

TOBACCO CONTROL
POLICY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM 2024

Research Findings Dissemination Conference

February 27, 2025



Bangladesh
Center for
Communication
Programs



Bangladesh Tobacco Control
Research Network



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Institute for
Global Tobacco Control

TOBACCO CONTROL
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Additional Secretary (World Health Wing)
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka



Message

Tobacco use remains one of Bangladesh's most pressing public health crises, claiming over 161,000 lives annually [Tobacco Atlas, 2018] and driving an alarming burden of preventable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disorders, stroke, and chronic respiratory illnesses. Beyond its dire health toll, tobacco exacerbates economic strain on our healthcare infrastructure and society, while its environmental footprint from cultivation to toxic waste demands urgent, multi-sectoral action.

The Government of Bangladesh, led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, remains steadfast in combating this epidemic. Aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), we have prioritized public health over commercial interests through robust policies. The National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) has strengthened enforcement by amending the Tobacco Control Law to meet global standards and taking decisive steps to counter emerging threats, including the recent ban on importing e-cigarettes and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) via gazette notification.

It is encouraging to see the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), in partnership with the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, organizing a Research Findings Dissemination Conference on Tobacco Control. The insights generated through the Research Grant Program will undoubtedly bolster evidence-based policymaking, ensuring our strategies remain grounded in science and innovation.

I commend all stakeholders for their dedication to this lifesaving cause and extend my full support for the conference's success. Together, we call accelerate progress toward a tobacco free Bangladesh, safeguarding the health of present and future generations.

I wish all the very best for this program

Sheikh Momena Moni



Director General (Joint Secretary)
National Tobacco Control Cell
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



Message

Tobacco use is one of the most pressing public health challenges worldwide. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2017, around 35% of adults in Bangladesh who are 15 years of age or older presently use tobacco (46% of men and 25% of women). Among them, 36% of men and 0.8% of women smoke tobacco, while 16% of men and 25% of women use smokeless tobacco. According to the 2013 Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), 2.8% of girls and 9% of boys use tobacco in some capacity.

Tobacco use is a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer, respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular illnesses. Over 8 million people worldwide lose their lives to tobacco usage each year. Nonsmokers are also at risk, as exposure to secondhand smoke causes 1.3 million deaths annually worldwide.

The Government of Bangladesh has shown unwavering commitment to addressing this challenge. Guided by the principles of the WHO FCTC, we have worked to strengthen our policies and programs to reduce tobacco consumption and its devastating effects.

The Tobacco Control Research Grant Program' managed by the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) in partnership with the BTCRN and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has supported many researchers in addressing different aspects of tobacco control in Bangladesh.

I commend the researchers for their rigorous work and BCCP for publishing this abstract booklet, which provides an opportunity to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and strengthen our collective resolve to tackle tobacco use. Together, we can protect the health of our citizens, safeguard our environment, and build a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

Md. Akhteruzzaman



Message

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Maryland, USA places great emphasis on tobacco control globally and especially in countries with a high burden of tobacco use. The Bangladesh Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program was initiated in 2013 in partnership with the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), with the aim to build capacity in tobacco control related research in Bangladesh and to create a local evidence base for tobacco control policy and programs in the country. This was the first of its kind made possible through funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies as part of the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.

The Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) has been established as an important platform for researchers to communicate and share their tobacco-related study findings. Through the collaborative efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, partners from the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, other stakeholders, tobacco control leaders, and advocates across the country, I believe the evidence base being developed by researchers will contribute to strengthening existing policies and formulating new, effective policies to reduce tobacco-caused death and disease in Bangladesh.

At this 12th Research Findings Dissemination Conference, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the researchers and to BCCP for their dedicated efforts and the successful completion of the research studies. I wish every success to all current and future tobacco control initiatives in Bangladesh as we strive toward achieving a tobacco-free country by 2040.

Joanna Cohen

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



Bangladesh
Center for
Communication
Programs



Message

The Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) has always been striving to improve the lives of millions through strategic communication and research. As part of this drive, since 2013, BCCP has managed the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program, funded by the Bloomberg Initiative through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. This annual grant program builds research capacity and generates essential local evidence to contribute to policy decisions and revisions; and to guide the implementation of effective advocacy and communication initiatives for tobacco control in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) was launched in the same year and serves as an important platform to develop and sustain a community of tobacco control researchers in the country.

