: Building up awareness on the hazards of smoking may play a major role in discouraging teens from taking up smoking. Increased understanding of parents, teachers and school administrators could help the teenagers to overcome this bad habit more effectively. Effects of smoking can also be added in the academic curriculum. Further research may be done to find out the barriers to proper implementation of the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act and the reasons why smoking among teenagers is higher in rural areas.
Research Title:
Prevalence and Awareness of Second-hand and Third-hand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students

Dr. Dilruba Rahman is a Dentist and has an MPH degree from the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM). Currently she works as a lecturer at the Update Dental College. Dr. Rahman received the research grant in the ‘Student category’ to conduct her study on Prevalence and Awareness of Second-hand and Third-hand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students.
Prevalence and Awareness of Second-hand and Third-hand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students

Author: Dr. Dilruba Rahman

Background: The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced. Most of the studies are on smoking but there is less emphasis on second-hand smoke (SHS) related research. Moreover, third-hand smoke (THS) is an emerging health concern and the magnitude of this public health threat is not fully known. Objectives: The study was aimed to determine the prevalence of and assess the awareness about secondhand and third-hand smoke exposure among the medical and dental students from selected institutes. Methodology: It was a comparative cross-sectional study conducted during February to November, 2014. A total of 501 students were selected following the systematic sampling method from two medical (one government and one private) and two dental (one government and one private) colleges in Dhaka city. The data was analyzed primarily with descriptive statistics. Analysis included cross-tabulation and Pearson's chi-square test. Findings: Among the respondents, 52% were male and 48% were female. From this study it was found that almost all respondents were exposed to second-hand smoke. Indoor places were the most common site followed by outdoor places for second hand smoke exposure. Prevalence of second-hand smoke exposure was significantly associated with gender. Almost two-third of the respondents were exposed to third-hand smoke. Prevalence of third-hand smoke exposure was more common at the institutions than at home. Two-fifth of the students had low level of knowledge about second-hand smoke. The association of the score based level of knowledge for SHS was highly significant with the type of institute and course (medical or dental) of respondent. Majority of the respondents had low level of knowledge regarding third-hand smoke. The association of the score based level of knowledge for third-hand smoke was highly significant with type of institute, category of respondent, living place. Conclusion: Proportions of students exposed to SHS and third-hand smoke were very high. Knowledge regarding SHS and third-hand smoke was disappointing among health professions students. Efforts should be made to develop a strategy to promote smoke-free policies to protect non-smokers from SHS and third-hand-smoke at the health institutions.
Dr. Md. Harun-Ar-Rashid

Research Title:
Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco Use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City

Dr. Md. Harun-Ar-Rashid is an MPH student of the University of South Asia. He received the research grant from the "Student" category to conduct a research on "Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco use among Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City". Dr. Rashid has a Bachelor degree on Dental Surgery from the Pioneer Dental College, Dhaka. Currently he works as a Dental surgeon in the Department of Dentistry at Bangladesh University of Health Science. He looks for building a knowledge-based career through working in a research-oriented environment that offers the opportunity to generate and disseminate health knowledge contributing to decrease morbidity and mortality from easily preventable causes.
Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco Use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City

Author: Dr. Md. Harun-Ar-Rashid

Background: Smoking is an enormous burden for a developing country like Bangladesh where the low-income groups are identified as a major group who consume excessive tobacco and face considerable health and economic consequences. The smoking and chewing of tobacco products has a number of well documented effects on health. So, it is important to conduct studies in regards to knowledge, expenditure on tobacco use and awareness of related diseases among the working class in Bangladesh. Objectives: The aims of the study was to assess the knowledge and expenditures of tobacco use among the rickshaw pullers in Dhaka city in order to educate them on harms of tobacco use. Methodology: Under a cross-sectional study design, a total of 552 rickshaw pullers were selected purposively and interviewed from the different zones (north, south, east, west) of Dhaka city of Bangladesh. The information was analysed in the form of both descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS software packages. Findings: Among the majority (92%) of the respondents who were using any form of tobacco; 76% were smokers, 5% were smokeless tobacco users and 11% were habituated with both combinedly. Almost all respondents had knowledge about the health hazards due to the use of tobacco products. Majority had knowledge that use of tobacco caused lung cancer, many of them knew that shortness of breath and frequent respiratory illnesses could occur from tobacco use. Regarding health hazards related to tobacco use, 90% of the respondents became aware through radio, or television. More than two-third (69%) had knowledge about the tobacco control law especially, the section pertaining to "smoking in public place and public transport is prohibited" and associated penalties for violating the law. The results further revealed that the average weekly expenditure for tobacco use was lower among respondents who had knowledge about the health hazards of tobacco consumption compared to who had no knowledge. Conclusions: The study results suggest that there is a need to provide strong support for tobacco control in Bangladesh, especially for rickshaw pullers. A tobacco control program for the rickshaw pullers and people from other low income groups could be established and implemented to help build their awareness about tobacco consumption and its impact.
Research Title:

