



# James P Grant School of Public Health



## REPORT

February 2006 – February 2007

# Innovation in Public Health Education

# VISION

**“A world where everyone enjoys the maximum potential of health”**

# MISSION

**..to improve health outcomes of populations in disadvantaged areas of the world, particularly the poor and women, through the application of the art and science of public health.**

# GOAL

**to provide public health education of international excellence relevant to the particular needs of the developing world. The training will:**

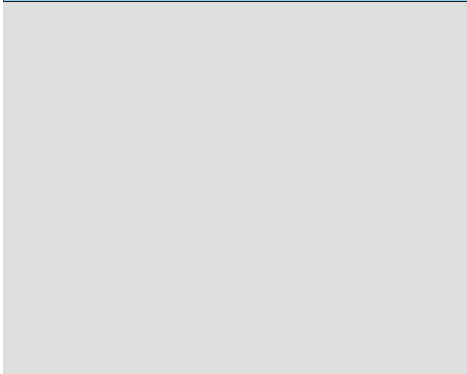
- Be community-oriented providing experiential learning centred around the public health problems of Bangladeshi communities;
- Emphasize critical, innovative thinking that is rooted in best practice and rigorous research methods;
- Use a multi-disciplinary, inter-sectoral approach to learning and problem-solving;
- Inculcate the values and ethos of its founding and partner institutions (equity, fairness, and concern for the poor, women and disadvantaged).
- Prepare graduates to become public health practitioners, critical thinkers, researchers and advocates/stewards of public health and policy at community, district, national and international levels.

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# Preface

This is the report for the academic year 2006-2007 of James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The report contains a brief history of the School, information on the MPH training programme and the faculty, and activities carried out throughout the period February 2006 to February 2007.

The graduation of 26 students in February 2007 marked a second year of success of the MPH programme. It was the result of hard work involving the students and a great number of individuals and organizations in Bangladesh and abroad. The School strives to develop and implement a hands-on training programme rooted in communities and their public health problems, and utilized the resources of institutions in the North and South through a mutually responsive scheme of collaboration. This South-South and North-South collaboration is a model that can be replicated in other schools of public health.

The international composition of both the student body and faculty reflects the state of global inter-dependence and inter-relatedness in health and disease, and has added a unique dimension to the need to work together to address the world's public health problems. Recent experiences of the impending fear of an avian influenza pandemic are reminders that this is indeed so true.

The School is very grateful to all individuals and organizations whose contributions made the work reported here possible, and to our students who dared join an experiment that fortunately came to a good end. The School acknowledges with gratitude the financial contributions of the James P. Grant Trust, UNICEF/Bangladesh, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ICDDR, B and BRAC.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact the School. We look forward to your continued support to the School.

*James P. Grant School of Public Health*

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# List of Acronyms

<b>ADRA</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
<b>AIBS</b>	American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
<b>AMMA</b>	Amsterdam Master's in Medical Anthropology
<b>APHA</b>	American Public Health Association
<b>ARI</b>	Asia Research Institute
<b>ASCON</b>	Annual Scientific Conference
<b>BARACA</b>	Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts
<b>BDHS</b>	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveillance System
<b>BPHS</b>	Basic Package of Health Services
<b>BRAC</b>	Building Resources Across Communities
<b>BSMMU</b>	Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University
<b>BSPH</b>	BRAC School of Public Health
<b>BU</b>	BRAC University
<b>BWHC</b>	Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition
<b>BYU</b>	Brigham Young University
<b>CAF</b>	Care of Afghan Families
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CEDUA</b>	Centre for Demographic, Urban and Environment Studies
<b>CEHAT</b>	Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes
<b>CGPA</b>	Cumulative Grade Point Average
<b>CIDA</b>	Canadian International Development Agency
<b>CIPRB</b>	Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh
<b>COMDIS</b>	Communicative Disorders
<b>CRP</b>	Centre for the Rehabilitation for the Paralysed
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>ERC</b>	Ethical Review Committee
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FHI</b>	Family Health International
<b>FPAB</b>	Family Planning Association of Bangladesh
<b>GAVI</b>	Global Alliances for Vaccines and Immunization
<b>GEGA</b>	Global Equity Gauge Alliance
<b>GK</b>	Gonoshasthay Kendra
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
<b>HSAN</b>	Health Systems Action Network
<b>IAB</b>	International Advisory Board
<b>ICDDR,B</b>	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
<b>ICMH</b>	Institute for Child and Mother Health
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>IEDCR</b>	Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research
<b>IIRR</b>	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
<b>IPHE</b>	International Public Health Education
<b>IUSSP</b>	International Union for Scientific Study of Population
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and young child feeding
<b>JLI</b>	Joint Learning Initiative
<b>JPGSPH</b>	James P. Grant School of Public Health
<b>LSHTM</b>	London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine

# List of Acronyms

<b>MACCA</b>	Masjid Council for Community Advancement
<b>MBBS</b>	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Developmental Goals
<b>MNCH</b>	Maternal and Neonatal Child Health
<b>MPH</b>	Masters in Public Health
<b>MWRA</b>	Married Women of Reproductive Age
<b>NGO</b>	Non Government Organization
<b>NIH</b>	National Institute of Health
<b>NIPORT</b>	National Institute of Population Research and Training
<b>NIPSOM</b>	National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine
<b>NNP</b>	National Nutrition Programme
<b>NTP</b>	National Tuberculosis Programme
<b>NUS</b>	National University of Singapore
<b>OB/GYN</b>	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
<b>OHS</b>	Occupational Health and Safety
<b>PLoS</b>	Public Library of Science
<b>PMNCH</b>	Maternal Neonatal and Child Health
<b>RED</b>	Research and Evaluation Division
<b>RHIYA</b>	Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia
<b>RIB</b>	Research Initiatives of Bangladesh
<b>RIT</b>	Research Institute of Tuberculosis
<b>RPC</b>	Research Programme Consortium
<b>RTIs</b>	Reproductive Tract Infections
<b>SEARO</b>	South-East Asian Regional Office
<b>SERP</b>	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>SPH</b>	School of Public Health
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
<b>STIs</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections
<b>UGC</b>	University Grants Commission
<b>UHC</b>	Upazila Health Complex
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
<b>WASA</b>	Water and Sewerage Authority
<b>WFPHA</b>	World Federation of Public Health Education
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WIUT</b>	Westminster International University in Tashkent

# BRAC and the School of Public Health

## **BRAC**

BRAC is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the developing world. Founded in 1972, it has been working for the poor serving a population of over 80 million in all 64 districts in Bangladesh. BRAC's twin objectives are poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, especially women. It places special emphasis on providing health and education services, and collateral free loans for income-generating activities. It works closely with other organizations including the government. BRAC firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity, gender equity through poor people's social, economic, political and human capacity building. Given that development is a complex process requiring a strong dedication to learning, sharing of knowledge and being responsive to the needs of the poor, BRAC places emphasis on their organisational development,

simultaneously engaging itself in the process of capacity building on a national scale to accelerate progress and improvement for the country's disadvantaged.

## **Research and Evaluation Division (RED) at BRAC**

Since 1975, research and evaluation has been an inextricable part of BRAC's mission, providing an analytical basis for BRAC's programmatic decisions, allowing BRAC to learn from its mistakes, and helping BRAC to share the impact and lessons from its work with academics, NGOs, and development agencies around the world. The Research and Evaluation Division (RED) undertakes many of its studies in cooperation with international research and academic institutions of the highest calibre. RED research areas

span the full range of BRAC activities and beyond: nutrition, family planning, health, legal issues, environment, education, agriculture, microfinance, gender, NGO capacity building, and much more.

## **BRAC University**

In line with BRAC's commitment to education as a force of change and development, BRAC University (BU) was established in 2001 to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge. BU confers undergraduate level degrees in Architecture, Business administration, Computer Science and Engineering, Computer Science, Electronics & Communications Engineering, Economics, English, Law, and Physics. BU also offers degrees at the Masters Level in Business Administration, Bank Management, Biotechnology, Development Studies, Disaster Management, English, Applied Economics, Governance & Development, and Public Health.

In addition, the University offers Diploma programmes on professional courses.

## **The James P Grant School of Public Health**

The opening of the James P Grant School of Public Health in 2004 in BRAC University was a logical outcome of BRAC's work on the health of the poorest and most disadvantaged women and children for the past thirty years and confirmation that better health is essential for sustainable development. In Bangladesh and other developing countries, there is an acute shortage of competent public health professionals to lead the health sector, which is a critical factor for the poor state of health systems in many poor countries.

The BRAC University James P Grant School of Public Health (referred henceforth as BRAC School of Public Health or BSPH) was established to train public health professionals from developing countries. From the onset, the founders took steps to contact, engage in dialogue and partner with the world's best Schools and institutions of Public Health, in order to design a relevant and responsive curriculum to help build national capacity in public health, and to improve the health of the poorest and most disadvantaged.



## Why is the School named after James P Grant ?

The late James P. Grant (1922-1995) was the distinguished Executive Director of UNICEF, credited with mobilizing resources to launch the child survival and development revolution that saved the lives of millions of children throughout the developing world. His legacy was in demonstrating the power of applying the art and science of public health. Jim, as he is popularly known, was a good friend of BRAC and Bangladesh and of the people of the developing world, and highly respected and appreciated by all. BRAC University is proud to name the School after him.



James P. Grant

### Advisory and Governance

The School is advised by an International Advisory Board (IAB). It is governed by the rules and regulations as set by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. The members of the IAB are given in the box below:

#### • Box 1: International Advisory Board

- **Prof. Allan Rosenfield**, Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York (Chair)
- **Dr. Jon Rohde**, former UNICEF Representative for India (Co-Chair)
- **Mr. F.H. Abed**, Chairperson and Founder of BRAC
- **Dr. Richard Cash**, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston
- **Dr. Sadia Chowdhury**, The World Bank, Washington D.C.
- **Dr. Anwar Islam**, Carleton University, Canada
- **Prof. David Sack**, Executive Director, ICDDR,B, Dhaka

### What makes the School unique?

- Location in a developing country providing a 'social laboratory' for teaching and learning.
- Placement in a development organisation BRAC's unique strengths are its ethos and values, its total commitment to help the poor and the disadvantaged, its success in blurring the artificial divide between

health and development, in scaling up major health interventions and demonstrating impact, and its vast human, material and infrastructure resources.

- Partnerships with internationally recognized schools of public health in the developed world providing it with ready access to the rich academic resources of schools that have been engaged in public health education for decades. (See Box 2)

#### • Box 2: Partnerships and Academic Links

- **Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA\***
- **Centre for Health and Population Research (ICDDR,B), Bangladesh\***
- **Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, USA\***
- **George Washington University, USA\***
- **Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA\***
- **Karolinska Institute, Sweden**
- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK\***
- **University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands\***
- **Umea University, Sweden**
- **Uppsala University, Sweden\***

\*MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed.

❑ Emphasis on community-based experiential learning with the first six months

❑ Conducted in a rural setting with field exercises illustrating public health in practice. In consultation with BRAC staff and community residents, students apply hands-on learning techniques during the course of their studies in Savar, a rural training centre of BRAC. During the second half of the academic year the students spend time in Dhaka, focusing part of their field activities in urban slum settlements.

❑ Diverse student body drawn from experienced health workers, medical doctors and other professionals, both in health and development around the world.

### **ICDDR,B - Partner in Innovation**

The Centre for Health and Population Research (popularly known as ICDDR,B) is one of the most respected health research institutions in the developing world with its stock of highly trained professional staff numbering over 100, field and laboratory facilities, and a library with over 50,000 journal titles and 15,000 books, which is one of the largest and most modern in South Asia. For over 40 years the Centre has conducted high quality research on the health problems of Bangladesh and published thousands of papers in world-class journals. Its laboratories include virology, bacteriology, parasitology, immunology, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and nutrition, and are located at the Centre adjacent to BRAC in Mohakhali, Dhaka, providing excellent facilities found in very few schools of public health. The Matlab field research area is unique in the world of public health research through its health and demographic surveillance of a defined population of over 200,000, extending back for over 40 years. Participation of the Centre scientists in faculty positions at BRAC SPH offers an ideal opportunity to realise the goals of both organizations as well as to train professionals in the field of public health.



Students on a field visit to an urban slum in Dhaka



Students return from a visit to an urban slum in Dhaka.

"I'm pleased to inform you that I have been offered a place at Columbia. Thank you very much for all your support."

Victoria Nankabirwa, MPH Graduate 2006

# The MPH Programme

## Curriculum and Course Content

The programme leading to the MPH degree is one calendar year in duration. The course is designed to encourage a sequential pursuit of public health education. The course is divided into three blocks.

**Block I** lasts 6 months and consists of core courses necessary to develop fundamental competencies in public health, embracing the disciplines of medical anthropology, epidemiology and bio-statistics, qualitative and quantitative research methods, health system management, health economics and health care financing and environment and health. The entire period takes place in the residential setting of BRAC training centre in Savar, approximately one-hour drive from the capital city Dhaka.

**Block II** lasts 3 and half months and deals with public health practice during which several short courses are offered, covering specific areas of public health practice: epidemiology and control of infectious diseases, public health nutrition, aging and health, reproductive health, and health communication.

**Block III** lasts 2 and half months and consists of an independent study in a chosen public health programme or problem that students carry out. The primary objective of this portion of the programme is to enable students demonstrate ability to synthesize and integrate knowledge gained in course work and other learning experiences through a culminating field work studying a public health problem or activity. Students are expected to identify a topic they wish to study early on during the year and certainly by the end

of the first semester. The outcome is a dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment for the MPH degree. (See annex 1 for a list of students' dissertation topics 2006).

**Health and Development Seminars** take place through out the academic year and exploit the rich resources of experts with experience from home & abroad to speak on different issues related to public health and wider development. (See annex 2 for a text of the speakers and their seminar titles for 2006).