The grant process follows a meticulous and systematic approach, starting with announcements for research proposals in the national newspapers. A panel of experienced researchers, both local and international, evaluates the submissions based on a set criteria. Through BTCRN website, the program has introduced digital options for proposal submission and selection during the past four years. A remarkable achievement of this program is the publication of numerous studies in international journals and presentations at conferences in Bangladesh and at global platforms.

Today, we share with you the important findings of the research studies on tobacco issues that were conducted in 2024. A total of eight research proposals were selected for funding. I congratulate the researchers for their dedication and successful completion of their projects. In addition, researchers are also invited to present posters on their tobacco-related studies at the conference.

I sincerely thank the IGTC for their technical and financial support, and thanks to the Government of Bangladesh, Bloomberg Partners, BTCRN members, NGOs, and tobacco control advocates for their continued support.

Mohammad Shahjahan
Director & CEO

Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network Program Progresses

Tobacco use is a major risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, over 20 different types or subtypes of cancer, and many other debilitating health conditions. Every year, more than 8 million people die from tobacco use. Most tobacco-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, which are often targets of intensive tobacco industry interference and marketing. In Bangladesh, the burden from tobacco is alarming: around 35% of adults are currently using tobacco either in smoked and/or in smokeless form. Furthermore, 43% and 39% of adults are exposed to secondhand smoke at their workplaces and in their homes, respectively. Seven percent of youth aged 13 to 15 years use tobacco. Tobacco kills up to half of its users and causes premature mortality and morbidity, contributes to health inequalities and exacerbates poverty. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2017 revealed the social gradient in tobacco use in Bangladesh in which prevalence increases with decreasing socio-economic status: 24% of those in the highest wealth quintile use tobacco compared to 48% of those in the lowest wealth quintile, where households are more at risk of suffering catastrophic health expenditure and impoverishment through high healthcare costs from tobacco-related diseases, loss of productivity and opportunity costs.

Focus on tobacco control research and its capacity-building programs are insufficient to meet the challenges. Tobacco control research has historically not been a popular topic within the academic community in Bangladesh. Therefore, there is a dearth of facts and figures needed to develop or strengthen tobacco control policy interventions in Bangladesh.



The Government of Bangladesh has a vision to make Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040. In order to achieve commitment, comprehensive tobacco control programs must be undertaken with a strong research component to gather local evidence that contributes towards planning and implementing effective policies and programs in the country.

Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) in collaboration with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA is giving much importance on increasing research capacity and generating local evidence for effective tobacco control policy measures. The Research Grant Program which is the first of its kind in Bangladesh was initiated in 2013 with 10 research grants. The outcomes of many studies since then were very encouraging with important policy implications.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Build the research capacity, especially, of the young researchers of different universities and organizations;
- Enhance the local evidence-based on tobacco control in Bangladesh;
- Take measures to make the Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) sustainable and continue to serve as a forum for tobacco control researchers to exchange ideas, share research findings, generate new tobacco control research and utilize their findings.

Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program

The Tobacco Control Research Grant Program is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Involving capacity-building workshops covering the whole spectrum of the research process, the program was being implemented during the last twelve years with an emphasis on engaging graduate student researchers. All Bangladeshi graduate students and established researchers aspiring to contribute to tobacco control are eligible to apply for the grant.



Research Topic:

BCCP and Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) organize a Consultative Workshop to Identify the Future Tobacco Control Research Needs in Bangladesh in collaboration with the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) every year. Representatives of relevant government departments, public



and private universities, BI partners and grantees and other organizations working on tobacco control participated in the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop are utilized to prepare the Call for Proposal for the Research Grant Program. Researchers are encouraged to choose topics related to priority issues of the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. Proposals generating local evidence that contribute to develop a new policy or strengthen an existing one in line with the components of the World Health Organization's MPOWER package are recommended.



Proposal Selection Process:

BCCP follows a rigorous process for selecting research proposals every year. A Proposal Review Panel comprising of renowned researchers and tobacco control experts from home and abroad reviews the proposals. The Panel considers the following while selecting the winning proposals:

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

The review panel follows a three-step review process. The first step involves preliminary screening to see whether proposals follow the submission guideline. The second step involves reviewing proposals and providing technical scoring while in the third step, applicants present their proposals in front of the review panel.

Implementation of the Grant Program:

BCCP has a highly experienced and dedicated team with both technical and managerial expertise to manage the grant program. The research team is led by a Senior Deputy Director (Research and Evaluation) and has members representing diverse backgrounds including statistician, anthropologist, epidemiologist, and sociologist. The team nurtures grantees by providing mentorship in every step of research work, including questionnaire development, data collection, data management and analysis, developing effective PowerPoint presentation as well as presenting research findings in front of wider audiences, and report writing.