Moin Uddin Ahmed is a student of Master of Population Sciences (MPS) program of the University of Dhaka, with concentration in Demographic Analysis. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree with majors in Finance and Marketing from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Jahangirnagar University. Mr. Ahmed was awarded the student grant to conduct his study on Changing Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in the Regulated Environment in Bangladesh: Lessons and Challenges for Tobacco Control Policy Advocates.

Author: Moin Uddin Ahmed

**Background:** The current tobacco control law in Bangladesh, amended in 2013, introduces a comprehensive ban on all types of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS), by effectively addressing the loopholes in the original law that was enacted in 2005. In spite of strong restrictions, tobacco companies are still continuing their marketing activities and violating the law.

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study were to explore and compare the current marketing techniques of the tobacco industry and to find out the ways tobacco firms use to violate existing regulations. **Methodology:** This is a qualitative study based on case study approach. The research data were generated using in-depth interviews, field-notes, and photographs. Primary data were collected from the executives of five tobacco companies; merchandisers and brand representatives; tobacco industry distributors and retailers; former tobacco industry employees and anti-tobacco activists.

**Findings:** The study found that the design of the cigarette packs is an important marketing technique, because its design is frequently changed to increase and refresh its visibility. It has also been found that the tobacco companies comply with the law by eliminating the term "light" from the brand name, but the cigarettes still carry the same connotation through the color of the tipping paper. The current study found that the tobacco companies were violating the law through extensive conventional point-of-sales (POS) promotional activities. It is interesting to note that the relationship with retailers through partnership programs is helping tobacco companies to motivate and engage retailers in marketing cigarettes to consumers at POS. The study found the evidence that the tobacco companies have started to use innovative digital technologies in tobacco brand promotion. **Conclusion:** The study indicates that despite the comprehensive ban on TAPS, the tobacco industry continues its marketing activities through bypassing the law in innovative ways. So, the main challenges for the tobacco control advocates are to ensure proper implementation of the law and to formulate innovative anti-tobacco communication programs targeting different tobacco consumers' segments.
Dr. S.A.M Ashik-Ur-Rahman

Research Title:
Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh

Dr. S A M Ashik-Ur-Rahman is an MPH Student of North South University. He has completed his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree from the City Dental College under the University of Dhaka. He received a fellowship from USAID under the Next Generation Public Health Expert Program. Dr. Ashik aims to be a resource person in the health promotion and research sector and has already conducted a research on utilization pattern of antibiotics in rural area of Bangladesh. Currently he works as the Program Director at Japan Bangladesh Friendship Nursing Institute. Dr. Ashik received the research grant in the 'Student' category to conduct a study on Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh

Author: Dr. S.A.M Ashik-Ur-Rahman

Background: Shisha is a trendy form of smoking or tobacco consumption by youth globally. Recently this form of smoking has become very popular way of tobacco consumption in Bangladesh especially among young people. It carries many of the health risks and has been linked to many of the same diseases caused by cigarette smoking and little information exists concerning the issue in Bangladesh. Objective: The objective of the study was to determine the prevalence of tobacco consumption through flavored shisha and the level of awareness about its harmful effects among students from different universities in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. Methodology: This was a descriptive cross sectional study and conducted among 395 samples of 4 public and private university students of Dhaka city. Descriptive statistics were initially used for all variables and Pearson's Chi-square (⊙2) test was then carried out to find out the association. Findings: Among the respondents, 16% ever tried smoking shisha and the prevalence of current shisha smoking was at 9%. Majority (80%) of the current shisha smokers smoked flavored shisha, followed by 11% who smoked unflavored, and 9% smoked both flavored and unflavored types. Among the current shisha smokers, more than two-fifth (46%) of the students started smoking shisha at college level and it was the same percentage for university level students. Out of 35 current shisha smokers, 22 (63%) smoked shisha at a shisha bar and the rest of them smoked at home, in coffee shops or at social events. More than half (51%) of the students spent 30 to 60 minutes in the last shisha smoking session. Among the respondents, a highest majority mentioned that they knew shisha can cause health hazards. But more than two-third of the respondents were not aware about presence of tobacco and nicotine in shisha. More than three-fourth of the respondents believed that shisha smoking is safer than cigarettes smoking as water in shisha filters toxin out. A significant (p<0.001) association was found between current shisha smoker and conventional cigarette smoking. Conclusion: This study addresses an alarming prevalence of shisha smoking among university students and identifies some knowledge gaps regarding shisha smoking. Thus, accurate information should be provided to the general population regarding shisha smoking.
Research Grant Recipients 2014 and the Abstracts