## Programme Outline

### First Semester: BRAC Campus Savar

Students spent the entire first semester of six months at the rural facility in Savar, located on 17 acres of land



Students at the computer lab in Savar campus



Dr. Diana Romero of Columbia University teaches at Savar campus

with excellent facilities including, residential dorms, dining, computer labs, library, classrooms, multimedia facilities, telephones and internet access for all students and faculty.



MPH students at Savar campus

### Second Semester: Dhaka Campus

The second semester classes of the MPH programme are based in Dhaka at the Centre for Health and Population Research (commonly known as ICDDR,B). ICDDR, B has state of the art laboratories and library. It also provides Internet access, classrooms, office



Students are joined by guests at one of their weekly seminar sessions at their ICDDR,B classroom.



Dr. Peter Thorpe, Director, Information Sciences Division, ICDDR, B gives students a tour of the library.

space for faculty, and cafeteria for MPH students and teaching faculty. Most of the MPH students resided at the BRAC School of Public Health residential flats in

Niketan, Dhaka, which includes dormitory style shared rooms and bathrooms, computers, internet access, dining and cooking facilities, a television lounge area and a study room. The accommodation is located within 15 minutes of walking distance from ICDDR, B and BRAC School of Public Health.

### Teaching/Learning Methods

The structure of the teaching programme is problem-oriented employing a problem case study approach whenever possible, with a minimum of didactic teaching. Basic knowledge of a subject requires guided reading and thus extensive exposure to relevant literature is provided. The course work builds on significant health problems faced in Bangladesh and similar countries. The problem draws students into problem solving thinking and dialogue with peers. Numerous opportunities for presentation of problem analysis ensure that students are familiar and comfortable with various communication techniques.

Central to each and every course is exposure to field situations and people engaged in addressing the problem under study. Students are introduced to key concepts, scientific basis, social and cultural experience and relevant measurement techniques that underlie each issue to be considered before proceeding with the problem-oriented experiential process in the field. It is this constant interchange between the classroom and field realities that make the BRAC SPH uniquely rich and formative. While guided by qualified faculty and structured programmes, extensive learning occurs from a bottom-up approach to education as students and faculty learn from peripheral development workers and the community who, both define the problems and implement the responses.

Course work is modular, allowing for integrated team teaching and reinforcement with relevant field visits and projects. This approach enables visiting expert teaching staff to provide intensive exposure of students to their expertise over a relatively brief period thereby enabling the school to call on experienced partner institutions to participate in teaching. Teams for each module comprise an experienced academician, often from overseas, with one or more counterpart teachers from BRAC SPH, relevant adjunct faculty drawn from BRAC, ICDDR, B and other local institutions, and local practitioners of public

health and development. Field trips during course work are frequent to local areas. Students work in small groups assuring fluency in language, orientation to culture and regular guidance visits by faculty.

The relationship between BRAC SPH, BRAC and ICDDR, B is seen as a seamless entity under the umbrella of BRAC University, enabling students to be exposed to the field programmes, research, libraries and staff of these institutions. From the initial Core Modules (Block I and II) through the research and writing of the dissertation, students are encouraged to draw on the wide resources of these institutions, as well as partner faculties from abroad, both in direct teaching and through the Internet. Thus, the James P. Grant School of Public Health is both a real and virtual educational entity with global reach.

## Evaluation

### Academic standing

Students are expected to maintain standards in their academic work i.e. take the requisite number of courses and maintain satisfactory grades (minimum GPA of 2.7). Students have to pass in all the required core courses given during Block I. A student who receives an F grade (Below 2.7) in any of these courses is required to take a re take (or make up) examination.

For the short intensive courses given during Block II, students are also expected to pass all the courses. However, those who fail in only one course but maintain a grade point average of 2.7 or higher are allowed to continue and graduate.

### Performance Evaluation

The performance of students is evaluated throughout the semester through class tests, class participation, quizzes, assignments, and project work and end-of-

course examinations. Numerical scores earned by a student are aggregated and converted to letter grades (as described in a later section). BSPH strives for excellence in all it does. Each student is responsible for his/her own learning, including self-assessment of knowledge and skills, and is prepared to seek further assistance and guidance in meeting the highest possible standards. Evaluation of both process and outcomes at the school is continuous and fed back to students and teachers. The course coordinator is expected to explain the relative weight of grading procedures on the first day of each course, which is also provided in writing.

#### • Box 1: International Advisory Board

### MPH Course Outline

	COURSE TITLE	COURSE NUMBER	Credit
<b>CORE COURSES: Public Health Concepts</b>			
1.	<i>Introduction to Public Health</i>	<b>MPH 501</b>	2
2.	Culture and Human Values in Public Health • <i>Anthropological approaches to Public Health</i> • <i>Qualitative Research Methods</i>	<b>MPH 512</b> <b>MPH 511</b>	3 2
3.	Community Diagnosis in Public Health • <i>Quantitative Research Methods</i> • <i>Biostatistics</i> • <i>Epidemiology</i>	<b>MPH 520</b> <b>MPH 521</b> <b>MPH 522</b>	3 3 3
4.	Managing Public Health • <i>Health System Management</i> • <i>Health Economics &amp; Health Care Financing</i>	<b>MPH 530</b> <b>MPH 531</b>	5 2
5.	<i>Environment &amp; Health</i>	<b>MPH 541</b>	3
<b>COURSES: PUBLIC HEALTH IN PRACTICE</b>			
6.	<i>Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases</i>	<b>MPH 620</b>	3
7.	<i>Reproductive &amp; Sexual Health and Rights</i>	<b>MPH 660</b>	2
8.	<i>Public Health Nutrition</i>	<b>MPH 670</b>	2
9.	<i>Aging and Health</i>	<b>MPH 681</b>	2
10.	<i>Principles of Health Communication</i>	<b>MPH 690</b>	1
11.	<i>Health and Development (Seminars)</i>	<b>MPH 651</b>	1
<b>DISSERTATION</b>			
12.	<i>Independent Study / Research</i>	<b>MPH 700</b>	14
	<b>Total credits</b>		<b>51</b>

At the end of each course, students are asked to participate in an anonymous evaluation of both the faculty who taught and the course. These are processed by the administration and fed back to

## Orientation of MPH students 2006-7

Orientation day for the MPH students of academic year 2006-7 was held at Savar on February 11, 2006. Later that evening, a dinner was organised for the students and invited guests. The Chairperson and founder of BRAC, Mr. FH Abed was chief guest and spoke on this occasion.



Chairperson of BRAC, Mr. FH Abed speaks to some of the International students during their orientation.

The 2006-7 batch was comprised of 12 international students from Afghanistan (2), Bolivia, Canada, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda, USA (2) and 14 students from Bangladesh. Of this group, 12 are doctors while the rest come from diverse backgrounds. There were 11 females and 15 males in this group. (see profile in Annex 1)

## Student Fieldwork Activities

Fieldwork activities are a critical and integral component of the MPH programme. The students spent considerable time visiting a number of field sites in both Savar and Dhaka City during their coursework.



Students visit National Nutrition Programme (NNP) in Bogra during their Nutrition course.

Students were able to apply their coursework as well link their own experiences during visits to field sites.

Kakabo village in Savar was one of the most important sites where students spent the first six months visiting households, learning public health in practice and employing qualitative and quantitative methods from the medical anthropology and epidemiology and biostatistics courses to improve their own understanding of various health problems affecting the village population.



Students conducting fieldwork in Kakabo Village, Savar

Gazipur and Bogra districts were selected as sites for visits during the Health Systems Management and Public Health Nutrition courses. Students accompanied by faculty also visited numerous BRAC programmes, including micro-credit, health and education to understand the structure and management activities of BRAC interventions and how they affect health and its social determinants. During the rest of the course, numerous sites were visited in the first and second semesters including urban slums, health facilities, hospital wards,



Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor, (on bicycle) discusses the objectives of a field visit in Savar.

pharmacies, health communication sites and various arsenic intervention sites. (See Box 4 for some of the intervention sites visited).

• **Box 4: Health Intervention sites visited by MPH students**

- Dhaka city urban slums Korail and Khilkhhet
- Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) in Dhaka
- Comilla Arsenic mitigation projects
- BRAC Health Centres in Bogra
- National Nutrition Programme in Bogra
- Upazila Health Complex in Kaliakor
- Upazila Health Complex in Savar
- Enam Medical College & Hospital in Savar
- Pharmacies (Drug stores) in Savar
- Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), Savar
- GonoShasthaya Kendra (GK) in Savar
- BARACA (Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts) in Savar
- Bangladesh Centre for Communications Programmes (BCCP) in Dhaka
- ICDDR, B in Dhaka
- ICDDR, B in Matlab, Chandpur

## **Collaboration with Health Care Institutions in Teaching**

During the Health Systems Management, Health Economics and Health Care Financing Course, the MPH students utilized several institutions to get hands on idea about the management and financial aspects of different public and private health care institutions. The following institutions served as collaborators for such visits:

### **Gonoshasthay Kendra**

(The People's Health Centre) was established in 1972 by Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and his colleagues. Working originally in the health field, it has steadily expanded the scope of its work into additional important areas that affect the lives of the majority of rural-based Bangladeshis: education, nutrition, agriculture, employment generation, and production of basic medicines and women's emancipation.

### **Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP)**

Founded in 1979 in response to the desperate need

for services for spinal injured patients, the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) has developed into an internationally respected organisation. CRP focuses on a holistic approach to rehabilitation, recognising that all aspects of the rehabilitation process are vital for its success.

### **Upazila Health Complex (UHC)**

UHC is a primary level government health facility situated in Thana level, which provides both indoor and outdoor medical services.

### **BARACA**

Baraca is the Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts.

It is a therapeutic community situated in Savar to rehabilitate and assist drug addicts in recovery. It is a project of an international NGO CARITAS Bangladesh.

### **Enam Medical College & Hospital**

Enam is a private hospital and medical college with outdoor and indoor facilities, located in Savar Bazaar.

## Students Research Projects

As part of the MPH course, the students carried out an independent research study for nine weeks at the end



Students take a break from their Introduction to Public Health course to visit the memorial on Language Movement Day (21st February).

of the year, conducting primary research on a public health topic of their choice. The purpose of the Independent Study is for the students to demonstrate ability to synthesize and integrate the full range of MPH knowledge and skills at the end of the coursework period through research of a public health problem or programme. Each student carried out research using both qualitative and quantitative skills. Annex 1 lists the titles of these theses.



Students engaged in group work at the computer lab In Savar campus.

## Recruitment of MPH Students 2007-08

After a rigorous selection process, the new batch of MPH students for the academic year 2007-08 was recruited in late 2006. Among a total of 26 students, 12 are female. Also, the group comprises 13 Bangladeshis and 13 international students from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United States. Furthermore, there are seven medical doctors among these students including a dentist while the rest are from other health related disciplines including nursing, paramedical and social science backgrounds.

For the selection of students in Bangladesh, a rigorous process was followed, whereby they sat for a written test, group interviews and finally individual interviews. In the final process, a committee with representatives from ICDDR, B and the University (Professor Demissie Habte, Professor Mushtaque Chowdhury; Professor Alejandro Cravioto; Professor Ferdous Azim, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid) interviewed the short-listed candidates. Of the 273 who applied, 14 were finally accepted into the programme. In the international arena, the MPH Coordinator visited Myanmar and Nepal and interviewed candidates. Faculty and academics with links to the School, interviewed applicants in other countries and selected students following the School's rigorous guidelines.

## The First Batch of MPH Graduates: Where are they now?

At the end of the academic year 2005-06, the BRAC School witnessed the graduation of its first batch of 25 MPH students. "An experiment that came to a good end", these students are now employed in ten countries as well as Bangladesh. They hold responsible positions such as Research Investigator, Child Health Unit, to Project Director HIV/AIDS, to Unit Head, Health and Nutrition to Manager, Health Programme to Senior Research Officer in British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to name a few. (For a complete list of the students' current employment status, see Annex 4).

"I have received the Fogarty Fellowship and I have been enrolled for Ph. D Programme in Epidemiology (Designated Emphasis on International and Community Nutrition) at University of California, Davis for Fall 2007. I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to you and to my school. It was all possible because the school gave us a strong platform."

Rumana Jesmin Khan, MPH Graduate 2006



# Graduation of the Second Batch of MPH students

## Graduates Forum 2007

James P Grant School of Public Health organized the Second Graduate Forum for the MPH graduating class of 2006-7 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, Bon 3 February 2007. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University chaired the Forum. The Forum was opened with a welcome address by Dean of the School of Public Health, Dr. AMR Chowdhury.

Professor David Sack, Executive Director of ICDDR, Balso spoke on this occasion. Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director of the School of Public Health delivered the keynote address. He congratulated the students, and stressed the importance of maintaining



Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, School of Public Health, BRAC University, gives welcome address at the Graduates' Forum.

the School as a centre of excellence and the need to have an active staff development programme. The Chair of the Forum, Vice Chancellor, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury gave his concluding remarks.

There were some selected presentations by students on their Independent Study dissertations, a final requirement of the MPH degree. This is a 9-week



Dr. David Sack, Executive Director, ICDDR,B speaks at the forum.

research project allowing students to integrate their knowledge and learnings on public concepts, tools and practices. The presentations shared findings mainly from Bangladesh on food adulteration, malnutrition among street-kids in Dhaka, mental



Forum keynote speaker, Dr. Demissie Habte

health of two communities in Matlab, and health seeking behaviour of disabled persons. There were also two presentations from India and Bolivia respectively, women's delivery experiences in



Dr. Alejandro Cravioto, Deputy Executive Director, ICDDR,B, Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director, BSPH and Ted Thomas, James P. Grant Trust, in the audience.

Mumbai and malnutrition of children in El-Alto.



Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Dr. David Sack and Mr. FH Abed at the Graduates Forum



MPH students 2006-07 in the audience at the Graduates Forum.

