

Research Findings Dissemination Conference

Tobacco Control Research
Grant Program

January 23, 2017



Bangladesh
Center for
Communication
Programs

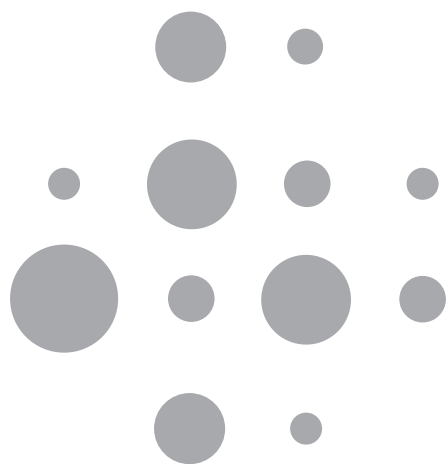


Bangladesh Tobacco Control
Research Network



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Institute for Global Tobacco Control



Research Findings Dissemination Conference

Tobacco Control Research
Grant Program



Message



The global burden of tobacco use has shifted over the past decades from high-income countries to lower and middle income countries. Bangladesh also faces an increasing threat to public health from an escalating epidemic of tobacco use.

The Government has enacted the 'Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act 2005' and the 'Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Rules, 2015' in line with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The National Tobacco Control Cell established within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been working as a hub of national coordination, referral and support centre for all tobacco control stakeholders, including NGOs in Bangladesh. Besides, the government is currently working relentlessly to develop policies on National Tobacco Control, Management of Health Development Surcharge and Tobacco Cultivation Control.

Considering that tobacco is a common risk factor for non-communicable diseases, it is important to gather updated data on tobacco related issues with a view to support tobacco control programs in the country. The Research Grants program managed by Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs with support from the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA is an essential endeavor to build research capacity in tobacco control.

I extend my sincere thanks on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to the research grantees of the fourth round Research Grant Program which has been completed successfully.

I acknowledge the hard work of the BCCP team in guiding the grantees and providing mentorship to them in every step of the grant program implementation process. Finally, I appreciate the support provided by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for continuing this program in Bangladesh.

I look forward to the success of the program to further advance tobacco control and benefit the people of Bangladesh.

Roxana Quader

Additional Secretary (PH and WH)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Message

Tobacco use in any form poses serious health consequences to the consumers and, in the case of smoked tobacco, to others around them who inhale the secondhand smoke. The high prevalence of smoking coupled with that of smokeless tobacco use in Bangladesh brings a major public health challenge. To address the situation, the Government of Bangladesh has taken important measures for tobacco control in the country. However, tobacco-related research has not yet been on the priority list in Bangladesh.

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Maryland, USA initiated the Research Grant Program on tobacco control policy issues in Bangladesh in 2013 with the aim to encourage scientists in Bangladesh to conduct research and create a local evidence base for tobacco control policy and programs in the country. This was the first of its kind and to date sixty studies have been conducted by researchers which were managed by the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs.

As in the previous years, this Dissemination Conference presents the findings of research studies related to tobacco control issues in the country. I believe that the research findings will enrich the evidence base that can be used by the government and non government sectors, and other stakeholders working for tobacco control in Bangladesh.

Johns Hopkins University and BCCP's initiative to launch this Research Grant program and to develop and sustain a community of tobacco control researchers under the platform 'Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)' will hopefully contribute towards addressing the gaps in tobacco control research, elevating the tobacco issue high on the policy agenda and identifying strategies that could be uniquely effective in the Bangladesh context. We believe that the Government of Bangladesh including other philanthropic organizations and corporate societies should also join hands to carry forward the mandate of the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network.

Given the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh and the joint efforts by the partners from the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, other stakeholders, tobacco control leaders and activists across the country, the evidence base being created by the researchers can be used to strengthen existing policies and develop new effective policies. With this multi-sector, collaborative effort, I believe Bangladesh will indeed see a reversal of the tobacco epidemic in the near future.

I wish all the current tobacco control initiatives every success towards achieving improved public health for all in Bangladesh.

Joanna Cohen, PHD, MHSC
Director, Institute for Global Tobacco Control
Bloomberg Professor of Disease Prevention
Department of Health, Behavior and Society
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Bangladesh
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Message

Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs has always put emphasis on research for planning and programs and evaluating success of those in the country as well as in other countries where it has contributed. To meet the challenge of controlling tobacco in the country, it is important to conduct research on tobacco related issues in order to effectively contribute to policies and programs. Since 2013, the Research Grant Program is administered by BCCP with funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. Today, we share with you the summary findings of the studies on tobacco control that were conducted under the fourth round of the Research Program. This year a total of ten research proposals were selected for funding.

BCCP follows a rigorous process for selection of research proposals every year. The announcement for research proposals is made in the national dailies. The proposals received are reviewed by a Review Panel comprised of renowned researchers from home and abroad and the final selection is made based on collectively-approved criteria. To ensure quality data collection, a Research Capacity Building Workshop is also organized for short-listed candidates. The BCCP Research Team continuously monitors the data collection efforts and has provided input when necessary. I thank all the researchers for their hard work and excellent performance. I also appreciate the hard work of the BCCP Research team which provided mentorship throughout the research study. 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. The World Health Organization, Bloomberg partners and many other NGOs, leaders and activists have joined hands with the Government to implement the National Tobacco Control law to save the lives of millions of Bangladeshis every year. The Research Grant Program and the efforts of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) are initiatives to gather local evidence in order to support the policymakers, leaders and activists in tobacco control to develop effective tobacco control strategies and programs in Bangladesh.

I am hopeful that the research findings will have important policy implications and contribute immensely to the increase of local evidence 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



Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network Program

Despite having knowledge of the detrimental effects of tobacco, its use remains prevalent in many parts of the world. Tobacco companies have retained the old users and lured in new ones through aggressive marketing efforts. The role of tobacco control research in Bangladesh is especially important to save the people from the detrimental effects of tobacco use and counter the tobacco industries' interferences.



Although the Government of Bangladesh along with the non-government organizations has adopted important measures for tobacco control in the country, more emphasis needs to be given to tobacco control research. It is still considered a low priority issue compared to other health-related programs. Tobacco control research is not yet a popular topic within the academic community in Bangladesh. Therefore, it is imperative to develop dedicated researchers generating useful data, drawing academic and policy attention to tobacco control issues.

With funding support from the Bloomberg Initiative (BI), the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA and Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) has continued its efforts in undertaking the Tobacco Control Research Network Program. The program brings researchers from across the country together and offers grants to undertake tobacco control research.

The specific objectives of the program are to:

- Enhance the local evidence-base on tobacco control in Bangladesh
- Develop a self-sustaining network as a forum for tobacco control researchers to exchange ideas, share research findings, generate new tobacco control research and utilize their findings.

Tobacco Control Research Grant Program

The Tobacco Control Research Grant Program, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, was introduced in 2013. Involving capacity building workshops covering the whole spectrum of the research process, the program has been implemented over the last four years with an emphasis on engaging graduate student researchers. All Bangladeshi postgraduate students and established researchers aspiring to contribute to tobacco control are eligible to apply for the grants.