Researcher Category
Dr. Md Shahjahan

Research Title:
Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with it

Dr. Md. Shahjahan is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Public Health at the Daffodil International University. He has more than 20 years of experience in teaching, planning and coordinating training courses on biostatistics, research methodology and epidemiology at graduate and post graduate institutes. In addition, he has been conducting research covering the issues of public health, population, reproductive health and family planning along with managing and analyzing various complex datasets for scientific and technical reporting. He received the research grant from the ‘Researcher’ category.
Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with it

Author: Dr. Md Shahjahan

Background: Cost, social acceptability and non-stringent rules pertaining to smokeless tobacco (SLT) product sales have made people select and continue using SLT. If disaggregated data on smokeless forms and smoked forms of tobacco are reviewed, prevalence of smokeless tobacco remains static. There is a strong association of smokeless tobacco consumption with occurrence of adverse cardiovascular disease, particularly in the low socio-economic populations. Objectives: This study aims to investigate the use of smokeless tobacco among the low socio-economic populations around Dhaka city. Methodology: A cross-sectional study using both quantitative and qualitative approaches was used. 459 participants were interviewed after being selected through systematic random sampling technique, and four focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted. Descriptive and inferential analyses were done including binary logistic regression to find out the factors influencing smokeless tobacco use. Findings: Almost half of the respondents initiated SLT usage at a very young age (15-24 years), and another 22 percent respondents were smoking and using SLT concurrently. Majority of the women respondents used SLT during their pregnancy. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents tried to quit SLT use and one-quarter had a plan to quit SLT in future. More than one-fifth of the respondents were suffering from dental decay. Significant association was found by gender (p<0.01), sufferings from SLT related disease (p<0.05). The logistic regression analysis suggested that, males were 2.7 times more knowledgeable than females (p<0.01) about the adverse health effects of SLT usage. The respondents suffering from SLT related diseases were 3.7 times more knowledgeable than the respondents without diseases (p<0.01). Regarding the knowledge on health effects of SLT use, one participant in the FGD session commented that "although mouth is the gateway to health, we infected our mouth by using Zarda and Gul". Again, informants opined that peer, family, curiosity and hospitality culture are influencing factors for SLT initiation. Conclusion: Counseling on tobacco, including SLT, health hazards have to be emphasized through mass media and there is a need for development of relevant policies and communication messages to make people aware.
Research Title:
Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Aynul Islam Khan is a Clinician (Pediatrician) as well as a Researcher. He is a medical graduate with Diploma in Child Health, MD and MPH degree. He works at the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology and as an honorary Pediatric Consultant at Child Sight Foundation (CSF). He was actively involved in several researches on childhood disabilities conducted by CSF in collaboration with CBM, ICED of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and has a number of international publications. He received the research grant from the ‘Researcher’ category to conduct the study on the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh.
Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh

Author: Dr. Aynul Islam Khan

**Background:** The readymade garment industry is a key sector of the Bangladesh economy and more than 3.2 million people are working in this sector. Most employees are female workers from underprivileged social classes with lower literacy levels and ignorance regarding tobacco consumption. **Objectives:** The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of tobacco users among garment workers, including access to tobacco products, influence of socio-cultural factors, mass media, and their opinion on tobacco control policies. **Methodology:** A descriptive cross-sectional study following both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to interview 560 workers through proportionate quota sampling in five garment factories. Five focus group discussion (FGDs) were conducted, one in each factory, to collect qualitative information. Descriptive analyses were done to summarize information by calculating the number and percent for categorical variables, whereas the mean and standard deviation (sd.) were calculated for continuous variables. **Findings:** The study showed that 14% of the garments workers currently use tobacco. Irrespective of tobacco usage, almost all of the garments workers commented on consequences of tobacco use (99.5%). Qualitative data also suggested garments workers' negative attitudes towards tobacco. Almost all of the garments workers knew that both smoking and smokeless tobacco (98%) are harmful for health. In spite of negative attitude and having knowledge on health hazards of tobacco, garments workers were found to consume tobacco because of various socio-cultural influences. Qualitative information suggested that now-a-days smoking is considered a trend; people may smoke due to social influences. Peer influence was found to play an important role for initiating and maintaining smoking status. **Conclusion:** Smoking is an acceptable behavior for adults so smoking behavior cannot be reduced only by increasing the level of knowledge related to health hazards of smoking. In addition, along with law enforcement, non-acceptance of smoking by the general people of the society could help in controlling smoking behavior and for reducing non compliance to tobacco control policy.
Research Title:
Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh.