There was an Awards ceremony for best overall performance and best dissertation. Mr. FH Abed presented the F.H. Abed Award for best overall performance to Amit Bhandari, an international student from Nepal. Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury presented the Allan Rosenfield Award for best overall performance to Nasima Selim, a national student. Two national students won for best dissertations and were presented the W.Greenough III Award by Professor David Sack.



Amit Bhandari, an international student from Nepal, receives F.H. Abed Award for best overall performance from Mr. FH Abed.



Ilias Mahmud receives the W.Greenough III Award for best dissertation from Professor David Sack.



Nadia Ishrat Alamgir receives the W.Greenough III Award for best dissertation from Professor David Sack.



Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury presents the Allan Rosenfield Award for best overall performance to Nasima Selim.

The final session of the programme was the Poster Presentations of students' thesis on the rooftop of the Sasakawa Auditorium.



Diana Nelson, MPH student 2006-07, at the poster presentation of the students' thesis, explaining her findings to Mr. FH Abed and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury.

## BRAC University Convocation

The second BRAC University Convocation took place on February 8th, 2007 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre. The Honourable President and Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed formally opened the ceremony. In his speech he said that the private universities are playing a vital role in disseminating higher education in the society and are accommodating a good number of students in the field of higher studies to stop flight of foreign exchange. The President urged the University Grants commission (UGC) to monitor the academic programmes as well as the atmosphere that are prevailing in both public and private universities and ensuring quality education for all.

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Director, Ash Institute at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, was the convocation speaker. He emphasized that education is not only about training of the mind and equipping one with skills to operate in a global society; but it is also an intellectual preparation and a means to foster social and civic commitments so as to enable one to participate effectively in public life and fulfill one's role as a citizen. (see Box 5)

The President of the Governing Board, Mr. F. H. Abed spoke on this occasion and stated that the mission of BU is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of



President Iajuddin Ahmed gives opening speech at BU convocation

excellence in higher education that is responsive to the needs of society. The goal of BU is not only to



Professor Gowher Rizvi, the convocation keynote speaker

produce educated graduates, but also to give the country knowledgeable, ethical and professional individuals, who will in due course, prove their efficiency in all aspects of life.



Professor Gowher Rizvi, Mr. F. H. Abed, President Iajuddin Ahmed, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed at the BU Convocation 2007

Twenty-six MPH students graduated. Among them, 10 received higher distinction (more than 3.8 CGPA), 7 received high distinction (more than 3.65



MPH Class of 2006-07



Nasima Selim receives Vice Chancellor's Medal from Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

CGPA), and 6 received distinction (more than 3.5 CGPA). Nasima Selim, won the Vice Chancellor's Gold medal.



MPH students proceed into the auditorium at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre during the Second Convocation Ceremony of BRAC University.

**Box 5: Excerpt from speech of Professor Gowher Rizvi, key note speaker, BU Convocation 2007**



**Professor Gowher Rizvi**  
 Director, Ash Institute  
 Kennedy School of Government  
 Harvard University

I write to offer my congratulations and felicitations on your graduation from BRAC University. You are a graduate of a young University but BRAC already has a world-wide reputation for service to humanity; and as a graduate of that great institution you are the inheritor of a proud tradition of public service and learning.

Your liberal education at BRAC University has bestowed on you the greatest gift that any one can seek - a disciplined and an inquiring mind that you can put to use in any field of human endeavour that you may choose. A disciplined mind that can distil information, formulate questions, sift through evidence, marshal arguments, separate the trees from the wood, organize the facts cogently, explain a phenomenon, and draw conclusions based on the evidence. It is the most valuable skill that you ever acquire; and if you continue to nurture it well, it will remain a life long asset. Liberal education not only trains and disciplines the mind; it inculcates in you the power of rationale reasoning, prepares you to become useful citizens of democratic societies and gives you the analytical tools needed for the pursuit of a profession.

The great advantage of an education that trains and disciplines the mind is that it give you a portable skill and a capacity for life long learning. Your education has taught you to lead a life of reflection and self-examination; the space to discover yourself and to ask yourself who you are and what is important to you; it has put the fire in your belly, enabled you to find your passions and to discover what gives you a purpose in life. And most importantly it has liberated you from the existence of a robot whose mind parrots the inherited wisdom and prejudices.

Your education is not only about training of the mind and equipping you with skills to operate in a global society; but it is also an intellectual preparation and a means to foster social and civic commitments so as to enable you to participate effectively in public life and fulfill your role as a citizen. If you can transcend the self and dedicate yourself to the service of humanity you will have upheld the highest ideals of BRAC. Destiny awaits you.

"I just met and taught three of your graduates in Uppsala. Congratulations on producing world class graduates".

Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Professor of Paediatrics, Aga Khan University on meeting some of the BSPH students at a training at Uppsala University, Sweden.

# Centre for Health Systems Studies

The Centre for Health Systems Studies (CHSS) was established in 2006 under the auspices of James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (BSPH). Such a centre has the potential of strengthening the health system in Bangladesh by informing, guiding and systematically evaluating health related policies of the health sector, to promote population health.

The Centre is in the process of creating a knowledge bank. An information library is being set up where relevant materials are accessible. Furthermore, the Centre is a member of the Alliance for Health Policy. The Director of the Centre, Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury is also a member of the interim Steering Committee of Health Systems Action Network. Additionally, the Centre seeks to be proactive in disseminating, capacity building and strategic partnerships. In order to achieve this, the Centre has launched its first Health Watch Report "The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006 Challenges of Achieving Equity in Health. Also there are a number of research activities being undertaken at the Centre. Currently, a study is being done on the public private partnership service delivery models in Bangladesh. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury oversees the Centre as Director while Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid is Coordinator for the Centre.

## CHSS Becomes Member of Alliance for Health Systems Research

The Centre is a member of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research which is an initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). Health policy and systems research is defined broadly as the production of new knowledge and applications to improve how societies organize themselves to achieve health goals, including how they plan,

manage and finance activities to improve health, as well as the roles, perspectives and interests of different actors in this effort.

The Alliance is an initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The Alliance is funded by the Government of Norway, Sida-SAREC (Sweden), the World Bank, the Department for International Development (DFID, United Kingdom), and the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC, Canada).

The Alliance currently comprises over 300 institutional partners using, producing or supporting health policy and systems research activities in any capacity. Its secretariat is based in WHO, Geneva.

## Research

A major goal of the Centre for Health Systems Studies is to act as a centre of excellence in knowledge creation through research that connects with practice. Therefore, research and the advancement of the science of public health are seen as key functions. It conducts multidisciplinary studies on various development issues of national and global importance. These include poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, agriculture, nutrition, health population, health equity, education, environment, gender and related fields. Partnerships with institutions in the North and the South, including those in Bangladesh, help ensure that the most relevant and pressing issues are the subjects of research, with a unique pro-poor and pro-equity perspective. The School is greatly aided in this pursuit by its close link with the ICDDR, B and Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC.

## Research Partnership projects

- **Research Programme Consortium [Funded by DFID for 5 years, 2005-2010] Realizing Rights: improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations.** This is a multiple country project involving African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya; BRAC School of Public Health, Bangladesh; Engender Health, USA; INDEPTH Network, Ghana; Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. BRAC SPH is conducting a study as part of this RPC titled "An Exploratory Study

of sexual concerns and informal Service Provision in Chakaria, Bangladesh". This is an exploratory piece of research to map local understandings and concerns about sexual health and informal provision of SRH services in a rural area of Bangladesh. This study finding is expected to contribute to developing a further proposal which may incorporate programme planning and implementation and possibly a pilot programme by BRAC in Chakaria may be set up. Working papers have been generated under this project on: Interventions on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, RTIs/STIs, Menstrual Problems, Emergency Contraception, and Gender Based Violence Against Women in Bangladesh.

• **Research Programme Consortium (Funded by DFID for 5 years 2006-2011] - on 'Communicable Disease: Vulnerability, Risk and Poverty (COMDIS)'**. This is a multiple country project involving government and non-government organizations including Malaria Consortium, UK and Africa, BRAC and BRAC School of Public Health, Association for Social Development (ASD), Pakistan, Beijing National and Guangxi Provincial Centres for Disease Control, China, Department of Clinical Medicine, Makerere University, Uganda, School Of Medical Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana, The Health Research and Social Development Forum, Nepal, and the Good Shepherd Hospital/Lubombo regional health, Swaziland. Partners in this Research Consortium. The leading partner of this project is Institute of Science and Public Health, University of Leeds, UK and is funded by Department of International Development (DFID), UK. It is a multi-country study to conduct research and develop strategic guidelines for DOTS programme in urban settings. A key strategy will be to anchor research within operational programmes and explore the challenges faced. BRAC SPH is conducting a research titled "Revealing the Challenges of Peri-urban and district town TB Control Programme of BRAC in Bangladesh" as part of this RPC. The aim of this six months qualitative research is to explore the possible factors and develop an operational strategy for BRAC supported peri-urban and district town areas and further piloting and scaling up the model in other areas. Lessons learned from this will be shared among NTP and the partner NGOs supporting the urban settings to recommend a strategic guideline for policy development. Benefits pervading community level through international policymaking is expected as outcome. The research team has so far explored BRAC

TB Control Programme in 20 district towns and 6 peri-urban areas.

• **BRAC-ICDDR, B Monitoring Equity Project**

A health system equity project funded by SIDA, the World Bank and The Netherlands government is in progress in collaboration with ICDDR, B and the Health Economics Unit of the Ministry of Health, Government of Bangladesh. It is an action research to develop a monitoring mechanism for equity at state health centres of the government at upazila (sub-district) and union levels. Primary research was carried out in two upazilas in Manikganj and Brahmanbaria districts. A model for monitoring equity at the facilities level has been developed and will be replicated in several districts over the next five years.

• **Urban Manoshi Research:** In order to improve maternal and child health and reduce maternal and child mortality in the urban slums BRAC has initiated this project in collaboration the Gates Foundation. The plan of the Manoshi project is to conduct initial formative research jointly with the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC and ICDDR on a wide range of health issues in urban slums. These include community health practices, maternal and child health practices, health seeking behaviour, private providers, etc. The research will inform existing BRAC health interventions. A monitoring and evaluation system has also been set up to routinely check the programmes in urban slums. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid of BSPH are involved in this project.

• **Joint research collaboration between the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, The Australian National University and the BRAC School of Public Health** on "Mothers and Infant Health Seeking Behaviour in Urban Slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh" (2006-07): A ethnographic study in 2 slums in exploring infant health seeking behaviour & access to providers is being conducted under this collaboration. The project aims to investigate in detail the challenges and experiences of extremely poor mothers and (families) in two slum communities in Dhaka city: (1) how do they avail of existing health facilities (both formal and non-formal) and manage and (3) how are decisions are made at the household level and outside regarding accessing health care and (4) client provider interaction, roles and responses of the health sector/providers and how this impacts on resort to care and child's ill-health and situation. Three slums were selected based on an

earlier survey by Mitra and Associates and a complete mapping of local health facilities (formal and informal) was done. The study is for one year and is ethnography on infant health experiences, practices and health seeking behaviour in Dhaka slums.

## **Ethical Review Committee Established**

An Ethical Review Committee (ERC) has been established at BSPH. The ERC is responsible for reviewing all research and research related service protocols involving human subjects. The primary function of the ERC is to assess whether any particular activity involves an unacceptable physical, social or psychological risk to human subjects or there is any other ethical objection. The ERC shall consider whether the investigator is appropriately qualified and experienced and commands facilities to ensure that all ethical requirements are fulfilled. The ERC will give its decision on research protocols as expeditiously as possible.

The BRAC School of Public Health is involved in several research undertakings involving human subjects by its staff as well as by the students who are required to conduct research as part of the graduation requirement. Members of the ERC include Dr. Alejandro Cravioto and Dr. Abbas Bhuiya of ICDDR,B, Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Sabina Faiz Rashid of BRAC School of Public Health, Dr. Kaosar Afsana of BRAC Health Programme and BSPH, and Dr. Anwarul Hoque, Chairperson of the Economics and Social Science Department, BRAC University.

## **Research Collaborations**

- **Cooperating site of International Institute of Qualitative Methodology:** In 2006, James P. Grant School of Public Health became a cooperating site of the International Institute of Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta, Canada. The School is in the process of organizing a course on Qualitative Methodology with the University of Alberta in 2007.

- **Health Systems 20/20: new partnership with**

**School and CHSS:** The newly set up Centre for Health Systems Studies (CHSS) at the School of Public Health has become a partner of the new initiative - 'Health Systems 20/20' in November 2006. This is a new USAID funded initiative which encourages partnerships and future work on Health Systems. The School along with 11 partners from developing and developed countries will work closely with Abt Associates, the lead partner, based in the USA. The USAID partnership is interested in building a Health Systems Network and there are some exciting possibilities to build capacity within countries, research training, conferences and workshops and research.

## **Workshops held under CHSS**

### **Training of Local Journalists on Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Salma Sobhan fellow female journalists\* received training on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Ethical Issues in Conducting Research, in March and June 2006 by Staff at the School of Public Health. Results of their research have been published as a chapter in the first report of Bangladesh Health Watch entitled "Health Equity in Bangladesh"

In March 2006, the journalists were sensitized on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) issues pertaining to Bangladesh by the BRAC SPH staff who are part of the Research Programme Consortium (RPC) titled "Realizing Rights: improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations". Subsequently, the journalists wrote articles on SRHR with thirteen of these articles being published in regional and national newspapers. In June 2006, the journalists were invited to share with the BRAC RPC team, their experiences of investigating the situation of SRHR at the grassroots level of Bangladesh. Five of the journalists were randomly selected to describe their experiences as they collected information on their chosen topic on SRHR. Topics included Silence of women and their RTI problems, fistula and social ostracization, sex

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\* Salma Sobhan fellowship is a joint initiative taken by BRAC and the Pratichi Trust to train women of different districts of Bangladesh in journalism with the aim to facilitate their choosing a challenging career like journalism, reporting or news service. Pratichi Trust Bangladesh, an organization founded by Amartya Sen, has been established through the Nobel Award of Professor Sen. Its aim is to promote education, provide health services and emergency medical treatment giving priority to disadvantaged groups, especially women.