Research Topic:

Researchers are encouraged to choose topics related to the priority issues of the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. Proposals on generating local evidence that contribute to developing a new policy or strengthen an existing one in line with the components of the World Health Organization's MPOWER package are recommended.

Proposal Selection Process:

BCCP follows a rigorous process for selection of research proposals every year. A Proposal Review Panel comprising of renowned researchers and tobacco control experts from home and abroad reviews 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 second step involves the technical scoring while in the third step, applicants present their proposals to the review panel. Combining the scores from the technical evaluations and presentations, a merit list is prepared.

**Implementation of Grant Program:**

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 representing diverse backgrounds 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 management and analysis, and report writing. The following mentoring workshops are organized and facilitated for the research grantees:

- Research Capacity Building Workshop
- Research Method, Procedure and Data Collection
- Data Management, Analysis and Report Writing
- Effective Presentation Development and Facilitation Skills



Dissemination and Use of Research Findings:

A 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, partners and grantees are invited to attend the conference. Print and electronic media representatives are also invited to cover the news of the conference.

As of 2016, sixty researchers including both established and graduate student researchers have been awarded research grants. Following each grant cycle, the research findings have been disseminated through scientific conferences. Representatives of Government, research community, Bloomberg Initiative partners and grantees, and media attended the conferences. Print and electronic media covered the news of the conferences and published special news/articles on the individual research studies. Different organizations working on tobacco control have been utilizing the research findings to design Social and Behavior Change Communication and advocacy programs. Some research studies have been published in national and international journals. The findings of some research studies have also been presented at national and international conferences.

Emergence of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)

With the aim to provide a platform and support and guide the potential tobacco control researchers in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) was launched in 2013 under the auspices of the JHSPH-BCCP Tobacco Control Project. BTCRN was established to carry out systematic capacity building programs even after the donor funded project is over in order to ensure the sustainability of the research grant program. The Network is registered under the Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

The overall objective of the Network is to promote and nurture a tobacco control research culture in Bangladesh, developing a local evidence-based research repository to enhance tobacco control policy development and implementation in the country.

The specific objectives of the Network are to:

- 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.

Membership

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.

Ongoing activities

BTCRN Website:

BTCRN has developed a resourceful website to act as a research hub for tobacco control in Bangladesh. The key findings of the research studies conducted under the Tobacco Control Research Grant Program will be made available on the website. The website will also post links to other research studies on tobacco control to be conducted by the in-country partners in Bangladesh. The website link is <http://www.btcn.org>



BTCRN Journal Club:

BTCRN debuts a new venture, the BTCRN Journal Club. The general purpose of a journal club is to facilitate the review of a specific journal article and to discuss its implications for new policy development or to develop tobacco control advocacy programs in Bangladesh. It is defined as an educational meeting for a group of researchers, especially the young researchers of different universities and institutions interested in discussing particular research studies on tobacco control. There are many advantages of participating in a journal club, including keeping abreast of new knowledge, promoting awareness of current tobacco control research findings, learning to critique and appraise research, becoming familiar with robust tobacco control research, and encouraging research utilization.



The Journal Club holds events quarterly. The participants have read and critiqued research articles in past meetings and have found them to be most beneficial.

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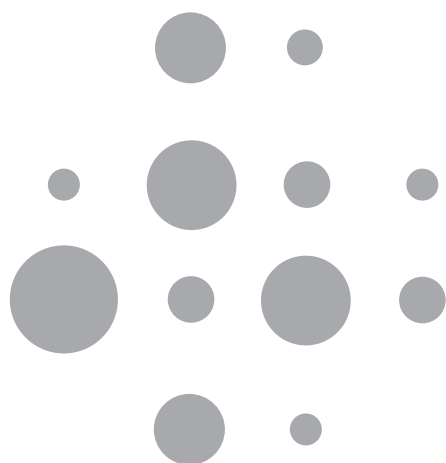
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Research Grant Recipients 2016 and their abstracts

Student Category



Dr. Riffat Ara Shawon



Research Title:

Relationship between Sale of Tobacco Products by Children and their Attitude and Practice Regarding Tobacco Intake

Dr. Riffat Ara Shawon has successfully attained her M.B.B.S degree from Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. She is currently enrolled as a student of MPH in Epidemiology at Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS) and has recently completed her Master's thesis on neonatal health. Recently she joined at the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB) as a Research Associate. Previously, she worked as a Medical Officer in the Neonatal ICU of Dhaka Paediatric Neonatal and General Hospital (DPNGH), and Bangladesh Rural Improvement Foundation (BRIF) and BRAC. She is trained in trauma care and emergency medicine, including first-responder care.

Relationship between Sale of Tobacco Products by Children and their Attitude and Practice Regarding Tobacco Intake

Author: **Dr. Riffat Ara Shawon**

Background: Tobacco consumption is a leading global risk factor for disease and death. Even though marketing or distribution of any kind of tobacco products to people less than 18 years of age has been made a punishable offence by the Government, tobacco products continue to be distributed to child vendors. No special attention has been given to this practice of using underage vendors to sell tobacco products and how it influences them. **Objective:** This study aims to determine the relationship between sale of tobacco products by children and their attitude and practice regarding tobacco use. **Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was conducted, where 133 tobacco sellers selling tobacco products for at least one month and 133 non-tobacco sellers selling things other than tobacco products for at least one month, were selected from purposively chosen areas of Dhaka city. Sample size was determined using a software named Epi-tools. Respondents were interviewed using a pretested semi-structured questionnaire at roads, parks, shops and other convenient places near respondents' workplaces. Proper consent was taken to interview the respondents. Through a developed scoring system, the total scores were calculated and t-test was performed to determine statistical significance between mean scores of tobacco and non-tobacco sellers' attitude and practice. Chi-square tests and binary logistic regression analysis were also performed to identify factors significantly associated with tobacco consumption status of child vendors. **Results:** Children selling tobacco products were found to be three times more likely to consume tobacco products than those who did not sell tobacco products, as a result of their tobacco trading exposure ($p < 0.05$). Tobacco consumption practice among tobacco sellers was also diverse and this practice was initiated after becoming a vendor. Tobacco selling children's mean score was significantly higher than the non-tobacco selling children in both attitude ($p < 0.01$) and practice ($p < 0.001$) which implies that tobacco trading children practice and favor tobacco use more than the other vendors. Other factors found to be independently associated with child vendors' tobacco consumption status were availing institutional education ($p < 0.05$) and having tobacco consumers as close friends ($p < 0.001$). **Conclusions:** Sale of tobacco by children in Dhaka City is directly associated with their tobacco consumption practice and attitude. Overall tobacco consumption related practice and attitude of non-tobacco selling children is significantly poorer than tobacco selling children. Offering alternative jobs, facilitating institutional education and providing financial assistance to these children in addition to existing law enforcement might be effective in reducing this load. Special attention of the policy makers and targeted intervention are needed to prevent this vulnerable and disadvantaged group of children from being victims of tobacco addiction.



