



# INTERNSHIP REPORT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Program

**Faria Benta Rashid**  
**Student ID # 111-690-11**

**Department: Masters in Development Management and Practice.**

**Organization: Dhaka Ahsania Mission**  
**Duration: January 2012 to March 2012**

Submitted on : June 21, 2012

## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	2
DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION HEALTH PROGRAM .....	2
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES .....	3
LESSONS LEARNED FROM MY INTERNSHIP .....	4
FUTURE PLAN .....	5

## **INTRODUCTION**

As the final requirement of the MDMP program in BRAC University, it is a must for every student to undergo an internship program in an organization. I had been placed at Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and gather opportunity to see the overall aspects of that organization specifically health care during the internship program; I was under the supervision of Dr. Nahid Sultana, who is the Senior Medical Officer in Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), a leading multi-sector non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Bangladesh, had its inception in 1958. Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), an eminent educationist, social reformer and spiritual leader of South Asia, founded it with the motto of 'Divine and Humanitarian Service' aiming at achieving social and spiritual development of the human community. In the mid-seventies, the organisation got a shift in its approach from welfare approach to human development approach. Since then DAM has been acting as a dynamic organisation responding to diverse needs of people and has undertaken programmes in four major sectors: education, livelihood, health and human rights and social justice, to cover the totality of life and livelihood of people with special attention on the disadvantaged groups.

## **DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION HEALTH PROGRAM**

Interventions of DAM in the health sector are very wide and intensive in certain areas of concern. Generally it works on general awareness on primary health care issues, importance of inoculation, maternity and reproductive health, food & nutrition, environment, etc. DAM has extensive program on water and sanitation and prevention of drug abuse and drug addiction treatment. HIV/AIDS is another area of DAM's recent interventions. To fight cancer DAM is working in a high profile in awareness creation on and early detection and treatment of cancer.

DAM believes that mitigation of health risks through efforts for eradication of poverty and other interventions for creating sustainable livelihoods in all its dimensions among the individual men, women, children that make up DAM's target population. The overall objectives of DAM health interventions are to ensure the rights to access to the quality health services for the vulnerable groups of people. DAM will emphasize the community, complementing public health activities at union and other periphery levels.

DAM hopes to provide the following in its pursuit of its mission:

- Mother and Child Health Care Program
- Health Care and Nutrition (HCN)
- Limited Communicable Disease Control Program
- HIV/AIDS and drug addiction management
- Limited Non-Communicable Disease Control Program
- Mass campaign for cancer prevention

I worked in Mother and Child Health Care Program (MCHCP) project under Health Program in Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). In this program Dhaka Ahsania Mission work in some specific area

- Dhaka Ahsania Mission is working on mother child health and nutrition (MCHN) under SHOUHARDO Program. The main aim of MCHN is to prevent widespread malnutrition and related mortality in nutritionally vulnerable groups by providing supplementary ration for all pregnant and lactating women with children up to 2 years old of hardcore poor and poor households.
- Illiterate women are deprived of access to basic health services. It has been widely recognized that if the female literacy rate is low, infant and maternal mortality rate tends to be high due to lack of knowledge about basic health care and insufficient health services for mothers and children. To overcome this situation, Dhaka Ahsania Mission implementing a project titled “supporting maternal and child health improvement and building Literate Environment (SMILE), with financial support from ACCU, Japan.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

This internship period was basically designed to get familiar with field work aspect of Mother and Child Health Care Program (MCHCP) focusing Community mobilization for MCHC and Nutrition, Health Education, Life skills and capacity building, Support social assistance to the vulnerable people, Governance in service delivery, improving human resources in quality health services as a part of Dhaka Ahsania Mission health care program.

I was attend some specific workshops where Community people are adopted in practicing improved behavior on quality MCHC and to reduce malnutrition among target people, especially children and mothers; and empowered communities to increase their access to quality health services, claim quality health services and watch for quality services for MCHC.

There my responsibility was, to help my supervisor in some issues:

- Community planning to get improve service for safe motherhood, child health care.
- Identify the community practice and cause analysis regarding iron deficiency and anemia to make participatory preventive plan with adolescent girl.
- Campaign for diverse food sources to rich in micro nutrients and counseling on use of fortified food, and supplements including iodized salt, iron/folic acid and vitamin supplements, and promote micro-nutrient rich diets;
- Consultation with local leaders to develop food security strategy, safety nets, including targeted income transfers, e.g., targeted food subsidies, food stamps, micro-credit, and farm input packages.

I also involved in field visit, Interviewing, field report writing and data analyzing in the qualitative research.

## **LESSONS LEARNED FROM MY INTERNSHIP**

During my internship at “Dhaka Ahsania Mission”, I have learned the true meaning and value of Health Development.

My internship experience has been amazing, The methods I am learning in the classroom have gone hand in hand with things I am learning on the job, which has helped me apply my knowledge in both areas. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is a Non-Government Development Organisation, as a student of Development Practice it was a perfect place for me to work as an intern.

I enjoyed attending special presentations and events. Through these events, I was able to meet new people, hear about their careers and learn about their roles in the company. I learned something new at each event I attended.

The people here at “Dhaka Ahsania Mission” made me feel welcome at all times and I am so grateful to everyone for showing me new platforms and technology and explaining the importance of their role in a project.

Overall, my internship was a great experience. I gained insight on what a career in Health Development, the importance of networking and other pieces of practical knowledge that will aid me in my future jobs. However, the biggest lesson I learned was that I should enjoy my work. This internship showed me that even after you finish your formal education, you are always learning, studying and being tested in your career. I am now more appreciative of my life

## **FUTURE PLAN**

My career intention was to engage myself in the development sector where I can utilize my education and skill to help people who needed the most. MDMP program has opened up the horizon where I am now equipped with academic knowledge along with experience from numerous field trips. Finally, Internship was the last piece of this program which finally allowed me to apply the knowledge learned in classroom environment.

Health care is one of the most important sector in our country that requires people with skill and knowledge of how the health care program should be designed, administered and reach to mass with better support. Health care is not all about being a Doctor or Nurse to help people by providing service. It is larger than that and that is where I believe my skill and education will help to make a difference on how the policy is set and how the organizations who provide healthcare services operate and most importantly to help create a system where mass people can benefit for this sector.

With all these in my mind, I wanted to get myself involved into health care sector and advance my career in this path.