The following mentoring workshops are organized and facilitated for the research grantees:

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

The team also provides mentorship while the researchers develop manuscripts and recommend appropriate journals for publication. The team continues to provide mentorship even after the grant period is over.

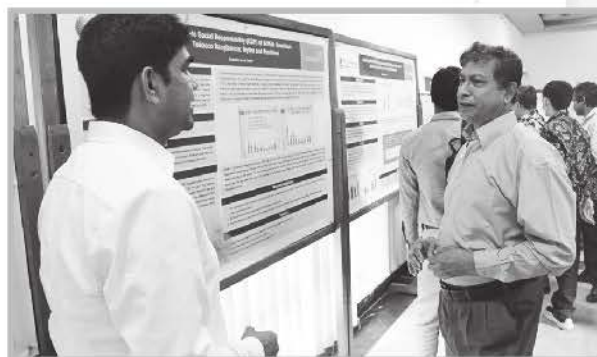
Dissemination and Use of Research Findings:

As of 2024, one hundred and thirty-one researchers including both established and graduate student researchers have been awarded research grants. Following each grant cycle, the research findings are disseminated through scientific conferences. Representatives of Government, NGO, INGO, universities, research community, Bloomberg Initiative partners and grantees, and media attend the conferences. Print and electronic media cover the news of the conferences and publish special news/articles on individual research studies. Around the dissemination conference, some selected in-country tobacco control research studies conducted by other researchers are also presented as posters.



Different organizations working on tobacco control are utilizing the research findings to design and implement Social and Behavior Change Communication and advocacy programs. Major research findings are available at www.btcn.org. Twenty-nine studies have been published in international journals. Some more studies are underway for publication. Thirty-one abstracts have been accepted and presented in different national international conferences.





Emergence of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN)

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

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



The specific objectives of the Network are to:

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

Membership

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

A 7 – Member Executive Board of BTCRN

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Ms. Farzana Rahman

Technical Coordinator, DAI Global

BTCRN Website

BTCRN has developed a resourceful website to act as a research hub for tobacco control in Bangladesh. The key findings of the research studies conducted under the Tobacco Control Research Grant Program are made available on the website. The website also posts links of other research studies on tobacco control that are being conducted by other organizations.



btcn.org



RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS 2024
AND THEIR ABSTRACTS

Researcher Category



HASAN MAHAMMAD SAMMY

Research Title:

Factors Influencing the Tobacco Growers' Transition to Non-Tobacco Cultivation and Vice Versa: a Comparative Analysis between the Two Groups

Hasan Mahammad Sammy is an Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural Statistics, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka. He is also a PhD researcher at Jahangirnagar University and his research title is "Relative Profitability and Health Risk Assessment of Tobacco and Other Major Crop Production: Towards Controlling Tobacco Cultivation in Bangladesh". His expertise lies in profitability analysis, resource use efficiency, and risk measurement. He has successfully contributed to more than 11 national and internationally funded projects and actively participated in over 22 scientific meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences worldwide to present his research findings. Mr. Sammy has authored more than 16 peer-reviewed articles in reputed national and international journals. Additionally, he is a certified trainer, regularly conducting training sessions for various government and autonomous research organizations in Bangladesh.

Factors Influencing the Tobacco Growers' Transition to Non-Tobacco Cultivation and Vice Versa: a Comparative Analysis between the Two Groups