Syed Ejaz Ahmed teaches BBA students in a private university in Bangladesh. He has an M.Phil in Marketing and currently is pursuing his PhD degree from the University of Dhaka on Cross border informal trade between India and Bangladesh. Mr. Ahmed is a freelance writer and published more than 40 Articles in the Financial Express and several other business magazines on the issues related to Business, Economic Development and Marketing. He has interest devoting himself in International Trade and Marketing research. Syed Ejaz Ahmed received research grant from the 'Researcher Category' to conduct his study on Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh.
Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh.

Author: Syed Ejaz Ahsan

**Background:** In spite of relentless efforts by multiple stakeholders, tobacco consumption in Bangladesh is increasing compared to developed countries where consumption is showing a downward trend. The Government of Bangladesh has taken steps to restrict tobacco consumption by implementing both demand and supply side restrictions. The Government imposed restrictions on import of tobacco products. But one-fourth of the tobacco products are foreign brands and available freely in the market. This indicates that these tobacco products are smuggled in Bangladesh from different countries. This inflow of cigarette is a direct threat to the country's tobacco control program.

**Objectives:** The objective of this study was to identify the magnitude of cross border trade and its impact on tobacco control policies of Bangladesh. **Methodology:** Primary data was collected from the border areas adjacent to India and Myanmar. In addition, secondary data was also collected to validate the primary data. **Findings:** The study found that magnitude of cross border trade is alarmingly high in Bangladesh; almost 25 to 30 tobacco products are freely available in the markets posing a threat to National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh. Reasons behind the illegal tobacco trade are price variance, inadequate vigilance and monitoring of tobacco trade by concerned authorities, brand preference especially for foreign brands and easy availability. One-fourth share of the tobacco trade is through illegal channels so it poses a threat to Bangladesh's tobacco control program. **Conclusions:** It may not be possible to be successful in reducing the consumption of tobacco products if the supply side policies work partially, that is what is happening in Bangladesh due to smuggling. Tobacco control has turned into a global initiative, smuggling of tobacco products is nothing new but it is a direct threat to this global effort. It is recommended policy makers take the cross border tobacco trade issue into consideration with greater urgency and try to design a unified tobacco control policy that restricts the magnitude of tobacco smuggling and makes the country's tobacco control efforts more effective and successful.
Prof. Dr. Md. Ziaul Islam

Research Title:
Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illnesses:
Experience from Rural Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Md. Ziaul Islam is a faculty of the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM), Dhaka. He graduated in medical science and obtained a masters degree in Public Health, an MSc. in Health Economics from the University of Dhaka and is very close to achieve the PhD degree on the Burden of Diabetes Mellitus. He was awarded the research grant in the "Researcher" category to conduct a research on "Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illness: Experience from Rural Bangladesh". He is interested in pursuing a knowledge-based career through academic and research-oriented initiatives and activities that offer the opportunity to generate and disseminate innovative and creative concepts and ideas on public health contributing to reduction of disease burden and risk behavior of the vulnerable people.
Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illnesses: Experience from Rural Bangladesh

Author: **Prof. Dr. Md. Ziaul Islam**

**Background:** Tobacco consumption is the major causal factor for most of the non-communicable diseases. Tobacco related illnesses pose enormous economic and disability burden to the victims especially from lower socio-economic settings in developing countries. There is limited data available on the disability burden of tobacco in Bangladesh especially in the rural parts of the country. Moreover, data on the economic burden of tobacco related illnesses from the consumer or victim’s perspective is also quite insufficient. **Objectives:** The objective of the study was to find out the pattern of tobacco consumption along with disability and economic burden of tobacco related illnesses in rural Bangladesh. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in two villages of two upazilas of two districts in Bangladesh by using a semi-structured questionnaire and check-list. Total 700 study respondents were selected using systematic random sampling and information was collected by face-to-face interview and clinical examination. **Findings:** Nearly three-quarters of the male respondents (70%) and more than two-fifths (44%) of the female respondents were current tobacco users. Almost all the females (99%) used smokeless tobacco while majority of the males (75%) were smokers. Common reasons for tobacco consumption included imitating friends and family members. Prevalence of tobacco related illness was estimated at 17% which included Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), stroke, and pulmonary tuberculosis. Tobacco users had about 2.5 times higher risk of these diseases than the non-users and the risk was about three times higher among the long term tobacco users (>10 years) than those who used it for a shorter duration (<10 years). Average direct and indirect cost of illness was US$110 and US$176 per month. Average disability burden (YLD) was 9.8 years and it was highest for oral cancer. Burden of tobacco related illness was significantly higher among the tobacco users and its consequences included poverty, family disharmony, divorce, social isolation and loss of social position. **Conclusion:** Tobacco consumption has been found to have a great impact on developing various types of illness and produces huge economic and disability burden to an individual as well as the country. So, special measures for cessation of tobacco consumption can be considered that may reduce the incidence of related illnesses.
Prof. Dr. Shibbir Ahmed

