

# Proposal Submission Theme and Guideline

## Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program 2024

### A. BACKGROUND

Bangladesh bears a high burden of tobacco-caused illnesses, and it is also a tobacco-producing country. Historically, tobacco control policy research has not been a popular area within the academic community in Bangladesh. Therefore, data is needed to develop and strengthen tobacco control policy interventions in Bangladesh. The overall objective of the research grant program is to increase research capacity of students and researchers and to generate local evidence to support effective tobacco control policy measures in the country, and thus prevent tobacco-induced diseases and deaths.

The Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) and Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) in collaboration with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA and other stakeholders are putting emphasis on increasing research capacity and generating local evidence for effective tobacco control policies. The Research Grant Program is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and was initiated in 2013 with 10 research grants. A total of 122 research grants have been awarded through 10 phases as of 2022.

Research grants for both “Student” and “Researcher” categories are available under the program. Each selected proposal will receive a grant for a nine-month research project. The grant value for the Student Category is US\$5,000 and for the Researcher Category is US\$10,000.

### B. RESEARCH THEMES FOR 2024

Proposals on the following research topics are requested for the 2024 Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program:

#### 1. Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies:

- Tobacco industry (TI) interference/tactics in context of the law amendment, Tobacco Advertising Promotion and Sponsorships (TAPS), Designated Smoking Area (DSA), brand color, and tobacco taxation.
- Tobacco Control taskforce in Law implementation [Identify gaps, challenges, way forward, etc.].
- Compliance with ban on selling tobacco products to and by minors.
- Mapping of Point-of-Sale (POS) in Public Places under Tobacco Control Law.
- Banning of Emerging Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) Products.
- Tobacco and Tourism [Consumption, availability, marketing, secondhand smoking, etc.].

## **2. Protect people from tobacco smoke:**

- Role of civil society in tobacco control.
- Initiatives to ensure a 100% smoke-free environment.
- Case studies on the negative impact of tobacco use in the context of health, social, economic, etc.
- Protect effective tobacco control measures and de-normalizing tobacco industry interferences.
- Compliance of Tobacco Control Law in the Public Places and Public Transport including workplaces, parks, playgrounds, shopping malls, restaurants, public vessel boats, etc.

## **3. Offer help to quit tobacco:**

- Exploring the Steps taken to Quit Tobacco; Investigate Barriers/Obstacles to Quit Tobacco.
- Effectiveness/impact of the current Quitline services/cessation programs.

## **4. Warn about the dangers of tobacco:**

- Effectiveness of current Graphic Health Warning Labels on *bidis* and smokeless tobacco products.
- Plain packaging for all tobacco products.

## **5. Enforce ban on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS):**

- Tobacco Advertisement Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) around the educational institutions and hard to reach areas.
- TAPS in urban areas vs. rural areas.
- Marketing strategies of ENDS products.
- Compliance of ban on TAPS around the POS.

## **6. Raise taxes on tobacco:**

- Effectiveness of tax systems (Specific and Ad valorem tax systems)
- Tobacco tax and brand switching
- The tobacco industry interference to manipulate tobacco taxation process.
- Challenges/barriers/process of raising taxes on tobacco products.

## C. ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Postgraduate students and experienced researchers aspiring to contribute to tobacco control policy research in Bangladesh are eligible to apply for a research grant.

The program accepts proposals from individual researchers. Any proposal to be submitted by an organization will not be accepted. The applicant must be a Bangladeshi citizen and working/living in Bangladesh.

### a. For Student Category:

- The student must be enrolled in a postgraduate program at UGC recognized university or institution in Bangladesh.
- Proof of current university enrollment must be submitted.
- Students in employment (Part time and fulltime) must submit a “No Objection Letter” signed by the employer mentioning the purpose of conducting the research.
- Consent letter from the Supervisor or Mentor must be submitted. The Supervisor or Mentor will confirm the following:
  - Oversee all components of the research activity.
  - Available to attend research project related meeting(s) as and when required.
  - Ensure the quality of the research including the research report.
  - Provide a consent letter for not more than one applicant for the 2024 Research Grant Program.
- Selected grantees must be available in the country throughout the research period.