Mohammad Saeed Islam



Research Title:

Impact of Taxation on the Consumption of Cigarettes: A Study on Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students

Mr. Mohammad Saeed Islam is a Research Associate at Unnayan Onneshan- a multidisciplinary independent think tank. He enjoys conducting research with rigorous theoretical foundations. He has completed his Bachelor of Social Science (Honors) and Master of Social Science from the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, where he received the Governor Scholarship for his excellent results. He has interests in high impact single and collaborative multi-investigator studies in new, emerging, and/or under-studied areas of tobacco-related activities with an emphasis on community engagement. He is aspiring for delineating his career in academic theory and practical research.

Impact of Taxation on the Consumption of Cigarettes: A Study on Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students

Author: **Mohammad Saeed Islam**

Background: Cigarette smoking has become a global epidemic in recent times. Smoking is one of the major causes of death in Bangladesh. This is largely preventable but tobacco consumption is spreading at an alarming rate, especially among young people. The situation is exacerbated due to the low cost of cigarettes in Bangladesh. Students are particularly attracted by the low cost of cigarettes and can easily afford to continue their smoking practice. **Objective:** The objective of this research was to investigate the price responsiveness of cigarette consumption among the students and also estimate the income responsiveness of cigarette consumption. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was designed and primary data collected through field survey using a structured questionnaire from a representative sample of 417 undergraduate students proportionately distributed over different universities in Dhaka. In order to examine the students' responsiveness in terms of price and income, the study devised econometric modeling. In addition, factor analysis was conducted using the SPSS 20 statistical package to understand the dynamics of smoking behavior. **Results:** The mean age of students who enrolled in any form of undergraduate program was 21 years. In most cases, students who received financial support from their family also offered tuition services to increase their total disposable income. This is likely to have increased their ability to spend money to support their smoking habit. The study results revealed that if the price of cigarettes doubled (increased by 100 percent) on average, the consumption of cigarettes would fall by 23.5 percent units of present consumption. The results also revealed that the existing price for cigarette products was not sufficient to curb the epidemic of smoking. Among the respondents, the smoking trend seems to be increasing irrespective of cost. Lastly, tax increases are associated with reduced consumption but increased affordability deters the net outcome of the increased price. **Conclusions:** The study findings prescribe the imposition of strict and heavy taxation on cigarettes, making them expensive beyond the students' purchasing power. Careful regulation and strict control over price setting and over the manufacturing companies need to be ensured.



Mohammad Anwar Parvez



Research Title:

Socio-economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District

Mr. Mohammad Anwar Parvez is an MSS student of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, Dhaka. He has also a BBA from the London Research Academy. He has received the grant to conduct a cross-sectional study on “Socio-economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District”. Mr. Parvez is interested in collaborative research efforts addressing areas of tobacco-related research. He has experience in conducting some research studies on tobacco control in the past, including for the thesis of his MSS program. He has immense interest in continuing with further anthropological studies in the field of public health and culture.

Socio-economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District

Author: **Mohammad Anwar Parvez**

Background: Although tobacco is a relatively minor crop in agriculture, it has been cultivated in sixteen districts over three decades in Bangladesh. An important fact that needs to be recognised about tobacco is that it is a non-food crop; it is not a raw material for an industry that is necessary for the people of the country. Tobacco cultivation has tremendous social and health implications which often go unnoticed. Besides tobacco cultivation accelerates different types of diseases and hampers the day-to-day life of the growers. The impact of tobacco cultivation on the socio-economic sector has not been studied much in Bangladesh, This study intended to fill this gap, following an evidence-based approach. **Objective:** The objective of the study was to investigate the socio-economic impact of tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh, especially in the district of Kushtia. **Methods:** A descriptive study was designed and conducted applying both quantitative and qualitative methods to get a comprehensive picture of tobacco cultivation. The study was confined to Daulatpur Upazila of Kushtia district in Bangladesh. Two unions were selected on the basis of high levels (Rafayetpur union) and comparatively low levels (Daulatpur union) of tobacco cultivation. A total of 424 farmers were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire to gather information. A systematic sampling technique was used to reach the target population. Four Focus Group Discussions were also held with 8-10 farmers in each group. Analyses were conducted using descriptive statistics for all variables. Besides, appropriate test statistics were used to explore the relationship between knowledge about health hazards of tobacco cultivation and socioeconomic conditions of the respondents. **Results:** The average land use for tobacco cultivation of the respondents was 116.67 (SD± 55.57) decimals. The percentage of respondents who gradually converted land for the tobacco cultivation was higher in Daulatpur (84.9%) than in Rafayetpur (79.7%). Overall four-fifths of the respondents (81.0%) mentioned cultivating tobacco to earn a higher profit compared to other crops. From qualitative findings it was found that the cultivation of tobacco in the study area is considered as force cultivation due to more profit, company incentives and inspired by other tobacco farmers. About 90.0% of the respondents suffered from health problems, with 96.1% of their family members receiving treatment in the last 6 months. Almost all of the respondents (95.6%) reported that tobacco cultivation affected the overall health of their family, accelerating costs. The data also showed that tobacco cultivation affected children's education; one-fifth (21.3%) of the respondents' children did not go to school regularly due to their involvement in tobacco processing and curing work. The findings again showed that there were significant association ($p < 0.05$) between tobacco cultivation as ultimate financial loss and having perception on health harm, and hamper of children's studies. **Conclusion:** Despite health hazards and other effects, tobacco cultivation is increasing day-by-day in the district of Kushtia where the farmers perceived that tobacco cultivation reaped more profits than other crops. Moreover, the subsidies provided by and close supervision by the tobacco industry's influenced the farmers to cultivate more tobacco in the area. The Government should ensure that farmers receive appropriate prices for other crops to encourage them to stop cultivating tobacco. It is also important to adopt different interventions to make people aware of the harmful consequences of tobacco cultivation.



Abdullah-Al-Walid



Research Title:

Marketing Strategy of E-cigarettes in Bangladesh

Mr. Abdullah-Al-Walid has completed his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Political Science from the University of Dhaka. Currently he is studying Public Health at ASA University Bangladesh. He has more than 21 years of experience in field level data collection and team supervision. He worked with icddr,b and LGED of the Government of Bangladesh in research projects as a Field Research Officer. He has interests in research that would encourage giving up smoking and let the smokers know about the negative consequences of smoking. He has been trained extensively on leadership and strategic planning and qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.

Marketing Strategy of E-cigarettes in Bangladesh

Author: **Abdullah-Al-Walid**

Background: Smoking is a major public health concern. The use of tobacco causes many fatal diseases. To reduce the disease burden from tobacco use, many strategies and devices have been developed. Electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) is one of them. The sale, as well as use of e-cigarettes is increasing day by day. The Government has relatively low regulatory control on e-cigarette marketing, but it has entered Bangladesh in recent years. Many advertisements promote e-cigarettes, which are mainly being sold through online websites in Bangladesh. In addition, there is not much known about when e-cigarette was first introduced into the Bangladesh market and where they are being imported from. In order to regulate the marketing of e-cigarettes, it is important to know how they are being imported and how the marketing of e-cigarette functions in the Bangladeshi context.