Salma Sobhan journalists in a SRHR training session by SPH staff

determination of unborn child through ultrasonography in a patriarchal society, male involvement in reproductive health awareness, and adolescent mothers at tea gardens.

### Workshop with Regional Health Providers on Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues

A Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Regional Workshop was arranged by BRAC SPH staff in a regional BRAC office in Faridpur on September 18th 2006. The purpose of this workshop was to build communication skills among local staff and creating awareness on SRH issues. Bangla summaries of four



Ismot Morjida Khan, Salma Sobhan journalist from Chittagong, discusses her experiences while she investigated her report on "Sex identity from ultrasonography puts child's life at stake".

reports on SRH issues generated at the School in January 2006 were disseminated in this workshop.

Health providers who attended the workshop were from various NGOs including BRAC, Care, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), etc as well as from government institutions such as General Hospital of Faridpur, Ministry of Child and Women

Affairs and Ministry of Health. Health providers included programme officers, medical officers, sector specialist (HIV/AIDS), programme directors, regional managers, district managers, etc. The chief guest of the workshop was the Civil Surgeon of Faridpur.

The civil surgeon inaugurated the workshop by welcoming the participants and discussing the importance of addressing neglected reproductive health issues among health providers in the country. Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Programme Coordinator, BRAC Health Programme, then discussed the definitions of sexual and reproductive health and rights and identifying the various neglected SRH problems in Bangladesh as well as those populations that were



Dr. Matiur Rahman, Civil Surgeon, Faridpur, inaugurates the Workshop as Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Programme Coordinator, BRAC Health Programme and Adjunct faculty at BSPH, looks on.

considered vulnerable in the country. She also presented background history on the evolution of SRH rights (International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)). The second half of the workshop proceeded with a brainstorming session on neglected SRH problems in Bangladesh among the participants, who were divided into three groups. This was



Participants at the Faridpur health providers' workshop.



followed by each group presenting SRHR issues which their group identified as neglected and should thus receive priority.

### Sexuality and Rights Workshop

BRAC School of Public Health is organised a one day workshop on "Sexuality & Rights" in January 2007 at the BRAC Centre, in Dhaka. Sexual Rights is an important emerging issue, although relatively underdeveloped from a conceptual, operational and policy perspective in Bangladesh. There were a number of presentations and sharing of thoughts and research. Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid moderated the workshop. She explained that the objectives of the conference were the following:

- i) to build partnerships with key persons/ organizations interested in working together to create a platform of awareness and advocacy in the area of Sexuality and Rights
- ii) share resources and learn from each other, and iii) explore possibilities of together in training, research and advocacy activities in the future.



Dr. Dina Siddiqi speaks about Heteronormativity in Bangladesh. Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid (L) was the moderator for the workshop.

Speakers during the workshop and their respective presentation topics were as follows:

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Independent Researcher, presented "Heteronormativity and its implications". Ms. Rubayat Hossain, Lecturer, BRAC University (and Independent Film-maker) spoke on "Nation, Women and Izzat". Ms. Bashabi Barua, Lecturer, State University of Bangladesh, presented a paper on "Breaking the Silence, Facing the Invisible". Dr. Sharful Islam Bobby, Medical Anthropologist, ICDDR, B gave a talk on "Male sexuality and rights". Ms. Marium Ul Mutahara Bandhu's presentation was on "Intervention experiences, challenges". Ms. Maheen Sultan and Ms. Rita Das Roy of Naripokkho talked about "Interventions - Sexuality, reproductive rights and violence". Dr. Hashima-e-Nasreen, Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC, spoke on "Community Perceptions of Sexuality".



Dr. Hilary Standing of IDS, University of Sussex, UK, speaks during a group work session at the Sexuality workshop.

"Really we all had a great time in Savar and Dhaka and enjoyed the JPGianship. Especially my interaction with Mr. Abed in his chambers on 29th January 2006 (After having my MPH degree in hand) was very inspiring to work on Public Health issues and came back to India with so much of satisfaction. I must proudly say that having MPH is really helping me in my organization and in my state. Now I am given the entire state responsibility to implement Health & Nutrition interventions under Poverty Reduction Project supported by World Bank. Because of my research topic, I have been recognised as core member in designing Health insurance package for the state. Very good initiatives have been taken up in health and also insurance sectors under the project."

Lakshmi Durga Chava, MPH Graduate 2006

# The Bangladesh Health Watch

The James P. Grant School of Public Health hosted the inaugural meeting of a civil society initiative to launch a national Health Watch in Bangladesh. The meeting took place in April 2006 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium. The inauguration was addressed by eminent personalities such as Mr. Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star, Ms. Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori and Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

The Centre for Health Systems Studies at the School has been chosen as the Secretariat for the Watch. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the BRAC School of Public Health is the Member-Secretary. Initial expenditures for the activities of the Watch is being borne by BRAC. Long term funding for the watch is being sought from other sources.

A Working Group has been formed whose responsibility is to steer the Watch activities so that a credible report is published at the specified time. Dr. Abbas Bhuiya of ICDDR, B has been nominated to co-ordinate this group. An Advisory Board consisting of eminent personalities in the country has been nominated to provide guidance to the Watch. Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Adjunct Professor, Columbia University is the Convener. The Board will be expanded as and when necessary. It meets at least twice every year.

The objective of the Health Watch is to monitor Bangladesh's progress towards achievement of the goal of good health for all its citizens. The Watch publishes on a yearly basis a report on the state of health in Bangladesh. It also uses other monitoring and advocacy measures such as conferences, meetings, press briefings and media reports to engage all key stakeholders in the health sector.

## Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2006 Launched

Bangladesh Health Watch formally launched their first report 'The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006 Challenges of Achieving Equity in Health' in December 2006 at the BRAC Centre. The BRAC School of Public Health organized the launching.

Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed Founder and Chairperson, BRAC chaired the ceremony. Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Head of Poverty and Health, ICDDR, B and Convener of the Bangladesh Health Watch Working Group gave the welcome address. Nobel Laureate, Professor Amartya Sen graced the occasion as Chief guest while Ms. Adrienne Germain and Dr. George Soros were special guests.

Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Member, Board of Directors, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Convener of



Speakers at the Health Watch Report Launch (From Left to Right): Rounaq Jahan; Amartya Sen, Fazle Hasan Abed; George Soros and Adrienne Germain.

the Advisory Board Health Watch Group, presented a short summary of the key findings of the report and emphasized the importance of having civil society monitor health. (Please see Box 6 for highlights of key findings).

Ms. Adrienne Germain, President of the International Women's Health Coalition, and a special guest at the launch, emphasized that health is finally a political issue and citizen's monitoring is essential for better services for all in society.

Dr. George Soros, Chairman of Open Society Institute, and also a special guest, shared his joy at being

• **Box 6: Key Findings of Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2006**

The report found steady progress in health since 1971, but the progress has been uneven. Socio-economic status, gender and place of residence are the three major determinants of inequities. There is an increased demand for curative care, and market based services but access remains unequal between richer and poorer groups. Although the government has adopted many equity-oriented policies, there is a gap between intention and implementation. The report found that there is improvement when citizen's groups take initiatives to demand and monitor better health services. However, government support and engagement is essential for impact at the national level. Many attempts have been made to introduce reforms but health reforms remain an unfinished agenda for the government.

present at the launch and reiterated the importance of civil society monitoring and mobilizing for better quality of health care for all citizens.

Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate and Chief Guest, commended the Health Watch initiative. He emphasized that increased slogan of privatization cannot provide health services to all citizens and basic



Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate in Economics, addresses the audience at the launching of the first Health Watch report.

public sector services are essential to provide health security. He drew upon his experiences in China and India and noted that in China, privatization worked for agriculture and industry but not for health. He cautioned that in the name of privatization, we should not be quick to accept and legitimize quacks and fraudulent practitioners. He also emphasized the importance of democracy and the right to information and strengthening of citizen's voices, which create pressure for better health services for all citizens.

Finally, Mr. Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC,



Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC, gives his concluding remarks at the launch.

emphasized the role of proper management in solving the nation's health problems. He concluded the session, by congratulating the authors and Bangladesh Health Watch Team. He said that in the future, this initiative would investigate focused issues through grassroots-level investigations.

Ms. Laila Noor, Salma Sobhan Fellow journalist also spoke on this occasion. The programme was conducted by Ms. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Asst. Professor, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.

"We were taught how cope in every situation and we are utilizing that skill properly! Now that we are out in this real world we can easily realize how JPGSPH has moulded us. The presentation skills, analyzing skills and "how to think critically " skills are coming to a great use now. So thank you very much Dr. Mushtaque for making us this way. "

Taskeen Chowdhury, MPH Graduate 2006

# Faculty

## The BSPH Team

The BSPH works through a small team of academic and administration staff. They are listed below:



**Demissie Habte** - International Director

Dr. Habte, a paediatrician by training, was former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Addis Ababa University for many years. He is the former Director of

ICDDR, Band more recently Lead Health Specialist at the World Bank, Washington. He has published extensively. He is on the board of several international organizations.



**Mushtaque Chowdhury** - Dean

Dr. A.M.R Chowdhury is Deputy Executive Director of BRAC. He has international experience both in health equity research, programme evaluation/intervention, research management and teaching. He is the founder of BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division, which is one of the largest and most respected NCU- based research units nationally and internationally. He has been involved in numerous global research, advocacy and study networks. Dr. Chowdhury is a Coordinator of the Task Force on Child Health and Maternal Health of the Millennium Project [MDG, 2002-2006] of the United Nations, New York. He is a member of the Coordinating group of Global Equity Gauge Alliance (GEGA) and former working group member of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). He is also the Co-Chair of the working group on " Priority Diseases" with Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) on Human Resource for Health [to list a few]. He serves on the Foundation Council (Board) of the Global Forum for



**Shahaduz Zaman** - MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor

Dr. Zaman is a medical doctor and has a Masters and PhD in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. He also has a Masters in

Public Health from National Institute of Preventive & Social Medicine (NIPSOM). He has worked as a public health physician for several years in community health projects in BRAC. He is involved in research and teaching and has published several books and articles in national and international journals. Dr. Shahaduz Zaman co-teaches Medical Anthropology and is the course coordinator for Qualitative Research Methods.



**Sabina Faiz Rashid** - Assistant Professor

Dr. Rashid has a Masters in Social Anthropology and a PhD in Medical Anthropology from The Australian National University, Australia. She

worked for several years as a senior researcher at BRAC, focusing on health, reproductive health and gender issues, and more recently on urban poverty. She is currently involved in both research and teaching, has co-authored a book and published articles in several international journals. She is the course coordinator of the Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights Course, and co-teaches Qualitative Research Methods at the School.



**Muhammad Mizanur Rashid Shuvra** - Lecturer

Dr. Shuvra Graduated from Mymensingh Medical College after which he worked with WHO in piloting the country's first study on Problem

Based Learning. He also worked as a training officer in the first national survey on Childhood blindness. Dr Shuvra was identified as a resource person by WHO to sensitize all the government medical colleges with Problem Based Learning through workshop

comprising 450 senior faculty members. After obtaining an MPH degree from BRAC School of Public Health, he was recruited as the first junior faculty in the School. He was awarded a fellowship by the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology and Biostatistics to take an advanced course in epidemiology and biostatistics in Florence, Italy.



**Rumana Akter** - Research Associate  
Ms. Akter is a nutritionist and has completed Masters in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Southampton in UK. She is involved with projects in Health Equity, Safe Motherhood and Promotion and Strengthening.



**Farhana Sultana** - Research Associate  
Dr. Farhana Sultana has a Masters in Public Health (in Epidemiology) from NIPSOM and a Medical Graduate (MBBS) from Dhaka University. Her areas of research interest are primarily Child Health, Infectious Disease and RTI/STIs and HIV/AIDS. She is presently involved in a multi-country international Research Project Consortium (RPC) Communicable Disease: Vulnerability, Risk and Poverty with focus on TB. Prior to this she was involved in a research with ICDDR, B on RTI/STIs of Hotel based sex workers. She also served as a teaching assistant in the Reproductive and Sexual Health & Rights course and Aging and Health Course at the School. She has also acquired skills in quantitative data analysis.



**Sabiha Chowdhuri** - Research Associate  
Ms. Chowdhuri completed her Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She was involved in a research project on 'Vitamin A' at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (July 2003-January 2004). Before joining BSPH in 2005, she was teaching science in Dhaka at a private School and University. At present she is involved in the Research Partnership Consortium - 'Realizing Rights: Improving reproductive and sexual health for poor and vulnerable populations', which is a DFID funded project and working on Reproductive and Sexual Health issues. She is also involved in the newly established Centre for Health Systems Studies.



**Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed** - Research and Academic Officer  
Dr. Ahmed has a Masters in Public Health (Health Services Management) from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK and is a Medical Graduate (MBBS) from Chittagong University. She has served as Lecturer, Family Welfare Visitor Training Institute, NIPORT, as an Assistant Director (Quality Assurance), Clinical Services, Directorate of Family Planning and also been in charge of the Family Planning Projects funded by World Bank as an Assistant Chief, Planning Unit, Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare. Her areas of interest are Reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and its gender dimension.



**Donald Bapi Das** - Department Coordination Officer  
Mr. Das completed his Masters in Business Administration with a focus on Management from Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines. He worked with International non-governmental organizations in administration for several years before joining the BRAC School.

## ICDDR, B staffs in the faculty of BRAC School of Public Health

ICDDR,B being a major partner contributes by letting its staff participates in teaching. The following is a list of such faculty:

Alejandro Cravioto: Dr. Alejandro Cravioto is the Deputy Executive Director of ICDDR, B and the Associate Dean of the BRAC School of Public Health. Dr Cravioto also supervises MPH students of BRAC School of Public Health during their Independent Research. He has an M.D. degree and is a Specialist in Pediatrics from the Faculty of Medicine of the National Autonomous University (UNAM) in Mexico City, as well as a Diploma in Tropical Public Health and a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of the University of London. Before coming to Bangladesh he was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of UNAM from 1995-2003.