### b. For Researcher Category:

- Applicant must have at least a master’s degree from a UGC recognized university/ institution.
- Applicant must have at least 3 years of research experience and have demonstrated his/her ability to conduct a research study independently.
- Applicant must submit a list of research studies, including his/her roles.
- Applicant with an organizational affiliation must submit a “No Objection Letter” from the applicant’s respective organization.
- Consent letter from the Supervisor or Mentor must be submitted. The Supervisor or Mentor will confirm the following:
  - Oversee all components of the research activity.

- Available to attend research project related meeting(s) as and when required.
  - Ensure the quality of the research including the research report.
  - Provide a consent letter for not more than one applicant for the 2024 Research Grant Program.
- Applicant must be available in the country throughout the research period.

#### D. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The research proposal must be developed on any of the research areas mentioned above (see Sl. # B). Proposals that generate local evidence that would contribute to developing a new policy or strengthening an existing one in line with the components of the World Health Organization’s MPOWER package (<https://www.who.int/initiatives/mpower>) will be recommended.

- a) **Proposal Development Template:** Applicants are requested to develop the proposal as per the Proposal Development Template available at <https://btcn.org/assets/Proposal%20development%20Format.docx>
- b) **Development of CVs:** CVs must be developed as per the CV Development Template available at <https://btcn.org/assets/CV%20development%20format.docx>
- c) **Consent Letter:** The consent letter from the Supervisor/Mentor must be required for both “Student” and “Researcher” categories.
- d) **Proof of Enrolment:** This is only for the “Student” category. Proof of enrollment, e.g., “Student ID Card” as a post graduate student at any university/institution is required.
- e) **No Objection Letter from Organization/Institution:** The applicant having organizational affiliation, must submit a “No Objection Letter” from the applicant’s respective organization.
- f) **List of Previously Conducted Studies:** List of Previously Conducted Studies is a mandatory requirement for the Researcher Category. A template to develop the list of previously conducted studies is available at <https://btcn.org/assets/List%20of%20studies%20format.docx>

#### E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

Each applicant is eligible to submit one proposal. The applicant must submit the proposal both online (Soft copy) and offline (Hard copy).

- a) Submit a proposal online by clicking at <https://www.btcn.org/regform/>
- b) Send one hard copy of the proposal along with all attachments to the following address. Please mark the category as “**Student**” or “**Researcher**” on top of the envelope.

**Postal Address:** BCCP Tobacco Control Research Grant Program  
House # 08, Road # 03, Block - A  
Section - 11, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216, Bangladesh

#### **F. FOR CLARIFICATION**

For any queries and/or clarifications, please contact us through the following email by November 9, 2023.

**Email:** [btcrn@bangladesh-ccp.org](mailto:btcrn@bangladesh-ccp.org)

#### **G. SELECTION PROCESS**

- Proposals will be short-listed according to the priorities listed above and based on the quality and rigor of the application.
- Short listed proposals will be reviewed by a panel of researchers and program/policy advisors to identify applicants who will be invited to make presentations in front of a review panel.
- Based on their merit, proposals will be selected for funding.
- The program will commence in February 2024.

#### **H. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

The deadline for proposal submission is **November 19, 2023 at 4.30 p.m.** (Bangladesh Time).

**N.B.:** BCCP will not compensate applicants for preparation of proposals against this grant announcement. This announcement does not make any commitment to award a grant to anyone. To make sure this research proposal is not being supported by any other source and/or has not been submitted for funding to any other organization(s). BCCP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without giving any explanation. Research work may be terminated at any time if research quality and the timeline of research are not maintained.

The potential applicants should not have any business relationship with and/or receive payment or other support from, any tobacco product manufacturer or wholesaler, or any parent, affiliate or subsidiary, or organization or foundation with majority support from any of the aforesaid entities (including, but not limited to, Foundation for a Smoke-Free World), or a tobacco product manufacturer or wholesaler, or any person, interest group, advocacy organization or other business or organization (other than a law firm, advertising agency or accounting firm) that represents the interests of the tobacco industry, has not done so in the past five years, and will not enter into any such relationship during the contract agreement term or for one year thereafter. If the applicants fail to comply with this provision, BCCP (i) may terminate this contract agreement and (ii) has the right to demand and receive all contract agreement funds back from them. This provision shall remain in force for one year after the contract agreement term.