Author: **Hasan Mahammad Sammy**

Background: In Bangladesh, twenty-four districts have been identified as having widespread tobacco cultivation. It is concerning that tobacco cultivation is expanding into new areas in some districts each year, while simultaneously declining in others. **Objectives:** To determine the factors that promote tobacco growers' transition to non-tobacco cultivation and vice versa and to compare physical working load, economic, and health status between the two groups. **Methods:** The study included "positive growers" (shifting away from tobacco) and "negative growers" (adopting tobacco). A comparative and mixed methods study was undertaken among tobacco and non-tobacco farmers in six districts. A total of 452 households were selected through a multi-stage cluster sampling technique, and each household head was interviewed face-to-face using a semi-structured questionnaire to gather information on households, family members, health status, and farming. Besides, 10 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 15 in-depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted with Agriculture Extension Officers and Sub-assistant Agriculture Officers, respectively using guidelines. The quantitative data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical approaches, while the thematic analysis technique was used for the qualitative data. **Results:** In ten years, approximately 75% of respondents transitioned to non-tobacco cultivation and 32% to tobacco cultivation, with transition periods ranging from 7–13 and 13–24 years, respectively. Among tobacco farmers, 65% of annual agricultural income comes from tobacco. The average selling value of tobacco was BDT 274,761, and the non-tobacco was BDT 109,275. The average cultivated land was 114 decimals for positive growers and 137 decimals for negative growers. The most widely grown crops were maize (127 decimal), tobacco (110 decimal), rice (68 decimal), and wheat (54 decimal). The average number of workers per acre for tobacco cultivation was 105, which was higher than other crops such as rice (35), maize (52), and wheat (77). The extent of disease symptoms and average annual medical expenses were found to be higher among negative (64%; BDT 5,242) than positive (36%; BDT 2,055) growers. Awareness of health risks associated with tobacco cultivation was lower in Meherpur (63%) and Chuadanga (69%) than in the other four districts. About 64% of negative and 36% of positive growers took loans for crop production, and the average amount of loans for negative growers (BDT. 60,891) was almost double that of the positive growers (BDT. 32,318). Nearly half (44%) of negative growers reported declining land fertility, compared to 12% of positive growers. Major reasons for quitting tobacco cultivation were highly intensive labor (74%), profitable non-tobacco crops (12%), and high health risk (8%), while the reasons for adopting tobacco were more profitable from other crops (83%), no risk for selling (7%) and seeing the surrounding farmers (3%). According to the qualitative findings, the major reasons that tobacco farmers switched to non-tobacco farming were excessive physical labor, health risks, being motivated by the agriculture department to cultivate high-yielding crops, religious beliefs, shortage of firewood and labor, early vegetable cultivation, and declining soil fertility. Reasons for switching to non-tobacco farming varied by district. Conversely, less risk in selling tobacco, collectively earning a large sum of money, and advance payments from tobacco companies were the reasons for the transition to or continuation of tobacco farming. **Conclusion:** It is important to ensure the marketing of agricultural products, provide training in profitable crop cultivation such as maize, rice, wheat, and vegetables, and raise awareness about tobacco cultivation's harmful effects on the environment, health, and agriculture.



DR. SABRINA AHMED

Research Title:

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of 5A-5R Counseling Services for Tobacco Cessation with or without Mobile Phone-Assisted Remote Support in Rural Primary Healthcare Settings

Dr. Sabrina Ahmed is working as an Assistant Professor, at the Department of Public Health, North South University. Earlier she was employed as an Assistant Scientist at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH). She earned a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Noncommunicable Disease Epidemiology from Shiga University of Medical Science in Japan in March 2023. She is also affiliated with Shiga University of Medical Science, Japan as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Sabrina is skilled in conceptualizing and conducting clinical research mainly focused on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, gut microbiome, and brain health. She has expertise in biostatistics and handling big data. Dr. Sabrina has years of experience in clinical trials and observational research both in Bangladesh and Japan. Recently she has been awarded an American Heart Association (AHA) 2023 Paul Dudley White International Scholar Award at the AHA Epi-lifestyle Congress in Boston, USA. Her current research project evaluates the effectiveness of digital technology-supported decentralization of NCD management in the public primary care system in rural Bangladesh. Dr. Sabrina has a good number of international publications. She recently published her work in *Circulation* (AHA) with an impact factor of 39.9 as a primary author and also in *Hypertension* (AHA) with an impact factor of 10.19. The *American Journal of Cardiology* and *Circulation Journal* published Dr. Sabrina's Ph.D. thesis papers on cardiac arrhythmias. Dr. Sabrina is focused on working with clinical data available for the Bangladeshi population and wants to exchange knowledge with young researchers.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of 5A-5R Counseling Services for Tobacco Cessation with or without Mobile Phone-Assisted Remote Support in Rural Primary Healthcare Settings