Research Title:
Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum

Dr. Shibbir Ahmed is a Public Health Specialist working as a Professor of Community Medicine in Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, Sylhet. He has an MPH degree from NIPSOM and also received training on a wide range of issues like curriculum development, behavior change communication, clinical research, HIV/AIDS, quality management, disaster management, family medicine, etc. in country and abroad. He has already conducted a number of studies in collaboration with WHO, ICDDR, B and DGHS on universal health coverage, non-communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS. He is an author and regularly writes on health issues in newspaper and journals. He is associated with many professional bodies and social organizations. He received the research grant under the Researcher Category to conduct his study on Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum.
Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum

Author: Prof. Dr. Shibbir Ahmed

**Background:** Tobacco use related to serious diseases kills more than 5 million people each year and most of these deaths will be in low and middle-income countries. These deaths could be prevented by reducing tobacco use. Evidence suggests that advice from a physician acts as a catalyst for smoking cessation among patients; therefore undergraduates students should be equipped with knowledge and skills to promote smoking cessation among their future patients. **Objectives:** This study aimed to measure prevalence of smoking among medical interns, their perceptions and attitudes towards tobacco use and practices of interns towards patients' tobacco use, as well as problems affecting teaching about tobacco in medical colleges. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in nine medical colleges in Bangladesh. Self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data from 515 interns and 24 in-depth interviews were carried out among senior teachers. Data were analyzed by univariate and bivariate techniques to see the prevalence of tobacco use and measure differences; content analysis was done to identify the inadequacies in the current curriculum regarding tobacco use. **Findings:** Most intern doctors showed very positive attitudes in terms of physicians' role in tobacco cessation. Highest majority of respondents opined that the physician should be a role model by being non-smoker and more than half believed smoking among doctors is main obstacle for tobacco cessation. More than three-quarters of respondents (77%) mentioned that the medical curriculum should include a separate module on tobacco control. In terms of current practices, most doctors asked their patients about history and duration of tobacco consumption but only around half of the doctors (55%) informed patients about the health effects of smoking and one-third informed them about health effects of passive smoking at a regular basis. More than three-quarters of the doctors (78%) mentioned they were either not taught or could not recollect the clinical guidelines of tobacco cessation. Teachers opined that lack of a specific module on tobacco control in the curriculum affected the interns' tobacco control knowledge and training. **Conclusion:** Smoking prevalence among the male interns is very high and should be addressed. Attitude of the doctors towards physicians' role in smoking cessation among their patients was quite positive but the ability of the doctors to deliver tobacco cessation techniques was rated inadequate by the respondents themselves. Tobacco education should be included in the medical curriculum.
Rubayyat Hashmi is a prominent young economist and a Lecturer of Economics at the American International University- Bangladesh (AIUB). He received the research grant from the "Researcher" category to conduct a study on "Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults in Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences". He got his MSS degree in Economics from the Texas A&M University, USA and prior to joining AIUB, he held positions at Texas A&M Transportation Institute as a Research Assistant. He also held positions at the Institute of Microfinance (InM) and SANEM (South Asian Network on Economic Modeling). During his early research career, he worked at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies as a Research Officer. He is particularly interested in health economics and development economics research.
Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults of Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences

Author: Rubayyat Hashmi

**Background:** Different study findings indicate that the majority of smokers start smoking in their teenage years and maintain their smoking behavior way into adulthood. Several factors may have impact on smoking behavior and it is important to determine how these factors impact smoking behavior in a low income country like Bangladesh. **Objectives:** This study aims to provide a detailed overview of the prevalence of smoking among the adolescents and young adults in the urban areas of Bangladesh and also to analyze the dynamics of their smoking behavior. **Methodology:** The study is based on primary data collected from the seven divisional headquarters of Bangladesh. A two-stage clustered sampling with probability proportionate sampling (PPS) approach has been followed in drawing 1000 samples for this study. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and used correlation matrix to measure the strength of relation among the variables, and a multivariate probit regression model was developed and tested. **Findings:** The study found the overall prevalence of smoking was 22% among male urban young adults and adolescents. The prevalence of smoking increased with age. Greater the number of friends who smoked regularly increased the probability of the respondent being a smoker. The probability of being smoker also increased for those who were offered cigarettes by their friends compared to those who did not get such offers. Again it was found that the increase in number of family members who smoked regularly, increases the probability of the respondent being a smoker. Other factors that do not have significant effect on being a smoker are family's financial support, education level of parents and being a resident of a hostel. The study revealed that both college and university students have lower probability of being a smoker than school going students. **Conclusion:** The study found evidence that family and peer pressure play significant role on smoking initiation. There is a need of planned and strategic tobacco control measures to raise awareness and greater advocacy efforts against widespread use of tobacco.
Dr. Rehana Parvin

Research Title:
Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Rehana Parvin received the research grant in the "Researcher" category to conduct a research titled "Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of School in Dhaka, Bangladesh". Dr. Parvin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dental Public Health at the Marks Dental College, Mirpur, Dhaka. As a public health specialist, she has interest in conducting research focusing on behavioral aspects that has direct relations public health issue. She has a Bachelor Degree in Dental Surgery from the Dhaka Dental College in 2005 and a Masters in Public Health (MPH) from the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) in 2011.
Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Author: Dr. Rehana Parvin

**Background:** Exposure to point of sale (POS) tobacco promotions is associated with adolescent smoking initiation, impulse cigarette purchases and counters quit attempts. It is now firmly established that children are influenced by different modes of tobacco marketing. An effective minimum age law serves a vital function by making it more difficult for adolescents to obtain tobacco. POS is the least regulated channel and research is needed to address the immediate and long term consequences of policies to ban retail advertising and pack displays. **Objectives:** The aim of the study was to determine tobacco point of sale and frequency of advertisements near educational institutes of Dhaka, Bangladesh and also to assess current knowledge of the school authority about tobacco control law. **Methodology:** This was a descriptive type of cross-sectional study conducted from February to November, 2014 covering 97 schools selected through systematic sampling from four different areas of Dhaka city. Structured questionnaire was used to interview representatives from the school administration and all points of sale within 100 yards of the schools were observed with a checklist. The SPSS package was used to analyze the data and descriptive statistics was used for all variables. **Findings:** Results showed the presence of tobacco points of sale within 100 yards of all 97 schools included in the study. General stores selling tobacco products were found at more than half of the observation spots. In about two-third spots, there was POS tobacco advertising. Among the respondents two-fifths said that they had knowledge about the current tobacco control law and the main sources of knowledge were newspapers & television. About 43 percent respondents knew that tobacco advertisement is banned at tobacco POS. Majority of the respondents knew that tobacco sale is banned to minors and about half knew about the ban on sale by minors. **Conclusion:** The tobacco sales ban within 100 yards of educational institutes should be incorporated in the existing law to protect adolescents from smoking initiation. Raising awareness and building capacity among community members and the school authority may reduce the number of shops selling tobacco products and displaying tobacco advertisements in the vicinity of schools.
Research Title:
Perception about health effects of passive smoking among young adults in Dhaka

Dr. Rabey Sultana is a medical graduate and a faculty of the Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS), Dhaka. She also has an MPH degree in Reproductive and Child Health from the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM), Dhaka. She received the research grant from the “Researcher” category to conduct a study on Perception about health effects of passive smoking among young adults in Dhaka.
Perception about health effects of passive smoking among young adults in Dhaka

Author: **Dr. Rabeya Sultana**

**Background:** Increased knowledge of the harmful effects of passive smoking is an evidence-based key indicator for eliminating non-smokers’ exposure to second hand smoke. Assessing young adults’ perception, understanding and knowledge about the health effects of passive smoking may promote educational endeavors to increase awareness of health effects linked to passive smoking and to facilitate interventions. **Objectives:** To assess the perceptions about health effects of passive smoking among young adults in Bangladesh. **Methodology:** A descriptive study with cross-sectional design was conducted among 656 young adults in two districts of Dhaka division. A multistage cluster random sampling approach was used and face-to-face interviews were conducted using a semi structured questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS to express the frequency, percentage and mean ± SD as appropriate. The associations between the variables were measured using the appropriate statistical techniques and logistic regression analysis was done to determine the factors affecting perception about health effects of passive smoking. **Findings:** Nearly two thirds (62%) of the respondents were exposed to passive smoking at home, at work and in other locations. The current study found that 21 % of non-smoking young adults were exposed to passive smoking at home. The vast majority of the respondents believed that passive smoking causes illnesses but the knowledge of specific health effects was limited. A good proportion of the respondents mentioned that passive smoking causes lung cancer, heart attack and stroke in adults and causes asthma in children. The findings revealed that more than three-quarters (87%) of the respondents perceived that passive smoking causes harm, but disparities in perceptions existed across male-female and different educational levels. **Conclusion:** Most young adult perceive passive smoking as harmful but efforts are needed to increase the perception level in certain subpopulations, particularly those who are illiterate. In addition, knowledge about specific diseases associated with passive smoking is inadequate and appropriate measures are needed to address the gaps.
Research Title:
Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh

Abu Mehedi Imam studied LLB (Hon's) and LL.M. at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He also has an MBA degree in Operations Management from AIUB, Dhaka. Since 2001, Mr. Imam has been working in the field of urban crime and violence, waste management, land tenure, housing, resettlement and rehabilitation of the poor, natural disaster etc. Mr. Imam currently holds the Managing Director position of Adhuna Bangladesh Ltd. which is a social research firm which he founded with the like-minded in 2010. He was born in 1977 in Kushtia. Mr. Imam has already conducted a number of studies during last 10 years on different social issues and was awarded a grant from the "Researcher" category to conduct his study on "Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh".
Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh

Author: Abu Mehedi Imam

Background: Tobacco cultivation is concentrated in 16 districts in Bangladesh, and is dominated by the tobacco companies through attractive offers to the growers. These have bought many farmers into the Company Card system which entices them to commit to tobacco production for the short or long term. Objectives: The objective of the study was to assess the relationship between tobacco companies and tobacco growers by identifying the factors that attract growers and examining provisions offered by the companies. Methodology: Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were applied to interview 427 tobacco farmers and conduct 12 In-depth Interviews with field level employees and 12 Key Informant Interviews with agricultural workers in four purposively selected districts of Bangladesh. Data were analyzed as frequency distribution, and cross tabulation as appropriate. Findings: The results revealed that majority of tobacco growers cultivate not only their own land but also leased land. Comparative better prices attract most of the farmers to grow tobacco with compelling support and incentives assured through tobacco companies in terms of cash and supplies of other materials. Alternatives to cultivate tobacco remain the same as the growers have the option to cultivate traditional food and cash crops. Growers who have switched to tobacco cultivation find this offers a better selling price, less production costs, and higher yield when compared to other crops. Most importantly, the farmers are not aware of the fact that tobacco cultivation degrades soil condition; rather they think there will be a good harvest of the next crop cultivated in the same field. Tobacco farmers having cards believe that the card gives them an identity to receive special incentives, ensures a hassle-free sale of products along with a forecasting of profitability or loss. Qualitative information suggested that farmers with this card get preferences in various community and social programs. Conclusion: The study concluded that when other seasonal crops required more investment, tobacco companies act as partners in reducing farmers' burden through tobacco cultivation. The relevant stakeholders may be able to help farmers through timely and innovative solutions designed to encourage farmers to switch to alternatives to tobacco cultivation. Regulatory measures could also be introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture to dissuade farmers from cultivating tobacco.
Research Title:
The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Labourers at Brick Kilns in Dhaka

Hafiza Begum has LL.B (Hons) and LL.M. degree from the University of Dhaka and is a Lawyer of Dhaka Bar Council. She received the research grant from the "Researcher" category to conduct a research on "The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Laborer at Brick Kilns in Dhaka". She also works for Kolmilota Trust as Trustee. She is dedicated to serve the Children, Female, Autistic and under-privileged working community of the society.
The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Labourers at Brick Kilns in Dhaka