## I. READING DOCUMENTS

1. Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) - Bangladesh 2017  
[http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/57def76a\\_aa3c\\_46e3\\_9f80\\_53732eb94a83/GATS\\_BAN\\_2017\\_Fact%20Sheet.pdf](http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/57def76a_aa3c_46e3_9f80_53732eb94a83/GATS_BAN_2017_Fact%20Sheet.pdf)
2. Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) - Bangladesh 2013  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/164335/9789290224815-GYTS-TFI.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
3. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2023: protect people from tobacco smoke  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240077164>
4. Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Acts and Rules in Bangladesh  
<https://ntcc.gov.bd/page/act-rules>
5. World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control  
<https://www.who.int/fctc/en/>
6. World Health Organization's MPOWER package  
<https://www.who.int/initiatives/mpower>
7. Global Tobacco Control: Learning from the Experts  
[http://globaltobaccocontrol.org/online\\_training](http://globaltobaccocontrol.org/online_training)
8. Learning from the Experts: A Course for Healthcare Professionals  
<https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/en/online-courses>
9. National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC):  
[www.ntcc.gov.bd](http://www.ntcc.gov.bd)
10. Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network  
[www.btcrcn.org](http://www.btcrcn.org)

**J. LIST OF THE STUDIES CONDUCTED DURING 2013-2023**

<b>Conducted in 2013</b>	
1	Pattern and Awareness about Smokeless Tobacco in a Rural Area
2	Trade-off between the Informal Economy of Tobacco and Tobacco Control Policy in Bangladesh
3	Form and Effect of Indirect Advertisement and Promotion Activities of Tobacco Products in Khulna
4	Tobacco use among Rickshaw Pullers of Dhaka City: Behavior, Awareness and Prevention
5	Tobacco Smoking among the Adult Student: A KAP Study in Dhaka City
6	Secondhand Tobacco Smoke and Respiratory Problems among the Infants of Smoker and Non-smoker Parents
7	Study on Health Hazards among the Tobacco Curing Workers of Bangladesh
8	The Practice and Consequences of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by Tobacco Companies in Bangladesh
9	Effect of Raising Taxes on Tobacco Consumption
10	Prevalence of Smoking among Physicians of Bangladesh
<b>Conducted in 2014</b>	
11	Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostel and their Homes in Dhaka City
12	Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City
13	E- Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice among Private University Students in Dhaka City
14	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students
15	Perception of Smoking-Related Risks and Benefits among Selected Urban and Rural Adolescent Students
16	Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke-Free
17	Prevalence and Awareness of Secondhand and Third-Hand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students
18	Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City
19	Changing Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in the Regulated Environment in Bangladesh: Lessons and Challenges for Tobacco Control Policy Advocates
20	Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
21	Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-Economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with It

22	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh
23	Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh
24	Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illness: Experience from Rural Bangladesh
25	Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum
26	Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults of Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences
27	Prevalence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh
28	Perception about Health Effects of Passive Smoking among Young Adults in Dhaka
29	Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
30	The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Laborer at Brick Kilns in Dhaka
<b>Conducted in 2015</b>	
31	Heavy Metal (Cr, Cd and Pb) Contents in Chewing and Other Categories of Tobaccos used in Bangladesh and their Effect on Health
32	Second-hand Smoke (SHS) in Public Place: Awareness, Attitudes and Exposure among University Students
33	Smokeless Tobacco Consumption and Diabetic Foot Ulcer
34	Factors Associated with Female Smoking at Selected Areas in Dhaka City
35	Prevalence of Social Feedback against Smoking Incidences and their Immediate Impact on Smoking Behavior
36	Smokeless Tobacco Use Among Floating Youths and Young Adults in Dhaka City
37	The Prevalence of Tobacco Consumption and Associated Risk Factors among University Students in Sylhet District: A Cross-Sectional Study
38	Effectiveness of Tobacco Warning Labels on Cigarette Packages to Reduce Smoking: A Survey Study in Dhaka City
39	Pattern of Second-hand Smoke (SHS) at Home and Determinants of Exposure to SHS among Children Aged $\leq 18$ Years: A Cross-Sectional Study
40	Emotional, Behavioral Problems and Cigarette Smoking Behavior: A survey among Bangladeshi Adolescent
41	Why Farmers are Turning into Tobacco Growers in Bangladesh?
42	Effects of Maternal Smokeless Tobacco Use on Gestational Age, and Birth Weight: A Case Control Study in Rural Dhaka, Bangladesh
43	Level of Compliance of Tobacco Control Act 2005 in Terms of 'Anti- tobacco' Signage Display at Public Place in Bangladesh
44	Practice of Tobacco Control Law in Major Public Places: A Survey in Dhaka City