Objective: The objective of the study was to explore the current marketing strategies of e-cigarettes in the urban areas of Bangladesh.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was done in four divisional cities of Bangladesh to explore marketing strategies of e-cigarettes from March to November, 2016. A total of 400 respondents in different categories including e-cigarettes' wholesalers, retailers and tobacco users were interviewed while 24 middlemen and agents were interviewed for in-depth information. Non-probability snowball sampling technique was employed to select the sample and data were collected through in-person interviews using a pre-tested semi-structured interview schedule. For quantitative analysis, descriptive and simple statistical analyses were applied by using SPSS software (version 20) while content analyses were done for qualitative information.

Results: Nearly half (45.0%) of e-cigarette user respondents were students with a mean age of 27 years. The majority (93.0%) of the respondents in all categories were able to differentiate between E-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. At the same time, 95.0% e-cigarette users were found to be traditional tobacco smokers as well. About one-third of the respondents thought that e-cigarettes contained fewer chemicals. Friends (75.4%) and websites (34.6%) were the primary sources of information for e-cigarettes. Sources to obtain e-cigarettes included gifts from friends (44.0%), purchasing from traditional tobacco sellers (40.0%) and online shops (33.3%). Among the available market devices of e-cigarette, the most common one was liquid changeable. Almost all e-cigarette wholesalers and retail sellers were involved with this business due to its potential to make more profit and most of them were also traditional tobacco vendors. The business respondents also mentioned that they did not face any problems due to high levels of taxation or from the law enforcement authority. Airports and seaports were the most common ways of e-cigarette entry into the Bangladeshi market and the majority of e-cigarettes were coming from China and Singapore. **Conclusion:** It can be concluded there are no existing laws for e-cigarette entry and marketing. The main sources of obtaining e-cigarettes were purchase through tobacco sellers and online shops and gifts from friends. Strong initiatives should be taken to restrict e-cigarette entry into the Bangladeshi market, including imposition of more taxes. Mass media should be used to raise awareness among e-cigarette users about the effects on health.



Md. Imdadul Haque



Research Title:

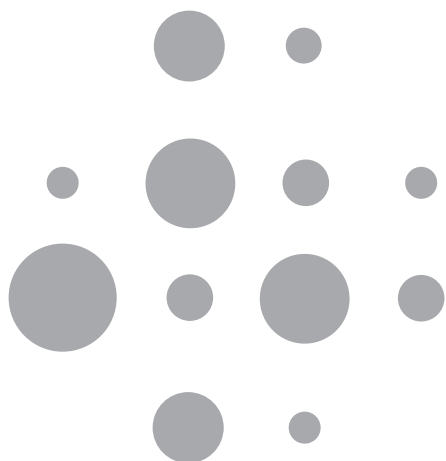
Prevailing Social Obstacles in Keeping Homes Tobacco-Free in Urban Areas: Realizing Ways to Overcome Challenges

Mr. Md. Imdadul Haque is an MPH student with a major in Epidemiology at the Department of Public Health, Daffodil International University, Dhaka, where he has received a merit scholarship for outstanding academic performance. He accomplished his graduation in Anthropology from the University of Chittagong. Presently, he is working as a Senior Program Organizer at the Health, Nutrition and Population Program (HNPP) in BRAC. His research interests lie in the areas of tobacco control, keeping homes tobacco-free in urban areas, smoking behaviors, smokers' beliefs about tobacco's harmful effects, etc. He has collaborated actively with researchers on health effects of tobacco, effects of second-hand smoke, prevalence of current tobacco use among young adults and mortality in relation to smoking. Earlier, he worked as a Research Supervisor at BMMS-2010 project in National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT). He has keen interest in public health research especially in the field of epidemiology, bio-statistics in relation to tobacco control as well.

Prevailing Social Obstacles in Keeping Homes Tobacco-Free in Urban Areas: Realizing Ways to Overcome Challenges

Author: **Md. Imdadul Haque**

Background: Tobacco consumption still represents a huge public health problem. Millions of children suffer the detrimental effects of passive smoking. Homes remain a site where children are dangerously exposed to environmental tobacco smoke. Consumption of tobacco—both smoking and chewing—has been a long-standing tradition in Bangladeshi households. Prevailing tobacco control laws in Bangladesh made no restriction for tobacco use in homes unlike other public places, restaurants, public transports or hospitals. Interventions and policies to make homes smoke-free have received relatively little attention. **Objective:** This study aimed to investigate the prevailing social obstacles that prevent keeping homes tobacco-free in urban residential areas and explore the ways to overcome this challenge. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in Dhaka metropolitan area using a mixed methods approach. For quantitative information, a total of 400 tobacco users were interviewed and information was gathered through semi-structured questionnaire. To understand the in-depth scenario of tobacco consumption, 24 In-depth Interviews were also conducted using a guideline. Descriptive analysis of all relevant variables was done and associations and differentiations within/between variables were tested using appropriate test statistics, including some content analyses for qualitative information. **Results:** Among respondents 93.8% were smoking tobacco users and 4.7% were smokeless tobacco users. The mean (\pm sd) ages of smoking and smokeless tobacco initiation were 17.5 (\pm 3.5) and 25.3 (\pm 10.1) years respectively. This study revealed that almost all of the respondents had knowledge of the adverse health effects of tobacco use. About 71.0% of the tobacco users had some factors provoking the initiation of smoking. Peer pressure, as well as, frustration was important in initiating the use of smoking tobacco while curiosity was the more influential factor in initiating the use of smokeless tobacco. About 14.0% of the respondents' usual place for smoking was at home and around 33.0% allowed the use of any kind of tobacco (smoking or smokeless) at their homes. Half of the respondents (51.3%) reported that smokeless tobacco sharing was an indicator of close relationship in the home arena. This study also identified some social factors that were explicitly responsible in continuing tobacco use at the household and community levels. About 50.2% considered that their tobacco uptake evolved as a result of advertisements and publicity, as well as due to tobacco use among other family members. Four-fifth of the respondents (80.0%) strongly agreed with banning sale of all tobacco items in residential areas. From In-depth Interviews, it was also found that peer influences, lack of community initiatives, misconceptions of people regarding tobacco use and low levels of social interactions were the contributing societal factors for tobacco use at home. **Conclusion:** The study findings revealed that peer pressure, tobacco intake by older family members, lack of community initiatives, low level of social interaction and insufficient role of mass media were the social obstacles that contributed to the promotion of tobacco use, from which urban residential areas are not exempted. If tobacco use is not addressed deliberately by the appropriate authority, the emerging threat of second-hand smoke exposure and harmful consequences of tobacco use will be exacerbated.