Author: Hafiza Begum

**Background:** Consuming tobacco, both smoking and smokeless has impact on the primary users, as well as the people around them, be it in the home or workplace. Awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco is on the rise among all walks of people. But the lower income groups are generally unaware of the consequences. As a daily earner, they suffer economically but cannot estimate the losses as tobacco consumption socially accepted and they continue their smoking habits. **Objectives:** The main objective of this research is to identify tobacco consumption practice of the female day labourers which has impact on their health and family as a whole. **Methodology:** In this cross sectional study both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to interview a total of 400 female day labourers and conduct 10 focus group discussions (FGDs) at brick kilns of Aminbazar of Savar Upazila of Dhaka districts which is the hub of hundreds of brick kilns. Collected quantitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics and content analysis was prepared for qualitative information. **Findings:** The results showed that the rural women are engaged in the seasonal labour force for the bricks kilns in the outskirts of Dhaka and they are mostly married, having no formal education and living with family members. Almost all the respondents consume smokeless tobacco items while only one respondent was found to be smoking tobacco. Respondents who usually consume smokeless tobacco mentioned the biggest influence in initiating consumption is the social environment. Importantly, the study found that most of the respondents who are consuming tobacco have savings, but a notable amount of this saving is spent for treatment when they visited physicians for various health concerns. Most of the respondents (87%) have knowledge of the harmful consequences of consuming tobacco products. Around half of them (52%) have no intention to quit. **Conclusion:** Efforts may be made to raise awareness among the rural women who are engaged in the seasonal labour force for the bricks kilns about the consequences of consuming tobacco products, both smoking and smokeless tobacco (SLT) through easy communicative media. Statutory bindings for the owners or authority of brick kilns for laborers' health care can also be effective in curbing tobacco use.
Other Activities
BCCP also organizes and facilitates various capacity building programs for the Government of Bangladesh, Bloomberg Initiative partners and grantees, different public and private universities and NGO professionals involved in tobacco control. It also provides need based technical assistance services to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, BI partners and grantees, and Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network in tobacco control in Bangladesh. Besides, BCCP is undertaking a research on 'Understanding and Enhancing Bangladesh's Tobacco Control Policy Implementation Processes and Strategies'.

**Capacity Building Initiative**
Since 2014, BCCP has built the capacity of more than eight hundred development professionals, faculties and students of various public and private universities to increase their knowledge and leadership skills in relation to research methodology, message development and utilization, community mobilization, effective presentation and report writing.

![Image](image.jpg)

**Provide Technical Services**
BCCP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by designing and developing BCC materials for World No Tobacco Day. It works closely with the National Tobacco Control Cell, and in-country Bloomberg Initiative Partners including the World Health Organization, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease for tobacco control advocacy in Bangladesh. BCCP also provides need-based support to the Bloomberg Initiative Grantees and other organizations working in tobacco control in terms of the message and material development and facilitation of workshops/trainings. BCCP collaborated with the World Lung Foundation based in New York, USA, to implement the 'Sponge,' 'Alive' and 'Smoke' Mass Media Campaigns in Bangladesh.

BCCP provides technical assistance to the Leaders in Tobacco Control- Alumni Association which was formed with the Bangladeshi participants of Global Tobacco Control Leadership and Certificate Programs to act as an Advocacy Group to promote tobacco control program in Bangladesh.
The Alumni Association assembles at intervals to carry out tobacco control programs. It also organizes meetings with the international experts to share experiences on tobacco control programs. In 2014, Dr. Benjamin Lozare, Director of Training and Capacity Building of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs; and Dr. Ryan David Kennedy, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health made presentations at the Alumni meetings.

BCCP acts as the Secretariat of the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network and provides technical assistance to the Network. The Network was formed in 2013 to serve as a platform for providing support and guidance to potential tobacco control researchers in Bangladesh for the overall purpose of developing a local evidence-based research repository to enhance effective tobacco control policy development and implementation.

At the request of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control, BCCP provided technical assistance to Muhammadiyah Tobacco Control Center (MTCC) at the Muhammadiyah University Yogyakarta, Indonesia to manage their Research Grant Program. Along with other activities, the BCCP team, through a number of technical assistance visits, helped MTCC to conduct a number of Mentoring Workshops for their research grantees so that they are able to conduct high standard research.

**Study on Understanding and Enhancing Bangladesh's Tobacco Control Policy Implementation Processes and Strategies:** BCCP has planned to conduct the study to understand the processes and strategies used in Bangladesh to implement the subset of policies under the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) (Amendment) Act 2013; and, enhance implementation of the Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh. The study will also apply learnings and insights from Bangladesh to test and improve a tool (implementation framework) that can be used to guide and improve the implementation of Tobacco Control Laws in Bangladesh as well as other countries.
Learning from the Experts:
A Course for Healthcare Professionals

What is Global Tobacco Control: Learning from the Experts?
Global Tobacco Control: Learning from the Experts is an online course developed by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. It offers a broad introduction to the global public health problem of tobacco use and will be particularly useful for those starting to work on tobacco control. The course is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about tobacco control. Academic credit is not offered but a certificate for completing course modules is provided.

For more details, please visit:

globaltobaccocontrol.org

In 2015, BCCP with technical support from the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is planning to promote the "Learning from the Experts: A Course for Healthcare Professionals" in Bangladesh.

Contact:
For questions about Learning From the Experts: A Course for Healthcare Professionals or globaltobaccocontrol.org and its online resources, please email at: gtc_help@jhsu.edu or info@bangladesh-ccp.org