Abbas Bhuiya: Dr. Abbas Bhuiya currently heads the Social and Behavioural Sciences Unit of ICDDR,B. He is also the adjunct Professor of BRAC School of faculty and coordinates the course on Biostatistics. Dr Bhuiya

has a number of research projects in different parts of Bangladesh. He also supervises MPH students during their Independent Research.

Shams El Arifeen: Dr Shams El Arifeen Heads the Child Health Unit of ICDDR, B as an epidemiologist. He is the Principal investigator of a number of projects in different parts of Bangladesh. Dr. Arifeen is also an adjunct Associate professor of the BRAC School of Public Health and coordinates the course on Epidemiology. He also directly supervises MPH students during their Independent Research.

Tahmeed Ahmed: Dr. Ahmed is the Head of Nutrition Programme and a Scientist in the Clinical Sciences Division of ICDDR,B. He is also the adjunct Associate Professor of James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. He teaches Clinical and Public Health Nutrition in the School and supervises MPH students during their independent research on nutrition-related issues. He also takes classes on nutrition at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. Dr Ahmed obtained his MBBS degree from University of Dhaka. He did his PhD from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He is the Principal Investigator of the newly launched global project called Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative.

Stephen Luby: Dr. Luby is Head of the Programme on Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Sciences at ICDDR, B, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh. He is an adjunct associate professor at the Emory School of Public Health, USA. He has authored over 100 scientific articles, the majority concerning communicable disease epidemiology in low-income countries. Dr. Luby holds an MD degree from the University of Texas--Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. Previously, he taught at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan as Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, Community Health Sciences Department and also worked for Centres for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, stationed at their South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Dr. Luby is an adjunct professor at the BRAC School of Public Health, where he teaches the infectious disease epidemiology course. He also supervises students during their independent research.

Marjorie Koblinsky: Dr. Koblinsky joined the ICDDR, B in 2004 as Director of the Public Health

Sciences Division. She is seconded from the International Health Department of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she is a Sr. Scientist. Her speciality is maternal health and mortality about which she has written and lectured extensively. Prior to joining JHU, Dr. Koblinsky directed a USAID project, MotherCare, for 12 years during which she organized and provided technical leadership for projects in over 25 countries, led international and technical meetings, and nurtured collaborative relations with other interested agencies, research institutions and individuals. She teaches the Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights course at the School.

Kazi Mizanur Rahman: Dr. Rahman is an Assistant Scientist at the Child Health Unit, under Public Health Sciences Division of ICDDR,B. Since 2000 he has worked in different public health research projects of ICDDR,B that cover varying research areas including child health, infectious diseases, nutrition, vaccine evaluations, reproductive health, health service delivery etc. Currently he is a co-investigator of a study evaluating the role of community health workers on community case management of pneumonia. He also worked as an Assistant Supervisor with a MPH student for the final thesis in session 2006-2007. Dr. Rahman obtained MBBS degree from Dhaka Medical College under Dhaka University in 1998. He graduated from Harvard University in 2004 and obtained Master of Science degree in Epidemiology. Dr. Rahman is also Teaching Assistant and Faculty in the MPH programme at the BRAC School. The courses he is involved in are Epidemiology and Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases of Importance in Developing Countries.

## **BRAC Staffs involved at BRAC School of Public Health**

Faruque Ahmed: Mr. Ahmed is the Director of BRAC Health Programme. He has an MPH from Johns Hopkins University. His area of interest is to take an economic and multi- sectoral perspective on public health performance and to build on the existing policy framework at country level. He has also research interest on the most promising strategy or strategies for engaging private sectors for maternal and child health, and sector goal in country context.

Kaosar Afsana: Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Programme Coordinator of BRAC Health Programme is responsible for rural and urban Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Programme in BRAC. Her research interests are reproductive health, particularly maternal and child health, health sector, gender and research methodology. Her PhD thesis addressed maternal health and health care in Bangladesh. She was awarded with the President's prize from Asian Studies Association of Australia in 2004 for writing the best thesis on Asian topic. Dr Afsana is a Harvard Alumni and also a member of Bangladesh Obstetric and Gynecological Association. She lectures in the Reproductive & Sexual Health & Rights course.

Akramul Islam: Dr. Islam, Programme Manager of BRAC Health Programme is responsible for TB and Malaria control programmes. He has a PhD from Tokyo University and has published widely.

Syed Masud Ahmed: Dr. Ahmed is a Research Coordinator at the Research and Evaluation Division (RED), BRAC. He is a medical doctor with a Doctorate in Public Health. His research interests include studying the impact of health and non-health interventions on the lives of the poor especially, women and children, and exploring the mechanisms of such impact, gender and health equity and health-seeking behaviour of the disadvantaged populations.

Nasima Akter: Dr. Akter is a Research Fellow and Team Leader of the Environmental Research Unit at RED, BRAC. She has a Masters in Environmental Risk Assessment from Chiangmai University, Thailand and doctorate in technical science degree in Environmental Technology and Management from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Her research areas include municipal and medical waste management, natural resource conservation, renewable energy, health and environment, and environmental assessment.

## Other Faculty

### Bilqis Amin Hoque

Dr. Hoque is currently Director of Research and Training at the Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC). She has a Masters in Engineering from University of Reading, U.K. and a PhD in Civil Engineering (Bio-environmental Engineering) from Oklahoma State University, U.S.A. Previously she has

worked as Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, South Asia Infrastructure, at the World Bank, Dhaka and was Head of Environmental Health Programme (EHP) at ICDDR,B. She was also Visiting Professor of Integrated Management for Disaster Risk at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of Kyoto University, Japan as well as Part Time Faculty, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). She is the Coordinator for and teaches the Environment and Health course at the BRAC School.

### Ferdous Osman

Dr Osman is an Associate Professor of the Department of Public Administration of Dhaka University. She has a PhD on The Dynamics of the Public Policy Making Process: A Case Study of the Health Policy of Bangladesh from Department of Government, University of Manchester, UK. She is an adjunct faculty at BRAC University. Her research interests extend to the field of Health and Population, Governance, NGOs, Local Government and health systems.

## International Faculty

International faculty at the BRAC School of Public Health represent nine renowned universities from Europe and North America. Modular course work allows these faculty members to spend time away from their affiliated institutions in the North and teach at the School. (Faculty are listed alphabetically).

### **Alayne Adams, PhD**

Dr. Adams is Assistant Professor at Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at the



Dr. Alayne Adams, Columbia University, guides students during the fieldwork for "Introduction to Public Health" course..

Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. She is currently working for the World Health Organization in Geneva. She teaches the Introduction to Public Health course at the School.

#### **Paul W. Brandt-Rauf, PhD**

Paul W. Brandt-Rauf is Department Chair, Environmental Health Sciences, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health and Deputy Director, Columbia Centre for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan. Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf's research and teaching focus on occupational and environmental carcinogenesis and examination of the ethical issues in this type of research. He taught the course on Environment and Health at the School.

#### **Richard Cash, MD, MPH**

Dr. Cash is Senior Lecturer in International Health, Department of Population and International Health at Harvard University. He is presently the Principal Investigator of a NIH training grant on "Ethical Issues in International Health Research". He is also an Adjunct Professor at the BRAC School.

#### **Sjaak van der Geest, PhD**

Sjaak van der Geest is Professor of Medical Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam, dean of the Amsterdam Master's in Medical Anthropology (AMMA), head of the Medical Anthropology and Sociology Unit, and editor-in-chief of the journal *Medische Antropologie*. He has done fieldwork in Ghana and Cameroon on a variety of subjects including the use and distribution of medicines, popular song texts, meanings of growing old, and concepts of dirt and defecation. He teaches the Anthropological Approaches to Public Health course at the School.



Dr. Sjaak van der Geest and Dr. Shahaduz Zaman at Savar campus

#### **Joseph Graziano, PhD**

Dr. Graziano is Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University and Professor of Pharmacology, College of Physicians and Surgeons. Recently, Dr. Graziano's work has taken him to Bangladesh, where his current research is aimed at understanding the consequences of arsenic exposure on the Bangladeshi population, and on devising strategies to reduce toxicity and provide arsenic-free drinking water, a problem that spans beyond the political borders of Bangladesh, to much of South Asia, from India to Vietnam. He taught the Environment and Health course at the BRAC School.

#### **Muhiuddin Haider, PhD**

Dr. Haider is an Associate Professor of Global Health in the Department of Global Health, George Washington University. From Asia and the Middle East, to sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, Professor Haider has worked on the ground to strengthen the health systems of developing nations. Among his areas of special expertise are health communications, infrastructure development, training, capacity building and health care reform, with an emphasis on reproductive health, family planning, AIDS prevention, maternal and neonatal health, child survival and water management. He taught the Health Communication course at the School.

#### **Anwar Islam, PhD**

Dr. Islam is Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University. He led the course of Management of Health Programmes at the School. Previously he also taught at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan and worked for the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) in Ottawa.



Dr. Anwar Islam (2nd from left) with some of the MPH students



### **Zarina Nahar Kabir, PhD**

Dr. Kabir is Head of Unit, Public Health and Caring Sciences in Life Course Perspectives, Department of Neurology, Care Sciences & Society at the Karolinska Institute. Her research interests are primarily in elderly health. She has recently completed an EU funded three-country research project on primary health care at the later stages of life. She taught the Aging and Health course at the School.

### **Kent Ranson, PhD**

Dr. Ranson is Clinical Lecturer, Health Economics & Financing, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). His research is in areas of health care financing, health inequalities and health policy. He is project supervisor to a number of LSHTM distance learning masters students. He taught the Health Economics and financing course at the School.



Kent Ranson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, with the students at a field visit during their "Health Economics" course.

### **Jon Rohde, MD**

Dr. Rohde is Co-chair of the Internal Advisory Board of the School and teaches in the Public health Nutrition course at the School. He was former UNICEF representative for India and is an Adjunct Professor of the BRAC School.

### **Diana Romero, PhD**

Dr. Romero is Latino Fellowship Director, Latino Fellowship Program, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health and Assistant Professor of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Dr. Romero's research interests include domestic reproductive-health and poverty policy; factors influencing contraceptive decision-making; and, Latino health issues. She teaches the Quantitative Research Methods course at the School.

### **Malabika Sarker, PhD**

Dr. Sarkar is a Reproductive Health Specialist at the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health at the University of Heidelberg Medical School. She has previously worked in the primary health programme of BRAC. She teaches the Reproductive Health course at the BRAC School.

### **Md Shahidullah, PhD**

Dr. Shahidullah is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Sociology/Anthropology Department at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He serves on the Advisory Council for the elimination of childhood lead poisoning in Illinois in USA. He taught Biostatistics course at the BRAC School.

### **Damian Walker, PhD**

Dr. Walker is Research Fellow in Health Economics, Health Policy Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). His research interests include economics of introducing new or under-utilised vaccines in developing countries. He taught the Health Economics and financing course at the BRAC School.

### **Lydia Zablotska, PhD**

Dr. Zablotska is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Zablotska has been involved in an EPA-funded cohort study investigating carcinogenic effects of arsenic exposure among 10,000 adults in Bangladesh. In addition to directing the largest introductory class in epidemiology, she continues to teach an advanced research methods



Dr. Lydia Zablotska explains the grading criteria for the Epidemiology course.

seminar for doctoral students in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University. She taught the Epidemiology course at the School.

## Technical Supervisors

During the 3rd block i.e., independent study, of the MPH programme, supervisors specialized in various fields of public health gave technical advice to the students. The supervisors for the academic year 2006-07 are listed in Annex 4.



MPH Students leaving for a field visit in Savar

## Professional Activities of Academic Staff

### Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director

■ May 2006 - participated in a workshop on “Neonatal Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries” in San Francisco, USA organized by the Programme for Global Paediatric Research. Participants were paediatric researchers, and representatives of societies and other organizations committed to child health.

■ November 2006 - attended a workshop titled “Institutional Innovations in Global Health: New Ways for Linking Knowledge with Action to Improve Health in Developing Countries” at Boston, USA organized by Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Harvard School of Public Health, and Boston University School of Public Health.

### Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean

■ August 2006 - attended a meeting of the African civil society in Dakar, Senegal on Education Watch. Based on the success of the Bangladesh Education Watch, several countries in Asia Pacific and Africa are planning to initiate similar activities in their countries/regions. Dr. Chowdhury also attended a similar meeting in Jakarta in May 2006. In both the meetings he acted as a resource person. It may be mentioned that Dr. Chowdhury is the founding

coordinator Working Group of the Bangladesh Education Watch.

■ August 2006 - attended a two-day consultative meeting on health systems in Toronto, Canada sponsored by USAID. The meeting was attended by health systems professionals from developing countries. The meeting set up a network called “Health Systems Action Network” (HSAN). Dr Chowdhury has been selected as member of the steering committee of this network. The Dean was one of the 25 participants selected out of a pool of 400 applicants.

■ September 2006 - attended the launch of BRAC USA in New York on September 18. Hosted by Prof Allan Rosenfield, Dean of Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, the meeting was attended by over 20 prominent US-based friends of BRAC. The first BRAC USA Board consists of Prof. Allan Rosenfield, Dr. Richard Cash (of Harvard University) and Ms. Susan Davis (of Ashoka). Both Professors Rosenfield and Cash are also directly involved with the BRAC School as members of the International Advisory Board. The Founder- Chairperson of BRAC Mr. FH Abed also attended the launch.

■ September 2006 attended the second Clinton Global Initiative meeting in New York.

■ November in 2006 - attended a panel co-organised by The School on “Higher Public Health Education” at the American Public Health Association Conference in Boston, USA.

## Membership of Boards/Committees

Dr. AMR Chowdhury joined Boards/Committees of the following:

■ Editorial Board of “Global Public Health” published from USA.