Research Grant Recipients 2016 and their abstracts

Researcher Category



Kazi Rumana Ahmed



Research Title:

Insight of Plain Packaging among the Adult General Population in Dhaka City

Ms. Kazi Rumana Ahmed is presently working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion & Health Education in the Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS). With a Masters Degree in Food and Nutrition under the University of Dhaka (2002), Bangladesh, she was also awarded with the NOMA Scholarship for Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in International Community Health from the University of Oslo, Norway in 2009. She has published articles in a number of peer-reviewed journals. She has presented her research in different national and international conferences. She has served as a Socio Cultural Team Leader of the World Diabetes Foundation Project and gained considerable experience as an active member from some research projects funded by USAID.

Insight of Plain Packaging among the Adult General Population in Dhaka City

Author: **Kazi Rumana Ahmed**

Background: Plain packaging of all tobacco products is an approach designed to reduce the appeal of tobacco products to consumers, increase the effectiveness of health warnings and avoid misleading customers. Plain Packaging (PP) is creating significant implications around the world. No study has so far been conducted in Bangladesh on the potential impact of introducing plain tobacco packaging despite bringing much success in reducing tobacco use in a number of countries. Given its success in other countries, introducing plain tobacco packages in Bangladesh may be an effective approach in reducing tobacco use. **Objective:** The objective of this study was to explore the perceptions of Plain Packaging among the adult population of Dhaka City. **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study using mixed methods approach. The study collected information from a randomly selected representative sample of 458 adults, including 40 in-depth and 10 policy level key informant interviews in different selected occupational settings through in-person interviews using semi-structured questionnaire and guideline. Demonstration through dummy plain tobacco packets were used to assess the reactions and attitudes of the respondents. Data was analyzed applying descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS (18) software and content analysis was conducted for the qualitative part. **Results:** Among all respondents, about half (46.5%) of them were current tobacco users and almost all of them (95.3%) had smoked cigarette while only 2.8% had consumed smokeless tobacco. Most of the respondents (86.9%) were aware of Graphic Health Warnings (GHW), which were introduced in Bangladesh in early 2016 while only a few (5.9%) knew about Plain Packaging (PP). After showing the dummy cigarette pack of PP, most of the respondents thought that the image of PP (94.5%), font size of text on PP (90.6%) and surface area for image on PP (90.4%) made people more concerned about smoking. When asked about the effects of smoking as shown in the image of PP, most of them responded that such adverse consequences could also happen in their lives, indicating a negative attitude towards tobacco use. Almost all the respondents (96.5%) believed that PP should be introduced in Bangladesh. In-depth interview outcomes also confirmed the quantitative findings and interviewees contributed different innovative ideas for effective implementation of plain cigarette packs. **Conclusion:** Reactions garnered from dummy cigarette packs of PP indicate that Plain Packaging could be an effective component of comprehensive tobacco control and smoking cessation efforts. The findings recommend the inclusion of Plain Packaging approaches in the national tobacco control policy through appropriate strategic measures.



Md. Mokshead Ali



Research Title:

Status of Graphic Health Warning on Tobacco Packs: A Study among a Low Socio-economic Group in Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Mokshead Ali has about 15 years of experience in the research and development field. He has worked with different national and international development organizations such as Chemonics International Inc., CARE Bangladesh, ADAB, Worldview International Foundation and BRAC. Currently he is working with the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences for its Research Funding Program “BAS-USDA PALS” (Bangladesh Academy of Sciences - United States Department of Agriculture Program in Agricultural and Life Sciences) as a Program Manager. He also works for Consult-Aid Bangladesh as an honorary Research Director. Mr. Ali obtained his Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Agriculture from Bangladesh Agricultural University, MBA from University of Wales, UK, Master of Public Affairs in Governance & Public Policy from Dhaka University, Master of Social Science from Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, Dhaka. He has published 3 scientific articles in peer-reviewed international journals.

Status of Graphic Health Warning on Tobacco Packs: A Study among a Low Socio-economic Group in Bangladesh

Author: **Md. Mokshead Ali**

Background: Warning labels on tobacco products are an effective and important form of health communication addressing tobacco consumers. Seeing a Graphic Health Warning (GHW) on a tobacco package provides an immediate message to smokers on the adverse consequences of smoking. The graphic health warnings serve to create cost-effective means to increase public awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. However, there is scarcity of information on the psychological impact of graphic health warnings on tobacco packs on people of lower socio-economic status in Bangladesh, as these have been recently introduced in the country. **Objective:** The objective of this study was to investigate the psychological effects and attitudinal changes of smokers among a low socioeconomic group in Bangladesh in response to the graphic health warnings on tobacco packs. **Methods:** A descriptive study using both qualitative and quantitative approaches was designed to get a comprehensive picture of the impact of graphic health warnings among a low socio-economic group in Bangladesh. A systematic sampling technique was used to reach the target population. Four hundred (400) in-person interviews with respondents and 10 key-informant interviews with local influential persons were conducted in two selected areas near Dhaka city. Descriptive statistics were used for all variables and appropriate test statistics was carried out to determine the relationship between graphic health warning and socio-economic status of the respondents. **Results:** Slightly less than nine-tenths (89.0%) of the respondents were smoking only cigarette or biri while about one-tenth of the participants (9.0%) were using smokeless tobacco and the rest (2.0%) of the participants were using both. About 93.8% of the respondents had knowledge that there were graphic health warnings on cigarette and/or biri packs while 88.6% of the respondents had actually seen the packs with graphic health warnings. Almost all of the respondents (99.0%) were aware that the existing graphic warnings explicitly visualized the health harms and gave a message on the health harms. About three-fourth of the respondents (74.8%) believed that “smoking causes throat and lung cancer” was the effective graphic warning to encourage quitting smoking compared to 1.3% believing “second hand smoking causes death” as effective. The data also demonstrated that 97.7% of the respondents thought that the currently implemented graphic health warnings would encourage quitting attempts and another 69.0% thought that the graphic warnings would make young people less likely to start smoking. About 83.0% of the respondents thought that the graphic warning should cover 100 percent of the cigarette packets in the future and the color of the graphic warning should be ‘red’ instead of the existing color. **Conclusion:** The study results revealed that there were associations between graphic health warnings on tobacco packets and being aware of health consequences of smoking. All of these encouraged respondents to try to quit smoking. The graphic health warnings are an ideal way of communicating with less educated smokers because they can visualize the warnings directly instead of having to read the text. Therefore, graphic health warnings help to reduce tobacco use in the country and contribute to reducing tobacco-related morbidity and mortality and improving public health in Bangladesh in the long term.



Khan Ferdousour Rahman



Research Title:

Health and Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Farming in Selected Districts of Bangladesh

Mr. Khan Ferdousour Rahman has more than 10 years of experience in teaching and supervising research at the university level. At present he is an Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental Science at the State University of Bangladesh. He has undertaken a number of research projects under fellowship grants and published numerous articles on both national and international journals. He has also presented papers in national and international conferences. He is the Editor of the SUB Journal of Sustainable Environment and Development. He is a life member of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Bangla Academy and Bangladesh Economic Association. He is a freelance contributor to several leading daily newspapers and was the recipient of The Fred Hollows Foundation- Child Sight Foundation Journalist Fellowship 2012.