45	Patterns of E-cigarette Use and User Knowledge about the Safety and Benefits of E-cigarette Smoking
46	Awareness of Smoking Related Health Risks and Knowledge and Attitude Regarding National Tobacco Control Law among Bangladesh Police
47	Smoking among the Employees and Barriers to Smoke free Hospital Initiative in a Public Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh
48	Warning People about Dangers of Tobacco Use: The Role of Mass Media.
49	A Study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Tobacco Consumption among Adults attending OPD of Public Hospitals with a View to Develop an Information Booklet
50	Child Labor in Bidi Factories: Current Situation and Way Forward
<b>Conducted in 2016</b>	
51	Socio-Economic Impact of Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh: A Study in Kushtia District
52	Prevailing social obstacles in keeping tobacco free homes in urban areas: Realizing ways to overcome
53	Insight of Plain Packaging among the Adults General Population in Dhaka City
54	Status of Graphic Health Warning on Tobacco Packs: A Study among Low Socio-economic Group in Bangladesh
55	Relationship between Selling Tobacco Products by Children and their Attitude and Practice Regarding Tobacco Intake
56	Impact of Taxation on the Consumption of Cigarette: A Study on Smoking Behavior among the Undergraduate Students
57	Price Elasticity, Social Norms, Tobacco Control Policies and Smoking Behavior among Students in the South-west Region of Bangladesh
58	Mapping Land Use Land Cover Changes Due to Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh with its Public Health Impacts
59	Health and Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Farming in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
60	Marketing Strategy of E-cigarettes in Bangladesh
<b>Conducted in 2017</b>	
61	Cigarette Selling to and by the Minors in Bangladesh: Policy Gaps and Implementation Challenges
62	Influence of Social Media and Peer Group on Smoking among Selected Public & Private University Students in Urban Dhaka
63	Factors Influencing Tradition of Smokeless Tobacco Use in Rural Communities of Bangladesh
64	Business of Loose Cigarettes and Losing of Tobacco Control: Current Situation in Urban Areas of Bangladesh
65	Smoking Behavior among TB Relapse Cases at Tertiary Level Hospitals in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
66	The Relationship between Tobacco Consumption Habits and Road Traffic Accidents: A Study among the Heavy Vehicle Drivers in Bangladesh

67	Implementing Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Forward
68	Effectiveness of anti-tobacco activities in public and private university's students of Bangladesh
69	Exploring Institutional Mechanisms for Economically Sustainable Alternatives for Tobacco Farmers
70	Socioeconomic Inequalities in Secondhand Smoke Exposure at Home in the Context of Mother-child Pairs in Bangladesh
<b>Conducted in 2018</b>	
71	Impactful Advocacy Strategies for Tobacco Consumption Prevention in the Char Regions of Northern Bangladesh
72	Compliance Level of Tobacco Control Law in Public Transportation
73	Toxicants Release from Different Tobacco Products: Alarming for Environmental Pollution and Health Hazards in Bangladesh
74	Relationship between Income Elasticity and Tobacco Product Use in Bangladesh
75	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in Uttara Model Town: A Way Forward to a Smoke-free City
76	Adoption of Tobacco Retail License in Bangladesh: Exploring Possible Outcomes and Implementation Challenges
77	Graphic Health Warnings on Cigarette Packs: Exploration of its Effectiveness in Deterring the Youth of Bangladesh
78	Health Hazards among Women Involved in Tobacco Curing in Selected Rural Areas of Bangladesh
79	Barriers to Implementing the Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh
<b>Conducted in 2019</b>	
80	Ban on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship in Bangladesh: Investigating Compliance Level and Implementation Challenges
81	Tobacco Industry Branding Strategies and Its Influence on Young Adults
82	Tobacco Related Content on New Media and its Exposure among University Students in Bangladesh
83	Enforcement of tobacco control law regarding smoke free public place and public transport: A case of Bangladesh Railways (BR) jurisdiction
84	Implementation Status of Article 5.3 of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to Curb Tobacco Industry Interference in Bangladesh
85	Mapping of Density of Points of Sale, Selling and Consumption Pattern of Tobacco Products Around Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh
86	Influence of Tobacco Control related Facebook Messages: Status and Way Forward
87	Smoke-free housing policy for multiunit housing complexes: evidence from divisional cities of Bangladesh
88	Shifting of Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in Bangladesh: Challenges to the Tobacco Control Policy