■ Editorial board of “PLoS Medicine” published from USA.

■ Interim Steering Committee of the Partnership on Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)

■ Board member of Important Gifts Inc, New York

■ Foundation Council, Global Forum on Health Research, WHO, Geneva

■ Technical Committee, Bangladesh Demographic & Health Survey (BDHS)

**Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor**

■ May 2006 - attended the inception meeting of a Research Programme Consortium (RPC) on Communicable Diseases at Leeds University, U.K. This is a multiple country project involving government and non-government organizations from Nepal, Pakistan, China, Ghana, Uganda, and the United Kingdom. The School will be one of the Partners in this Research Consortium.

■ June 2006 -attended a “Workshop on Advanced Qualitative Research Methodology” in University of Alberta, Canada.

■ September 2006 attended a two week course on “Quality Management in

■ International Health” at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

■ January 2007-chaired the module on 'Social, Cultural and Historical dimensions of Infectious Disease' to graduate students at the Medical Anthropology department of University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor**

■ February 2006 - attended a workshop on 'Bioethics', at ICDDR, B which was facilitated by Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Amar Jasani, (CEHAT, India).

■ April June 2006 - awarded a Fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. The Asia Research Institute (ARI) was established as a university-level institute in July 2001 as one of the strategic initiatives of the National University of Singapore (NUS). During this fellowship, she spent 3 months analysing data and writing a research paper on 'marriage and the changing family in urban slums', under the mentorship of Professor Gavin Jones, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

■ November 2006 - attended the launching of 'Health Systems 20/20' in Washington DC on November 3, 2006. This is a new USAID funded initiative which encourages partnerships and future work on Health Systems. The School along with 11 partners from developing and developed countries will work closely with Abt Associates, the lead partner, based in the USA.

■ November 2006 - presented a paper on 'Urbanization and Poverty: Existing Sexual and Reproductive Health Challenges for Married Adolescent Women in Slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh.' This conference was organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), in collaboration with Centre for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies (CEDUA), in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico, She was also part of a panel to discuss 'Reproductive Health Policies and Programs.'

■ February 2007 - participated in Good Practices Dissemination, EC/UNFPA - Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA), in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Continuing capacity development**

In 2006 BSPH staff participated in several training, workshops and conferences:

■ Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Research Associate, completed a 3-week course (19th Residential Summer Course) offered by the European Educational Programme on Epidemiology in Florence, Italy from 26th June to 14th July .The course covered Advanced Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Seventy participants chosen from all over the world attended it. He is one of 5 who received a fellowship primarily funded by Pan American Health Organization.

■ Dr Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Research Associate, attended a course in Colombo, Sri Lanka organized by the Global Equity Gauge Alliance and participated by delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Brazil, Guatemala, USA, Nairobi, S. Africa, Kenya and Burkina Faso. This course on Health Equity and Health System Management was a certificate course held between 4th and 10th December 2006.

■ BSPH faculty members, including Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director, Dr. Zarina Kabir, Senior Fellow, Dr. MS Laskar, Senior Research Associate, and Research Associates Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Ms. Sabiha Chowdhuri, Ms. Rumana Akter and Dr. Farhana Sultana attended the two-day “2nd National Conference on Breast Feeding & Complementary Feeding” held at the (Institute of Child and Maternal Health (ICMH), Matuail, arranged by the Bangladesh Breast Feeding Foundation. Over 700 participants attended the conference from across the county. Dr. Demissie Habte was the chairperson for the opening session of the conference. Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra and Rumana Akter presented papers in the conference.

■ London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK organized a “Violence Against Women” research training workshop in November 2006. Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor and Ms. Sabiha Chowdhuri, Research Associate, attended this workshop.

### **BSPH Core Faculty Publications 2006-07**

Afsana, K, Rashid, SF, (2006) *Voice and Accountability. The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006. Abridged Report. Bangladesh Health Watch 2006, December.*

Chowdhury, AMR et al (2006). *Development Knowledge and experience from Bangladesh to Afghanistan and beyond. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 84 (8)*

Chowdhury, AMR; Sadana, R; and A. Petrikova (2007). *Editorial: Strengthening public health education and training to improve global health. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, March 2007, 85 (3)*

Chowdhury AMR (2006) *Equity Sensitive Services: Lessons from four Case Studies. The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006. Abridged Report. Bangladesh Health Watch 2006. December.*

Rahman, M. Shuvra (2006). *Evidence of arsenic in human milk: a preliminary study on dose-response relationship. Published in the proceedings of 2nd National Conference for Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding 19-20 August 2006.*

Rashid, SF (2006) *Emerging Changes in Reproductive*

*Behaviour among Married Adolescent Girls in an Urban Slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Reproductive Health Matters* Volume 14 number 27, May.

Rashid, SF (2006). *'Marriage Practices in an Urban Slum: Vulnerability, Challenges to Traditional Arrangements and Resistance by Adolescent Women in Dhaka, Bangladesh'. Working Paper Series No. 72, Asia Research Institute, (August). National University of Singapore*

Rashid, SF (2006). *Small Powers, Little Choice: Contextualising Reproductive and Sexual Rights in Slums in Bangladesh. IDS Bulletin, Vol 37 No 5, October.*

Rashid SF (2006). *'Women, Gender and Virginty: Discourses and Practices in South Asia', in Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, Volume III, [general ed] Suad Joseph and senior acquisitions editor Olaf Kondgen. Brill Academic Publishers, The Netherlands.*

Rashid, SF (2007). *Durbolota (Weakness), Chinta roge (Worry Illness) and Poverty: Explanations of White Discharge among Married Adolescent Women in an Urban Slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Medical Anthropology Quarterly, vol 21, no 1.*

Sultana, Farhana (2007). Abstract (no. 046-MDG-4) titled *Nutritional status of children of mothers working in garments factories with and without daycare centers* has been accepted for the 11th ASCON, held from 4-6 March 2007.

Zaman, Shahaduz (2006) *Beds in a Bangladeshi hospital. Medische Antropologie 18 (1): 193-204.*

# Global Recognitions and Activities

## Richard Cash Receives Prince Mahidol Award

Dr. Richard Alan Cash along with Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis and Dr. David R. Nalin, were awarded the 2006 Prince Mahidol Award, presented annually



Dr. Richard Cash (2nd from left) along with other recipients of the Prince Mahidol award.

for outstanding contributions in public health and medicine, at an awards ceremony presided over by His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej of Thailand on January 31 2007 at the Chakri Throne Hall in Bangkok, Thailand. The three award recipients have been individually honoured for their important efforts in testing and implementing the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS). The Prince Mahidol Awards (one for public health and another for medicine) are conferred annually upon individuals, groups, or institutions that have demonstrated “outstanding and exemplary contributions to the advancement of medical and public health services for humanity throughout the world.” The award is sometimes referred to as the “Nobel Prize for Public Health.”

Dr. Cash is currently Senior Lecturer on International Health, Department of Population and International Health and Director of the Programme on Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Harvard School of Public Health and is also a Professor of the BRAC University James P. Grant School of Public Health.

## Dean receives “Social Innovator of the Year” Award

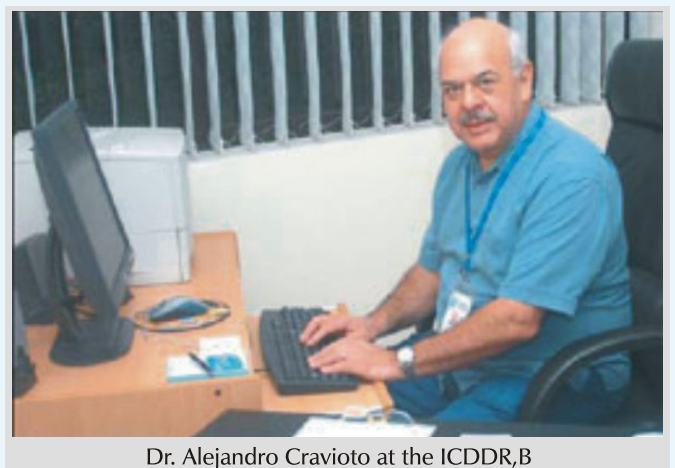


Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury holds the “Social Innovator of the Year Award.” He is flanked by Todd Manwaring, Managing Director, Centre for Economic Self-Reliance, Brigham Young University (Right) and Ned Hill, Dean, Marriott Business School, Brigham Young University (Left)

Brigham Young University (BYU), USA, honoured Dr. A Mushtaque R. Chowdhury, Dean of the School and Deputy Executive Director of BRAC and Dr. Jordan Kassalow of Scojo Foundation, New York, USA with Social Innovators of the Year Award' for their contribution to the idea of low cost reading glasses for the poor. Dr. Chowdhury was also selected as 'Hero of the Week' by Prothom Alo (leading national newspaper) for his contribution in this area.

## Associate Dean made Executive Director of ICDDR,B

Dr. Alejandro Cravioto, Deputy Executive Director of



Dr. Alejandro Cravioto at the ICDDR,B

ICDDR,B and Associate Dean of the James P. Grant School of Public Health has been made Executive Director of ICDDR,B. He will replace Professor David Sack in May 2007.

### **BSPH Graduates Awarded**



Manjula Singh was one of the five Medal finalist for the 'Global Development Awards and Medals Competition 2006' in the category Global Health Concerns, Domestic Responses and Reforms at the GDN's Eighth Annual Global Development Conference in Beijing, China (in January 2007). Manjula Singh presented her paper titled "Exploring perceptions of the ultra poor for low utilization of micro-health insurance schemes, BRAC, Bangladesh. Manjula graduated from BSPH in 2006



Ayesha Sania is the proud winner of an international essay competition on global health issues. The competition was organized for the under 30s researchers jointly by the Geneva-based Global Health Research Forum (located at the WHO Headquarters) and The Lancet (prestigious British Medical Journal) on the occasion of Global Health Forum annual meeting to be held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 October to 2 November, 2006 (see below). Her essay entitled "First Breath: who takes care of the new born in the critical minutes immediately after birth" was selected as one of the four best essays of the competition. Ayesha graduated from BSPH in 2006.

### **BSPH Graduates accepted in PhD programmes**

Victoria Nankabirwa, MPH graduate of the BRAC School of Public Health, was accepted to Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health to attain a PhD in Epidemiology for Fall 2007.

Rumana Jesmin Khan, MPH graduate of BSPH, received a Fogarty Fellowship and has been enrolled in the Ph. D Programme in Epidemiology (Designated Emphasis on International and Community Nutrition) at University of California, Davis for Fall 2007.

### **Fulbright Scholar spends Six Months at BSPH**

Dr. Mohammed Shahidullah spent six months (December 2005 to June 2006) as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the BRAC School of Public Health. During this period, he taught biostatistics, introduction to online learning and marriage and the family and gave seminars on public health programme evaluation, social research methods and online learning. He also initiated Association of Fulbrighters Bangladesh and developed mission, goals and strategic priorities to establish a health system development and policy research centre at the BRAC School of public health

### **SPH featured in World Health Report**

The BRAC School of Public Health was highlighted in the World Health Report 2006. The following is an excerpt from the report:

" In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the BRAC University James P. Grant School of Public Health aims to train a cadre of professionals who will improve the health outcomes of populations in disadvantaged areas of the world.

- Its first 25 students are mostly from low-income countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Uganda but also from the United States and graduated in January 2006.
- Students learn through fieldwork centered around the public health practitioners, managers, researchers, educator and policy-makers, and the school will run an active placement service.

Students and teaching staff benefit from a close collaboration with Bangladesh's Centre for Health and Population Research (ICDDR,B). Staff members are drawn from Bangladesh, the region and internationally, which adds to a stimulating environment, as do the prestigious partners from around the world."

### **BSPH in Review of APHA panel in Medscape**

During the 134th Annual Meeting of the American

Public Health Association (APHA), Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury presented a paper on the MPH programme of BSPH as part of addressing the topic of International Public Health Education (IPHE). Dr. Omar Khan of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health wrote a review on this panel on IPHE and this review was highlighted in the Medscape webpage. (Medscape is the largest medical web portal for US-based physicians, and also are involved in public health and preventive medicine.) It may be mentioned that only a few of the thousands of panels at APHA were chosen to be highlighted on this website. Highlights from this review are given in Box 7.

## Visiting Professors

Dr. Zarina Kabir from Karolinska Institute, Sweden, served as visiting Senior Fellow at the School from July through September 2006. Dr. Kabir was involved in

putting together a concept paper on establishing a Centre for Health Systems Studies, its vision and goals and future agenda. During her time in Dhaka, she also worked on a proposal with other staff members for funding on institutional capacity building to submit to the European Union in 2006.

Dr. Hilary Standing, Fellow, Knowledge, Technology and Society Team, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, served as Visiting Professor at the School from December 2006 until March 2007. During this period, she examined a number of MPH theses and gave feedback to students. She also worked closely with BRAC SPH members of the Research Programme Consortium titled “Realizing Rights: Improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations” on setting up the Chakaria research project. (Please see page 19 on research partnerships for more detail).

### • Box 7: Medscape highlights the mention of BSPH in APHA panel

The annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) provided a unique venue for addressing the topic of international public health education (IPHE). The APHA works closely on educational issues with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and the Association of Schools of Public Health.

In theory, a system of public health education conferring recognized degrees, set up within the developing setting, can have many advantages. In the presentations at the APHA meeting, some of these benefits, as well as some challenges, were described. Professor Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, James P. Grant School of Public Health, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, presented data from his programme. The BRAC University experience is unique because the organization started off as a nongovernmental organization without a specific focus on higher education. The programme continues to work on areas of human development, including rural development, women's empowerment, and income generation activities for the underserved. At the same time, the BRAC University now has a reputation in its own right as a centre of higher learning in Bangladesh.