Health and Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Farming in Selected Districts of Bangladesh

Author: **Khan Ferdousour Rahman**

Background: Bangladesh is one of the countries where both production and consumption of tobacco are high. There are many health and environmental impacts associated with tobacco farming. The adverse impact of tobacco cultivation is experienced differently by developed, developing and underdeveloped countries. Continuous inhalation of tobacco aroma emanating from the fields often causes health problems. Dermal absorption of nicotine while harvesting the chemical drenched green leaves leads to Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS). Health problems related to tobacco use and their impact on the environment need to be explored further in the Bangladeshi context. Due to the growing recognition of the severity of the tobacco epidemic in Bangladesh, there is an increasing interest in developing local evidence to support tobacco control policy development. **Objective:** The objective of this research was to assess the impacts of tobacco farming on health and the environment in seven selected districts of Bangladesh. **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study design using both quantitative and qualitative techniques including tobacco farmers and non-tobacco farmers in seven districts of Bangladesh. In-person interviews were conducted with a representative sample of 818 respondents using a semi-structured questionnaire including 10 key informant interviews. Comparative analyses of data were done between the tobacco farmers and the non-tobacco farmers with respect to perceived knowledge, practices, and proportion of GTS including different health problems and environmental hazards due to tobacco cultivation. For chemical analyses, collected water and soil samples of each districts were tested in the laboratory according to the Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Rules 1997 (BECR 1997) and standard rules and procedures of Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI) of Bangladesh (SRDI 2009). **Results:** The main factors influencing farmers to grow tobacco were that cultivating tobacco was more profitable than other crops and the seeds were usually provided by the tobacco companies. Almost all farmers had some idea about the adverse health effects of tobacco farming, irrespective of farmer type. Prevalence of symptoms of GTS like nausea, headache, dizziness, breathing difficulty, vomiting, etc., was comparatively higher among tobacco farmers than non-tobacco farmers. Tobacco farmers had less knowledge of the harmful environmental effects resulting from tobacco harvesting than non-tobacco farmers. The laboratory results revealed that tobacco cultivation created adverse impacts on the environment as more fertilizers and pesticides were used. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that earning more profit and receiving incentives provided by tobacco companies were the main factors influencing tobacco farmers. The study recommends developing local evidence to support tobacco control policy development for alternative crops. Recognizing the current state of the tobacco epidemic, there is a need for active participation by stakeholders in the country's tobacco control movement.



Sk. Sharafat Hossen



Research Title:

Price Elasticity, Social Norms, Tobacco Control Policies and Smoking Behavior among Students in the South-west Region of Bangladesh

Mr. Sk. Sharafat Hossen works as an Associate Professor of Economics Discipline at Khulna University, Bangladesh, where he has also worked in a World Bank-funded project. He has more than 10 years of experience in teaching and supervising research at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He completed his Advanced Masters in Development Evaluation and Management from the Institute of Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Antwerp, Belgium. He also has an MBA and BSS in Economics from Khulna University. He has won numerous academic awards, including Prime Minister Gold Medal Award 2006, University Gold Medal Award 2007 and VLIR-UOS Scholarship 2009. He has achieved progressive experience and accomplishments as a change maker in anti-tobacco campaigns. He has several publications in national and international journals.

Price Elasticity, Social Norms, Tobacco Control Policies and Smoking Behavior among Students in the South-west Region of Bangladesh

Author: **Sk. Sharafat Hossen**

Background: Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature mortality all over the world, with over 90,000 people killed by tobacco-related diseases in Bangladesh per year. Smoking behavior is generally influenced by price of tobacco, disposable income, demographic characteristics, socio-economic status, peer effect, social influences, location of residence, knowledge and information about health effects of smoking and tobacco control policies. Literature exhibits that students are more likely to be attracted to smoking and Bangladesh is no exception. The characteristics of family members and peers consolidate students' perceptions of social norms, which in turn affect their smoking behavior. Moreover, controlling smoking and reducing new initiation of smoking are of great concern for policy makers and practitioners in the field of tobacco control. **Objective:** The study attempted to examine the effects of price changes, social norms and tobacco control policies on students' smoking behavior and consumption demand. **Methods:** Following stratified random sampling technique, a total of 1260 students were surveyed among three strata: school (secondary), college (higher secondary) and university, located in the south-western region of Bangladesh. The research mainly used in-person interviews through structured questionnaires to collect primary data. In addition, six case studies (two from each stratum) were conducted for capturing in-depth information about the history of smoking behavior, influence of social norms, peer effects, etc. Nine key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with academicians, guardians and law enforcement officers for the study purpose. In order to examine the study objective, the study used a behavior specific ordered logistic regression model. Furthermore, two-stage Heckman selection model and an ordinary least square (OLS) model were used to see the effects of factors of smoking on consumption demand of a regular smoker. Finally, a series of simulations was run to explore the sensitivity of the price increase to changes in students' smoking behavior and consumption demand. **Results:** The study findings showed that around 21.0% of the students who were surveyed, smoked. The mean initiation age was only 15.67 years. The study found that students' smoking behavior and consumption demand were inversely price elastic, all other things being equal. Policy variables such as current price, social norms, students' perceptions against smoking and institutional controlling and supervision negatively influenced respondents' smoking decision. However, the current price significantly and robustly reduced cigarette consumption demand. Obeying the policy could also reduce students' smoking consumption demand. Additionally, current price significantly reduced occasional and regular smoking and increased quitting from regular smoking. Among the other policy variables, students' stronger perceptions against smoking could also play a significant role in reducing occasional and regular smoking and raising students' quitting rates. **Conclusion:** Based on the parametric results on students' participation in regular smoking, it can be concluded that father's smoking status, age of the students and being in a relationship influenced positively whereas social norms and perception against smoking influenced negatively. Hence, improving social norms and perceptions against smoking through arranging academic curricula (especially school) based campaigns may be a good policy to restrict students from participating in smoking behavior. In addition, price increase through taxation could be a good policy option to reduce smoking consumption demand and increase quitting rate effectively.