<b>Conducted in 2020</b>	
89	Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Tobacco Control Laws among Tobacco Sellers of Dhaka City Corporation
90	Smoking Zone Facilities in Restaurants and Attitudes and Experiences on Tobacco smoke among Adults in Dhaka City
91	Demystifying Tobacco Industry Interferences to Undermine Graphic Health Warning Implementation in Bangladesh
92	Situational Analysis of E-Cigarette usage in Bangladesh
93	Compliance with Smoke-Free Legislation in Public Places and Smoking Behaviour: An Observational Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh
94	Investigating Policy Gap Related to Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) Ban in Bangladesh
95	Implication of Unadopted Measures on Reducing Cigarette Smoking: A Study from Corporate Employees' Perspectives
96	Failure of Professional Male Drivers to Comply with Smoke Free Policy is Associated with Nicotine Dependence and Motives for Smoking
<b>Conducted in 2021</b>	
97	Effect of Advertisement, Promotion, and Sponsorship on E-cigarette Consumption among the Youth in Bangladesh
98	Exploring Prospects and Challenges for Tobacco Control Taskforces of Bangladesh at The Upazila Level
99	Does Higher Tax Assessment Affect Tobacco Usage? Determinants of Tobacco Control Mechanism
100	Opinions to minimize tobacco consumption and complying tobacco control law: setting approach in private university
101	Exploring Conception of Vape Among Young Adults of Dhaka City
102	Exploring 'Ban Selling of Single Stick and Unpackaged Smokeless Tobacco' as a Policy option for Bangladesh
103	Risk assessment of pesticides induced health hazards among the tobacco farmers: A study towards to strengthen and implement new policy for tobacco cultivation control in Bangladesh
104	Tobacco consumption and severity of COVID-19 patients: Bangladesh perspective
<b>Conducted in 2022</b>	
105	Effects of Tobacco Cultivation on Soil Fertility and Environmental in Bangladesh
106	On-screen Tobacco Usage in Popular Bangladeshi OTT Contents: How Does It Influence Young Adults of Bangladesh?
107	Profitability analysis with comparison of three major crops and tobacco production in tobacco cultivated area: A study towards implementing new policy for tobacco cultivation control in Bangladesh
108	Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2022: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 In Bangladesh
109	Barriers to the Effectiveness of Pictorial Health Warnings on Smokeless Tobacco Products: A Study on Low-Income Women of The Rangpur Division, Bangladesh

110	Digitalization of Tobacco Taxation System: Prospects and Challenges
111	Patterns and Determinants of Electronic Cigarette Usage among Young Adults in Bangladesh
112	Exploring the Direct and Indirect Tobacco Advertisements and Promotions Around the Point-of-Sales in Urban and Rural Areas of Bangladesh
113	Exploring the Prospects and Challenges of Implementation of the Tobacco Vendor Licensing in Bangladesh
114	Barriers and Opinions to declare tobacco smoke-free home in Dhaka city: Mixed method study focusing home setting approach
<b>Ongoing Research (2023)</b>	
115	Assessment of knowledge and practices regarding tobacco cessation counseling among the nurses working in the primary health care facilities of Bangladesh
116	Exploring the production, distribution, and availability of E-Cigarettes in the market in Bangladesh
117	Parliamentary Oversight on Tobacco Control in Bangladesh
118	Exploring the Smokeless Tobacco Company's Product Marketing Strategy in Bangladesh
119	From Bypassing the Law to Encouraging Adolescent Smokers: A Study on the Influence of 'Smoking Zone' of Restaurants on Adolescent Smoking in Dhaka
120	Trend or Trap: The Influence of Social Media Advertising of E-Cigarettes on Young Adults of Dhaka City
121	Compliance and Challenges to Tobacco Control Laws in Public Transportation in Bangladesh: A study in Dhaka city
122	Youth Perception on Introducing Quit-line Service: A Model for Tobacco Cessation in Bangladesh

----- 0 -----