Two years ago, the university received a substantial grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to set up an indigenous MPH programme of international quality. Prof. Chowdhury highlighted the regulatory steps needed for this to occur, which then led to the first MPH class being graduated last year. Several themes were discussed during his presentation, including student selection and recruitment and curriculum development.

The BRAC programme was fully funded from inception, making it tuition-free for those accepted. Rather than presenting a challenge in terms of sustainability, this provided an impetus for gathering the best and brightest students and faculty not only from Bangladesh, but also from the region and internationally. Thus, the Grant School of Public Health is confident of achieving sustainability by now also being able to attract fee-paying candidates who can train in Bangladesh at the fraction of the cost incurred by going to the United States or United Kingdom for public health education.

Source: [www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com)

## Swedish Ambassador visits Savar Campus

The Ambassador of Sweden in Bangladesh, Mrs. Britt Hagstrom, visited the Savar campus of the School on July 3rd 2006. She addressed the MPH students and exchanged views with them on various issues of development, particularly gender and leadership development in the context of the developing world and Sweden. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro- Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director, and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the School, received her on the occasion.

## Internships

Kasey Kozara, a 2006 BRAC University Research Intern from the United States, completed research during the months of July and August in the area of reproductive health communications, through a new partnership programme coordinated and implemented by Professor David Ludden of University of Pennsylvania and funded by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS). Kasey was received by the BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health under the mentorship of Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid. Kasey expects she will return to Bangladesh to continue research in the summer of 2007, when she will have completed a reproductive health fellowship in Lucknow, India.

Anne Shinn, an MPH student in the Global Track of the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, spent six months (July-December 2006) at the BSPH. During her internship she worked with BRAC's Health Programme in developing an intervention for intravenous drug users (IDUs) under the HIV/AIDS programme.

## Perspectives of Course Evaluator

Peter Cronin, a PhD student from Columbia University, evaluated the BSPH MPH programme in 2005 as part of his PhD thesis. Here's a short excerpt from his perspectives of the programme:

“Bangladesh, itself, presented the greatest teaching experience for the students as they left the classroom to go “into the field” to practically apply what they learned. The villages, health centers, hospitals, government offices and the people of Bangladesh were the students greatest teachers. On one particular field visit, I watched with keen interest as students spread out at a local health clinic and interviewed staff, observed records, questioned patients, assessed quality of care, and probed deeply into the processes behind the clinic's operation. This task was not simply an assignment for class, but a full-fledged investigation. Various students' strengths surfaced as small groups collaborated to finish the task before them.

The synthesis of this exercise culminated in an enlightening learning experience for the entire class, as well as the professors present. In a short time, students produced quality presentations that helped fuse their classroom knowledge with their experience. I always left these presentations impressed with their thoroughness and with the students' abilities to incorporate a vast amount of material in a succinct manner.”



# Seminar Series

## Distinguished Guest Seminars

The School organized seminars for students, and invited a series of distinguished speakers working in the area of public health. The speakers covered topics such as management problems in public hospitals, health environments, religion and public health, reproductive health and rights of adolescents and shared experiences with students and faculty throughout the year (see Annex 3). Presentations were focused primarily on Programme Design and Evaluation.

Among the distinguished presenters were: Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa, Japanese expert in tuberculosis, gave a presentation on "Tuberculosis in Bangladesh" while Dr. Rukhsana Haider, Regional Adviser, Nutrition, WHO, South-East Asian Regional Office

spoke on "Global strategy for infant and young child feeding (IYCF)". Ms. Ana Coglan of Action and Consulting gave a seminar on "Programme Evaluation in Public Health". Another seminar was presented by Dipu Moni. She made a presentation titled "Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents". Dr. Naseem Rashid, was guest speaker and presented on "Afghanistan Experience, Maternal and Child Health." Moulana Abul Kalam Azad presented on "Religion and Public Health". He heads Masjid Council for Community Advancement (MACCA)- a programme partner of World Bank and USAIDS's partner Family Health International (FHI). In 2006, BSPH also invited a number of guest lecturers from abroad including Dr. Sajeda Amin, Population Council, New York, who presented on "Popular perceptions of Emerging influences on Mortality and longevity in Bangladesh and West Bengal" while Professor David Ludden, University of Pennsylvania, presented on "Health Environments: Descriptions, Analysis & Intervention". Many guests participated in these seminars, including staff from ICDDR, Band BRAC.

## Student Seminars

Students also presented a series of seminars on global and national public health issues in the first semester (See Annex 5). The topics were selected from all 17 chapters of the book "Saving Million Lives" (Publisher: Centre for Global Development, Washington DC, 2004).

"I believe I have certainly emerged as a more knowledgeable and skillful public health professional in last one year, and I think it will be evident in the future works I do. I assure you all that my works in public health field will be the ambassador of the school wherever I am. I'll work my best to keep the honour of the award up -- always!"

Amit Bhandari, MPH Graduate 2007

# Future plans of the School

## Centre for Qualitative Research Methods

Although for many decades the research world in the field of health and development was dominated by quantitative research, in recent years there is a growing demand for qualitative research as well. However, there is no organized effort to train the theoretical and practical aspects of qualitative research methodologies in Bangladesh. BRAC School of Public Health has faculty members who have long term experience in conducting qualitative research and special expertise in teaching qualitative research

methodologies. Under this context BRAC School of Public Health has decided to establish a 'Centre for Qualitative Research Methods' which will conduct regular training sessions for researchers interested in doing qualitative research.

## Strengthening Public Health Capacity in Bangladesh

**Training of Upazila Health & Family Planning Officers:** The Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme of the Government Bangladesh is critically dependent on the performance of Upazila Health & Family Planning Officers who oversee health services in the 464 Upazilas (sub-districts) of Bangladesh. The BSPH plans to develop a training programme to prepare these officers for their important task. The School (as well as other training institutions) will then offer a short course (6 months) leading to a diploma in public health

**Continuous Professional Development:** The School will offer short training courses lasting one to two weeks to health professionals engaged in public health practice. The School will also examine the feasibility of this training being offered as distance

"I wanted to congratulate all of you for all your hard work and dedication to us. It is not easy to run a school, but you (BSPH faculty) managed things very gracefully. Thank you for the opportunity that was given to me. I am indebted to all of you for all the support. Please also convey my utmost gratitude to Mr. Abed. Bangladesh and the James P. Grant School of Public Health will be a life long lesson for me. Thank you for everything."

Jawaid Stationwala, MPH Graduate 2007

# Adieu Demissie Habte, International Director

Professor Demissie Habte has been the international Director of the School since its inception in 2005. After two years of his critical contribution for the initiation and running of the School, Dr. Habte left to return to his native country Ethiopia. He will be immensely missed at the School. We wish him and his family good health and happiness.



Dr. Demissie Habte receives a crest as a token of appreciation from Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed on behalf of the BRAC School of Public Health.

# Funding

## A. *Expenditure of MPH Programme:*

	Amount in 2006 Taka	Amount in 2005 Taka
A.1 <i>Teachers Cost:</i>	11,822,239	16,812,221
A.2 <i>Students Cost:</i>	5,589,814	7,887,382
A1.3 <i>Operational Cost</i>	10,192,459	6,007,648
A.4 <i>Capital expenditure</i>	2,338,311	4,459,811
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>29,942,823</b>	<b>35,167,062</b>

### *Expenditure Financed by:*

BRAC	20,848,496	18,903,682
James P Grant Trust for International Social Development	2,713,088	13,632,140
ICDDR B	2,832,857	-
UNICEF	538,200	2,597,440
Students contribution	3,595,124	33,800
<b>Total :</b>	<b>30,527,765</b>	<b>35,167,062</b>

## B. *Expenditure of research projects*

	Donation received 2006 in Taka	Expenditure for 2006 in Taka
B.1 An Ethnography study on reproductive Health of Married Adolescents in an Urban Slum in Dhaka	404,682	462,308
B.2 RPC on Realizing Rights: improving sexual and reproductive health for poor and vulnerable populations	3,891,028	3,864,734
B.3 Urban Slum and Infant Health Project ( Project has commenced)	-	256,977
	<b>4,295,710</b>	<b>4,584,019</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34,823,475</b>	<b>39,751,081</b>

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1:

### Student Research Topics

Name of Student	Title of Research
Alexander Miloff	An Analysis of Risk Factors for Post-supplementation Zinc Deficiency in Under-Three Year-Old Children
Amit Bhandari	Barriers to access to safe abortion services: Perspectives of potential clients of a hilly district of Nepal
Bethual Mbugua	Risk factors of malnutrition of children under two years of age: results from a study done in Narsingdi Sadar
Bihita Bidhan Khisa	“Health Seeking Behaviour among rural population in Chittagong Hill Tracts: Determinants & Options”
Diana Nelson	Chronicle of life: Obstetric care practices by Rohingyas in Kutupalong Camp and Tal-Makeshift Camp at Cox’s Bazar District , Chittagong
Farah Naz Hossain	Exposing a serious waste- Quality and quantity of waste produced by a tertiary health care facility in Dhaka city.
Habibullah Habib	Knowledge Attitude and Practice of general adult population regarding TB in Rural area in Kabul, Afghanistan
Ilias Mahmud	Health Seeking Behavior of Disabled People Attending a Specialized Rehabilitation Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Jawaid Stationwala	Domains of Health for Working Children in a Bihari Camp in Mohammedpur, Dhaka: From the Tangible to the Intangible
Mahjabeen Ahmed	Dental Caries and Teeth Cleaning Practices among BRAC Primary School Children in Dhaka City
Md. Saiful Islam	Exploring Highest Circulated Newspaper’s Coverage on Health Issues in Bangladesh
Muhammad Aziz Rahman	Risk of Coronary Heart disease with various forms of tobacco consumption among young patients attending a tertiary care cardiac hospital in Bangladesh

Name of Student	Title of Research
Nadia Ishrat Alamgir	Coping strategies for financial burdens in families with Acute Respiratory Infections
Nang Mo Hom	A Study of Menstrual Regulation Service delivery practices of a government and non-government clinics in Dhaka City, Bangladesh
Nasima Selim	Cultural Dimension And Socio Demographic correlates of depression in Matlab, Bangladesh
Noah Levinson	Bypassing the Moneylenders: A Micro Health Insurance Viability Assessment in a Kolkata Slum
Priya Satalkar	'What women want?' Women's journey through Pregnancy and Childbirth in a Municipal Hospital in Mumbai city.
Ramiro L Torrez	A proposal to prevent malnutrition in El Alto-Bolivia " Identifying the best solutions for the community from experts within the community"
Saiqa Siraj	Street Children in Dhaka: Socio-cultural Correlates of Malnutrition .
Samiyah Arshad	Unemployment; A Health Risk in a Marginalized Population
Shameem Ahmed	Exploring the perception of Guardians about Child Drowning in Rural Bangladesh
Sharifa Nasreen	Food Adulteration in Dhaka City: Assessing temporal trends and Consumers awareness
Shershah Amin	Family Planning in Rural Afghanistan: Perception of Married Women of Reproductive Age (MWRA) Towards Family Planning and Factors Influencing the use of Family Planning Methods
Susan Nakuti	Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Developing Countries: A case of Construction Workers in Niketan, Dhaka City Bangladesh
Tanveer M Kamal	Hygiene Constraints in Rural Bangladesh
Tanzeeba A Huq	The Impact of Health and Nutrition Education on Knowledge and Practice of Mothers with under Three year Old Children

# Annex 2:

## Distinguished Seminar Series

	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa, Expert in Tuberculosis, Research Institute of Tuberculosis (RIT), Japan.	“Tuberculosis in Bangladesh”	June
2	Ana Cogan, Consultant, Action and Consulting	“Programme Evaluation in Public Health”	July
3	Maj Gen (Retd) Dr Shahjahan, Advisor, School of Health Sciences, State University of Bangladesh	Management Problem in Public Hospitals- A step toward solution.	August
4	Sajeda Amin, Population Council, New York, USA	Popular Perceptions of Emerging Influences on Mortality and Longevity in Bangladesh and West Bengal	August
5	Professor David Ludden, University of Pennsylvania, USA	“Health Environments: Descriptions, Analysis & Interventions”	August
6	Dr. Rukhsana Haider, Regional Adviser, Nutrition, WHO, South-East Asian Regional Office (WHO-SEARO), New Delhi, India.	Global strategy for infant and young child feeding (IYCF)	August
7	Dr. Dipu Moni, Independent Public Health professional	Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents.	September
8	Dr. Naseem Rashid, Consultant and Chair, Department of OB/GYN, United Hospital, Dhaka	Afghanistan Experience, Maternal and Child Health.	October
9	Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Head, Masjid Council for Community Advancement (MACCA), Dhaka	Religion and Public Health	November

# Annex 3:

## Profile of MPH Students 2006-2007

### International Students



#### **Habibullah Habib**

Habibullah is a Medical Doctor. He completed his degree in 2002 from Kabul Medical Institute, Afghanistan. He joined National Tuberculosis Institute and served in different departments. Later joined as Surveillance and Monitoring & Evaluation In-charge of National Tuberculosis Program.



#### **Shershah Amin**

Shershah is a Medical Doctor. He completed his degree in 2001 from Balkh Medical College, Afghanistan. He was medical doctor at the Military Hospital & in a Public Hospital, Balkh Province. Later on he joined BRAC Afghanistan as medical officer and was promoted to serve as a Medical Coordinator for Tuberculosis programme till joining the MPH program.



#### **Ramiro Llanque Torrez**

Ramiro completed his Bachelor degree in Medicine from San Xavier University, Bolivia in 1993. Recently he was working as the Operations Manager for Consejo de Salud Rural Andino. Ramiro worked for the Ministry of Health-Bolivia for few years in different positions.



#### **Alexander Miloff**

Alexander has a bachelor degree in Life Sciences from Queen's University, Canada. He worked as research assistant for Queen's Programme for International Development (QPID), Nicaragua and ICDDR,B, Bangladesh. He is joining MPH programme after serving as a Junior Project manager for Bernard Benoit Project Management (BBPM) in Ottawa, Canada.