Dr. Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain



Research Title:

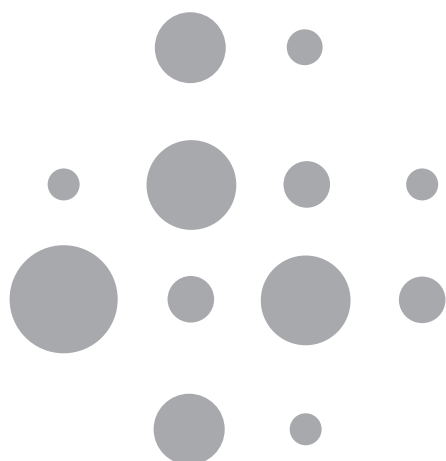
Mapping Land Use and Land Cover Changes due to Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh and thier Public Health Impacts

Dr. Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain is working as a Professor at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong. His teaching and research interests encompass environmental management, forest management, GIS for natural resource monitoring, industrial ecology, environmental impact assessment, etc. He has several completed and ongoing collaborative research projects with overseas researchers. He has worked as a Consultant for development agencies, such as Arannyak Foundation, IUCN, UNDP, The Asia Foundation, etc. Professor Hossain has published 40 scientific articles in refereed journals and presented at many national and international conferences. He has a PhD in nanobiotechnology from Osaka University, Japan and MSc and BSc in Forestry and Environmental Sciences from IFESCU, Bangladesh. His grants and scholarships include the Temu Award, Monbukagakusho Scholarship and Marie Curie Action Fellowship.

Mapping Land Use and Land Cover Changes due to Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh and thier Public Health Impacts

Author: **Dr. Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain**

Background: Globally, about 3.8 million hectares of arable land is under tobacco with 1% annual rate of expansion. The land footprint of tobacco in Bangladesh in 2015 was about 52000 hectares. In absence of stringent tobacco farming control policy, it will continue to engulf finite farmland in Bangladesh. We need data on spatio-temporal changes in land use for tobacco in Bangladesh for effective tobacco control strategy design. **Objective:** This study explored the spatio-temporal changes of tobacco cultivation in Bangladesh and its impacts on public health. **Methods:** The study included 17 tobacco growing districts of Bangladesh for mapping land use changes. For GPS data, 17 unions from 17 districts were selected which had the highest tobacco land footprint and were located in the Upazillas with the highest reported tobacco growing land. Seventeen (17) Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted with farmers. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with physicians and agricultural extension officers to determine the public health impacts. ArcGIS Version 10, Erdas Imagine 2014 and Google Earth Pro were the analytical tools for GIS analysis and for mapping. Statistical analyses were done with geospatial analysis packages. FGD recordings were transcribed before doing topical analysis and keyword analysis. MS Excel and SPSS (version 20.0) were used to analyze KII data. A social-impact model of tobacco cultivation (SIMoTC) was developed to quantify the social impact of tobacco cultivation by identifying impact categories and sub-categories from the FGDs and KIIs. Weighting factors SIMoTC was obtained through a separate survey on one hundred respondents who has awareness regarding tobacco. **Results:** The localization of cultivation of three varieties of tobacco showed fluctuations as the varieties are cultivated beyond their traditional geographical compartments. Tobacco occupied agricultural land from 0.1% (Dinajpur) to 75.7% (Kushtia) of cultivable land in the surveyed districts by primarily engulfing lands from other food crops. In Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracts, forestlands had been converted to tobacco fields. Alarminglly, tobacco cultivation was found in the streams and riverbeds in Cox's Bazar district. Farmers preferred tobacco cultivation as the tobacco companies provided advance for inputs and gave purchase assurance of tobacco leaves. Interestingly, getting a large sum of money in one installment by selling tobacco leaves unlike other food crops was a very important reason for choosing tobacco cultivation. Farmers knew that tobacco needed higher amount of fertilizers and agrochemicals but they related it to better yield of subsequent crops on tobacco fields. Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS) was a rare occurrence among the respondents. Tobacco farmers had identifiable symptoms of health issues but they got no healthcare support from the companies. The SIMoTC score was -130.47 on the scale of +425 (best) to -425 (worst) in which major major contributions were from affects on workers (52.8%), local community (12.6 %), and overall society (30.2%). Environmental impacts and living conditions were the most important impact categories while safe and healthy living conditions of the community, followed by health and safety of workers were the most important impact subcategories. **Conclusion:** Based on land use and land cover changes through GIS mapping of tobacco cultivation, the study concluded that tobacco cultivation has increased steadily over the last decade by encroaching agricultural land in different districts of Bangladesh. It revealed the pressing need for designing policy interventions to encourage farmers to grow alternative crops. The social, environmental and health impacts of tobacco cultivation require immediate attention and action by relevant stakeholder groups.



Research Findings Dissemination Conference

List of Research Studies



List of Research Studies conducted as of 2016

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2016
1.	Relationship between Sale of Tobacco Products by Children and Their Attitude and Practice Regarding Tobacco Intake
2.	Impact of Taxation on the Consumption of Cigarettes: A Study on Smoking Behavior among the Undergraduate Students
3.	Socio-Economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District
4.	Marketing Strategy of E-cigarettes in Bangladesh
5.	Prevailing Social Obstacles in Keeping Homes Tobacco-free in Urban Areas: Realizing Ways to Overcome the Challenges
6.	Insight of Plain Packaging among the Adult General Population in Dhaka City
7.	Status of Graphic Health Warning on Tobacco Packs: A Study among a Low Socio-economic Group in Bangladesh
8.	Health and Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Farming in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
9.	Price Elasticity, Social Norms, Tobacco Control Policies and Smoking Behavior among Students in the South-west Region of Bangladesh
10.	Mapping Land Use and Land Cover Changes due to Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh and their Public Health Impacts



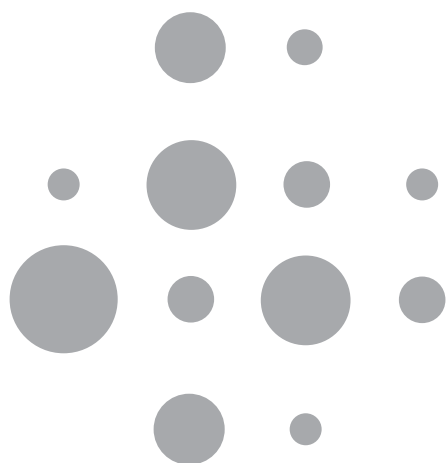
Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2015
01.	Heavy metals (Cr, Cd and Pb) in chewing and other categories of tobacco consumed in Bangladesh and their effects on health
02.	Secondhand smoke in public places: Awareness, attitudes and exposure among university students
03.	Smokeless tobacco consumption and diabetic foot ulcer
04.	Factors associated with female smoking at selected universities in Dhaka
05.	A comparison of avoidance behavior to secondhand smoke (SHS) among male and female residential students of Dhaka University
06.	Smokeless tobacco use among floating people in Dhaka city
07.	The prevalence of tobacco consumption and its determinants among university students in Sylhet division: A cross-sectional study
08.	Adult smokers' views about tobacco warning labels on cigarette packages: A study in Dhaka city
09.	Determinants of exposure to secondhand smoke at home among children in rural Bangladesh
10.	Emotional, behavioral problems and cigarette smoking behavior: A survey among Bangladeshi adolescents
11.	Factors influencing farmers to turn to tobacco cultivation in khulna division of Bangladesh
12.	Effects of maternal smokeless tobacco use on birth weight and gestational age: A case control study in rural Dhaka, Bangladesh
13.	Level of compliance with the Tobacco Control Act 2005 in relation to exhibition of vigilance notice at public places in Bangladesh
14.	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in public places: A survey in Dhaka city
15.	Patterns of electronic-cigarette use and users' beliefs about its harmful effects
16.	Knowledge and attitudes regarding the National Tobacco Control Law and smoking behaviors among Bangladesh police
17.	Smoking among the employees and barriers to smoke-free initiative in four medical college hospitals in Bangladesh
18.	The role of mass media in tobacco control
19.	Tobacco knowledge, attitudes and practices among adults attending outpatient departments of public hospitals in Bangladesh
20.	Child labor in <i>bidi</i> factories: Current situation and the way forward



Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2014
01.	Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostel and their Homes in Dhaka City
02.	Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum-Dwellers in Dhaka City
03.	E- Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City
04.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students
05.	Perception of Smoking-Related Risks and Benefits among Selected Urban and Rural Adolescent Students
06.	Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke-Free
07.	Prevalence and Awareness of Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students
08.	Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City
09.	Changing Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in the Regulated Environment in Bangladesh: Lessons and Challenges for Tobacco Control Policy Advocates
10.	Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
11.	Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with It
12.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh
13.	Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh
14.	Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illnesses: Experience from Rural Bangladesh
15.	Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum
16.	Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults of Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences
17.	Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh
18.	Perception about Health Effects of Passive Smoking among Young Adults in Dhaka
19.	Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
20.	The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Labourers at Brick Kilns in Dhaka



Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2013
1.	Pattern and Awareness about Smokeless Tobacco in a Rural Area of Bangladesh
2.	Trade-off between the Informal Economy of Tobacco and Tobacco Control Policy in Bangladesh
3.	Form and Effect of Indirect Advertisement and Promotion Activities of Tobacco Products in Khulna
4.	Tobacco use among Rickshaw Pullers of Dhaka City: Behavior, Awareness and Prevention
5.	Tobacco Smoking among the Adult Students: A KAP Study in Dhaka City
6.	Secondhand Tobacco Smoke and Respiratory Problems among the Infants of Smoker and Non-smoker Parents
7.	Study on Health Hazards among the Tobacco Curing Workers of Bangladesh
8.	The Practice and Consequences of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Tobacco Companies in Bangladesh
9.	Effect of Raising Taxes on Tobacco Consumption
10.	Prevalence of Smoking among Physicians of Bangladesh



Other Activities



Providing 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, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and Vital Strategies 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 relation to message and material development and facilitation of workshops/trainings.



BCCP provides technical assistance to the Leaders in Tobacco Control- Alumni Association which was formed with the Bangladeshi participants of the Global Tobacco Control Leadership and Certificate Programs to act as an Advocacy Group to promote tobacco control program in Bangladesh. BCCP also acts as the Secretariat of the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network.

Promoting Learning from the Experts:

A Course for Healthcare Professionals

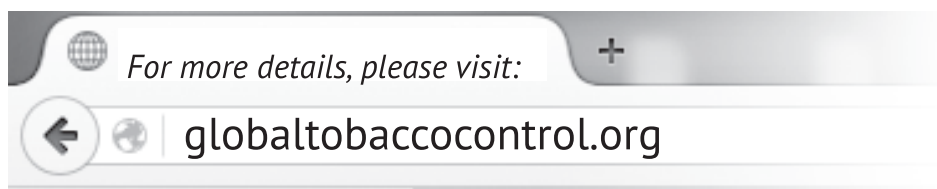


What is 'Global Tobacco Control: Learning from the Experts'?

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 related to tobacco consumption. This course is designed for busy healthcare providers as a time-saving alternative for those who otherwise would not be able to complete longer tobacco control trainings. The course is free and open to anyone who is already working in a healthcare profession and is interested in learning more about tobacco control.



The course is especially beneficial for doctors and other healthcare professionals including post-graduate medical, dental and nursing students, deans, principals, and professors of medical colleges and universities.



BCCP with technical support from the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health organized four symposiums on Learning from the Experts: A Course for Healthcare Professionals. The symposium produced a strong outcome, as many participants were registered for the course on site. As an immediate outcome of the symposiums, the number of in enrollments in online courses from Bangladesh has been increased significantly.

Study on Tobacco Marketing at the Point-of-Sale in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Evidence shows that when countries adopt partial Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) bans that regulate only certain types of strategies (such as television or radio), the tobacco industry responds by re-directing their resources to market their brands on unregulated channels such as at the point-of-sale (POS). Numerous studies have demonstrated that exposure to tobacco product advertising and promotion increases the likelihood that youth will initiate smoking. The display of tobacco products at the POS has the same effect and influence on behavior as traditional media advertising. This study of tobacco marketing at the point-of-sale in Dhaka, Bangladesh was led by the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), in partnership with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), PROGGA Knowledge for Progress, and the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP).

The study surveyed tobacco retailers in thirteen neighborhoods selected within the city, with consideration for the neighborhoods' (1) school density; (2) retail density; (3) and ease of accessibility for data collectors. Using the Ministry of Education's database, BANBEIS 136 secondary schools were selected. An online mapping and distance tool was used to define a sampling area radius of 100 meters surrounding each school and select convenience sample of grocers, tea stalls, tobacco stands, and mobile tobacco vendors. Data collectors received a full day of training.

Six hundred sixty-one (661) grocers, tea stalls, tobacco stands, and mobile tobacco vendors were observed around 110 schools – 591 of which sold tobacco products. Eighty-four mobile tobacco vendors were observed, 39 of which also sold candies, snacks, or sugary drinks along with tobacco products, with 32 within eyesight of a school. In these sampling areas, 507 out of 574 grocers, tea stalls, and tobacco stands sold tobacco products. More than half of the tobacco retailers were within eyesight of the





school. Tobacco products were displayed around 105 of the 110 school areas observed and at 491 retailers. One hundred sixty (160) tobacco retailers posted advertising signage from the tobacco industry, and 98 of these retailers were within eyesight of a school. Very few (36) retailers voluntarily displayed any age restriction sign, and 27 of these retailers were within eyesight of a school. Many shops and stands were completely branded or covered with tobacco industry advertisements for specific brands. Flavor was mentioned on tobacco advertising signage at 23 retailers, and non-Bengali words were used on signage at 18 retailers. Over 80 school areas had at least one retailer who had tobacco marketing that was visible outdoors to people who were passing by. While on their way to school, children are likely walking by these retailers and being exposed to tobacco marketing.

Aggressive marketing was often visible outside the point-of-sale, exposing children to tobacco marketing on their way to school. This study demonstrates that the tobacco industry in Bangladesh markets harmful tobacco products around schools making tobacco easily accessible to children. Tobacco products are frequently displayed next to merchandise that appeals to youth and advertisements are in areas that are visible and accessible to minors. The tobacco industry must be held accountable for targeting youth around schools. Public authorities must enforce the ban on tobacco product display, advertising signage, and promotion in retail locations would more effectively protect the public, especially school students, from the harms of tobacco products.

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