#### **Priya Promod Satalkar**

Priya completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Mumbai, India in 2003. Before joining the JPGSPH MPH programmes she was serving as Surveillance Medical Officer for National Polio Surveillance Project under World Health Organization.





### **Bethuel Mwaura Mbugua**

Bethuel has completed his Bachelor Degree in Biochemistry from McAlester College, Minnesota, USA in 2002. He was working as a Research Assistant at the African Medical Research Foundation (AFREF HQ) in Kenya. Bethuel also worked as ProgrammeAssistant II for Crystal Stairs Org at Los Angeles County for a year and Lab assistant for University of California Dental School.



### **Nang Mo Hom**

Nang Mo has completed Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Institute of Medicine, Mandalay, Myanmar in 2003. Nang Mo was involved in direct supervision of Lady Health Visitors (LHV) for the National Leprosy control Programme under Ministry of Health, Myanmar Government.



### **Amit Bhandari**

Amit has a degree in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from B P Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal. He did his internship and joined as House Officer in the same Institute. He will join the MPH programmeafter working with GTZ for about four years as a District Coordinator. .



### **Samiyah Arshad**

Samiyah has a Masters of Science degree in Behavioral Science from Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. She also completed postgraduate diploma in Software Engineering. She used to be a volunteer Social Welfare Officer at Sialkot Medical Complex, Pakistan.



### **Susan Nakuti**

Susan completed her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Makerere University, Uganda. She started her work with HL Investments Ltd. later joined WaterAid Uganda. Recently she was a teaching assistant at Makerere University Institute of Public Health in the department of Disease Control and Environmental health.



### **Noah Emmanuel Cochran Levinson**

Noah has a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies from Marlboro College, USA. He is the founder president of Calcutta Kids Inc. a US based not-for-profit organization committed to the health care needs of children in and around Kolkata, India.



### **Stationwala Jawaid**

Jawaid completed International MBA from Fisher Graduate School at American University in Cairo, Egypt in 2005. He also studied in University of California, USA and University of Cordoba, Spain. He served in different international organization as volunteer. He was working with Wells Fargo Bank, Anaheim, CA, as a Personal Banker prior joining the MPH program.

## National Students



### **Diana Nelson**

Diana completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from University of Chittagong in 1995. She worked for various international and national organizations in different capacities. She joined the programmeworking with projects on HIV/AIDS and STD alliance Bangladesh (HASAB)



### **Bihita Bidhan Khisa**

Bihita completed his Masters degree in Social Work (Community Development) from University of Delhi, India in 2002. He was working with Chittagongj Hills Tract (CHT) based organization as Operations and Policy coordinator.



### **Farah Naz Hossain**

Farah earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Bangladesh Medical College 2002. She comes with the experience of working as Medical Officer for Aparajeyo Bangladesh & Association for Realization of Basic Needs (ARBAN) both are non-government organization.



### **Illias Mahmud**

Ilias completed his Bachelor of Science (honors) in Occupational Therapy from Dhaka University. He started as a lecturer and was a Research Associate for Centrefor Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP).



### **Mahjabeen Ahmed**

Mahjabeen earned her Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) from University of Dhaka, in 2003. Her interest is in Children's oral Health and Preventive & Community Dentistry lead her to be a lecturer at Sapporo Dental College & Hospital for over two years.



### **Md. Saiful Islam**

Saiful has a degree in Masters in Philosophy from Jahangir Nagor University, Dhaka in 1993 and also completed a postgraduate diploma in Development Planning. He started his career in journalism 15 years back & reporting on Health is his area of interest. After several years of campus reporting he joined the English Service of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).



### **Muhammad Aziz Rahman**

Aziz completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from University of Dhaka in 2003. He comes to MPH programmewith experience as an Oncology Associate for Sanofi-Aventis Ltd.



### **Nadia Alamgir Ishrat**

Nadia completed her Masters of Sciences in Health Economics from University of Dhaka in 2003. She started working as an Research officer and served few Non governmental organizations. Before joining the MPH programme she was Assistant Research Officer for Transparency International Bangladesh Chapter (TIB).



### **Nasima Selim**

Nasima completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Dhaka University in 2000. She was Assistant Registrar in National Institute of mental Health Project. She was Project Coordinator, Monon Rehabilitation Centre (a project in progress for rehabilitation and reintegration of people with chronic mental illness & drug addiction problems).



### **Saiqa Siraj**

Saiqa completed her Masters of Science in Food & Nutrition from University of Dhaka in 2004. She was a Diet Counselor for Epique Institute before joining the MPH program.



### **Shamim Ahmed**

Shamim has completed his Masters in Economics from University of Dhaka in 2006. He was a programme Executive in the Centre for Communication, Development and Policy Studies since 2004 and had been implementing a British Council's global Project titled "Connecting Futures," Shamim attended the Connecting Futures Global Conference hosted by the British Council in the city of Newcastle, UK in 2005.



### **Sharifa Nasreen**

Nasreen has a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from University of Dhaka in 1999. Worked as medical officer in NGOs for few years, she joined MPH programme after being a lecturer in community medicine in Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College & Hospital.



### **Tanveer Muhaium Kamal**

Tanveer has a Bachelor of Science, chemical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA. He started his career as Corporate Environmental Engineer for Formosa Plastics Corporation, USA and a Volunteer in the Water and Sanitation Programme in UNICEF Kenya. But joined BRAC Research and Evaluation Division to explore the possibilities of applying environmental systems and technologies toward human health development.



### **Tanzeba Ambereen Huq**

Tanzeba earned a Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, India in 1995. She worked as an assistant engineer in different projects of Local Government & Engineering Division (LGED) of Bangladesh Government. For last few years she was a Research Fellow for Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

## Annex 4:

### The First Graduates (2005-6)? Where are they now?

Name	Designation & Organization	Location
Abul Hasnat Mostaque Ahmed	Senior Medical Officer BRAC Health Program, BRAC	Bangladesh
Ahmed Parvez Zabeen	Technical Officer BRAC Health Program, BRAC	Bangladesh
Anupoma Haque Pinky	Senior Programme Officer Population and Nutrition, Save the Children USA	Bangladesh
Ayesha Sania	Research Investigator, Child Health Unit, Public Health Sciences Division, ICDDR,B	Bangladesh
Emilita A. Monville-Oro	Programme Specialist Community Health and Training International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)	Philippines
Harriet Nabudere	Health Training Institutions Coordinator Human Resources for Health, Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau.	Uganda
Humaira Matin	Programme Officer A 2 project, Constella Futures Group FHI Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Lakshmi Durga Chava	Unit head Health & Nutrition, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Govt. of India (supported by World Bank)	India
Manjula Singh	Senior Programme Officer HIV/AIDS, Family Health International	India
Md. Salim Reza	Technical Coordinator Health and Nutrition Shouhardo Project, CARE	Bangladesh
Md. Abdus Salam Khan	Senior Assistant Chief Health Management, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Mohammad Asifuzzaman	Post graduate student Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka	Bangladesh
Mohammad Khurshid Alam	Senior Research Executive, BBC World Service	Bangladesh

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation &amp; Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>
Muhammad Mizanur Rashid Shuvra	Lecturer, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University	Bangladesh
Nabeel Ashraf Ali	Research Investigator Child Health Unit, Public Health Sciences Division ICDDR,B	Bangladesh
Najia Rafiq Paracha	Manager Health, Health Programme, Sungi Development Foundation	Pakistan
Netra Prasad Bhatta	Project Director Child Survival, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Nepal
Nusrat Homaira	Outbreak Investigation Officer ICDDR,B secondee to IEDCR Programme on Infectious Disease and Vaccine Sciences Division	Bangladesh
Philemon Odiwuor Yugi	Project Director HIV/AIDS, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International	Kenya & Tanzania
Rowan Edward Wagner	Senior Lecturer and Subject Area Leader - Management Human Resources and Management Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) Public Health – Subject Matter Specialist – Health vocational health skill development - CHW, Public Health Worker/Manager Humanitarian Distance Learning Center	Tashkent, Uzbekistan  Global
Rumana Jesmin Khan	Research Investigator Social & Behavioural Sciences Unit, ICDDR,B	Bangladesh
Sohely Rahman	Senior Medical Officer HIV/AIDS, Health Program, BRAC	Bangladesh
Taskeen Chowdhury	Sector Specialist Urban Maternal and Neonatal Child Health (MNCH), BRAC	Bangladesh
Victoria Nankabirwa	Site Coordinator PROMISE-Exclusive Breast Feeding Study, (EU funded multi country project), Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Makerere University	Uganda
Zabihullah Maroof	Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Manager Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) for Afghanistan, Independent Research Projects offered to CAF (Care of Afghan Families)	Afghanistan

# Annex 5:

## Faculty (by course) for Academic Year 2006-07

*\* Names of faculty are listed alphabetically.*

### **Introduction to Public Health**

Alayne Adams, PhD, Columbia University

Richard Cash, MD, MPH, Harvard University (Course coordinator)

Mushtaque Chowdhury, PhD, BRAC and Columbia University

### **Anthropological Approaches to Public Health**

Sjaak van der Geest, PhD, University of Amsterdam (Course coordinator)

Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD, BRAC School of Public Health

Shahaduz Zaman, MBBS, MPH, PhD, BRAC School of Public Health

### **Qualitative Research Methods**

Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD, BRAC School of Public Health

Shahaduz Zaman, MBBS, MPH, PhD, BRAC School of Public Health (Course Coordinator)

### **Quantitative Research Methods**

Diana Romero, PhD, Columbia University (Course Coordinator)

Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, MPH, BRAC School of Public Health

### **Biostatistics**

Abbas Bhuiya, PhD, icddr,b (Course Coordinator)

Md Shahidullah, PhD, University of Illinois

### **Epidemiology**

Shams El Arifeen, MPH, PhD, icddr,b (Course Coordinator)

Lydia Zablotska, PhD, Columbia University (Course Coordinator)

### **Health Systems Management**

Anwar Islam, PhD, CIDA and Carleton University (Course coordinator)

Golam Samdani Fakir PhD, BRAC

### **Health Economics and Financing**

Kent Ranson, PhD, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Course Coordinator)

Damian Walker, PhD, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Course Coordinator)

**Environment and Health**

Bilqis Hoque, PhD, Environment & Population Research Centre (Course coordinator)  
Paul Brandt-Rauf, PhD, Columbia University

**Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases**

Richard Cash, MD, MPH, Harvard University (Course coordinator)  
Steve Luby, PhD, ICDDR,B

**Public Health Nutrition**

Tahmeed Ahmed, PhD, ICDDR,B (Course Coordinator)  
Jon Rohde, MD, BRAC School of Public Health (Course Coordinator)

**Aging and Health**

Prof Mazharul Islam, PhD, Dhaka University  
Zarina Nahar Kabir, PhD, Karolinska Institute (Course coordinator)  
Mostafa Zaman, PhD, World Health Organization

**Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights**

Marge Koblinsky, PhD, ICDDR,B  
Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD, BRAC School of Public Health (Course Coordinator)  
Malabika Sarker, MBBS, PhD, University of Heidelberg

**Health Communications**

Muhiuddin Haider, PhD, George Washington University (Course coordinator)

# Annex 6:

## Technical Supervisors for MPH Theses

Technical Supervisor	Affiliation	Designation/ Specialization
Dr. Abbas Bhuiya	ICDDR, B	Head, Social and Behavioural Sciences Unit
Dr. Ana Coghlan	Freelance Consultant	Programme Evaluation Specialist
Dr. Charles P. Larson	ICDDR, B	Director, Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division (HSID)
Dr. Fazlur Rahman	Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB)	Executive Director
Dr. Heidi Johnston	ICDDR, B	Reproductive Health
Dr. Julia Ahmed	Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC)	Reproductive Health
Dr. M. Mustafa Zaman	World Health Organization (WHO)	Non Communicable Disease Specialist
Dr. Manirul Islam	ICDDR, B	Training Physician Technical Training Unit (TTU)/ Epidemiologist
Dr. Md. Azharul Islam	ICDDR, B	Head, Short Stay Unit
Dr. Nasima Akter	Research & Evaluation Division, BRAC	Environmental Specialist
Dr. Pierre Claquin	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Consultant
Dr. Stephen Luby	ICDDR, B	Head, Programme on Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Sciences (PIDVS)
Dr. Shams El Arifeen	ICDDR, B	Head, Child Health Unit/ Epidemiologist
Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed	ICDDR, B	Head, Nutrition Program,



# Annex 7:

## Students seminars

Seminar titles	Dates	Name of the presenters
Eradicating smallpox	26.02.2006	Sharifa Nasreen & Samiya Arshad
Preventing HIV & sexually transmitted infections in Thailand	08.03.2006	Diana Nelson & Alexander Miloff
Controlling Tuberculosis in China	22.03.2006	Nadia Ishrat Alamgir & Muhammad Aziz Rahman
Eliminating polio in Latin America & the Caribbean	05.04.2006	Saiful Islam & Shershah Amin
Saving mothers' lives in Sri Lanka	19.04.2006	Noah Levin son & Saiqa Siraj
Controlling onchocerciasis in sub-Saharan Africa	03.05.2006	Tanveer M Kamal & Susan Nakuti
Preventing diarrheal deaths in Egypt	17.05.2006	Amit Bhandari & Tanzeeba A Huq
Improving the health of the poor in Mexico	31.05.2006	Ilias Mahmud & Nang Mo Hom
Controlling Trachoma in Morocco	14.06.2006	Bihita Bidhan Khisa & Habibullah Habib
Reducing fertility in Bangladesh	28.06.2006	Shameem Ahmed & Jawaid Stationwala
Curbing tobacco use in Poland	12.07.2006	Nasima Selim & Priya Satalkar
Preventing Dental Caries in Jamaica.	26.07.2006	Farah Naz Hossain & Ramiro L Torrez
Preventing Iodine Deficiencies in China	9.08.06	Mahjabeen Ahmed & Bethual Mbugua

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