Author: **Dr. Sabrina Ahmed**

Background: Tobacco use remains a significant public health challenge, contributing to millions of premature deaths and increased annual disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) globally, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) including Bangladesh. The 5A-5R counseling model, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), has been shown to be effective for tobacco cessation in diverse settings, but its application within South Asian contexts, particularly in Bangladesh, remains underexplored. Furthermore, mobile phone-based interventions have gained attention for their potential to support tobacco cessation through remote follow-ups, yet their integration with in-person counseling remains understudied. **Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of culturally adapted 5A-5R counseling services, both in-person and with mobile phone assistance, in reducing tobacco consumption among adults in primary healthcare settings in Bangladesh. **Methods:** A low-intensity intervention study was conducted over eight months in three unions of Birganj, Dinajpur district, Bangladesh. These unions were considered clusters, and 3 community clinics (CC) were selected randomly from the chosen unions, a list of all households with individuals who were currently daily tobacco users was developed for each CC, and finally, 668 adult participants were selected randomly among the listed individuals ($n = 237$ in the multicomponent arm, $n = 219$ in the 5A-5R-based arm, and $n = 213$ in the control arm). The multicomponent arm included 5A-5R counseling with mobile phone-based remote support; the 5A-5R-based arm included conventional in-person 5A-5R counseling and the control arm received usual care without structured tobacco cessation services. Data were collected through interviewer-administered questionnaires; data collection was facilitated by trained community health workers, and community health care providers delivered intervention. Descriptive and inferential analysis of continuous and categorical variables was used to analyze the repeated survey and compare changes in primary and secondary outcomes at the end line with the baseline. Statistical significance was determined using p -values (<0.05) and 95% confidence intervals. **Results:** Among smoking tobacco users, the multicomponent arm showed a 12% quitting rate ($p<0.01$) in the end-line analysis when compared with baseline, whereas in the 5A-5R-only arm, quitting was reported at 23% ($p<0.01$). On the other hand, in cases of smokeless tobacco users, the multicomponent arm demonstrated a 44% quitting rate ($p<0.01$), while the 5A-5R-only arm showed a 33% quitting rate ($p<0.01$) in the end-line survey. For individuals who could not quit but reduced the use of smoking tobacco products, the 5A-5R-only arm led to a significant decrease in cigarette consumption (7.4 ± 4.5 sticks/day, $p<0.01$), no significant reductions were observed in the other arms. Similarly, for smokeless tobacco products, again the 5A-5R-only arm showed a significant reduction (5.9 ± 1.4 times/day, $p<0.01$). Regarding changes in knowledge in the end line compared to baseline, all three arms showed significant increases in understanding the addictive nature of cigarettes ($p<0.01$), however in terms of smokeless tobacco, the multicomponent and 5A-5R-only arms showed a significant proportion of increase in awareness ($p<0.01$). **Conclusion:** The study found that the 5A-5R counseling model, particularly when delivered in person, was highly effective in promoting tobacco cessation and reducing tobacco consumption. The multicomponent arm showed additional effectiveness for quitting smokeless tobacco. The study findings suggested that the 5A-5R counseling approach could play a key role in tobacco control efforts in Bangladesh, however, further research is needed to confirm these results and evaluate the long-term impact of such interventions in LMICs.



MD. IBRAHIM KHALIL

Research Title:

**Exploring Weakness of Cigarette Price Hike Structure and Complications
Aroused by the Term 'And Above' in Base Price in the National Budget Proposal**

Md. Ibrahim Khalil is a young leader in the field of tobacco taxation in Bangladesh. He serves as a Project Officer for the Tobacco Tax Project at the Bureau of Economic Research, University of Dhaka. He is the Executive Editor of Magic Lanthorn, a film and media journal in Bangladesh. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Television from Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, earned under the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) fellowship. An accomplished researcher and writer, Mr. Khalil has authored over 30 articles published in reputed journals. He has been working in the field of tobacco taxation in Bangladesh for six years, with his current research focusing on this area.

Mr. Khalil has participated in international workshops, including "Investigative Journalism" organized by The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Kathmandu, Nepal (September 2023), and "Artificial Intelligence: Trends, Ethics, and Applications" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (October 2024). With seven years of journalism experience at bdnews24.com, jagonews24.com, and Daily Banik Barta, he brings a strong media and communication background. Mr. Khalil holds a BSS and MSS in Mass Communication & Journalism from the University of Rajshahi.

Exploring Weakness of Cigarette Price Hike Structure and Complications Aroused by the Term 'And Above' in Base Price in the National Budget Proposal

Author: **Md. Ibrahim Khalil**

Background: In Bangladesh, VAT on cigarettes was introduced in 1992-93 with a four-tier structure (premium, high, medium, and low). Since 2016-17, the term 'and above' has allowed Tobacco Industries (TI) to sell at higher prices than the base price, bypassing controls and increasing profits. This manipulation has led to price volatility and widespread tax evasion, causing an estimated annual revenue loss of over BDT 5,000 crores, undermining government revenue collection and the effectiveness of tobacco taxation policies. The study examines how 'and above' enables these practices, complicates the tax system, and hinders revenue. Despite being a problem in the budget proposal, the term 'and above' lacks sufficient research and information. **Objective:** To explore tobacco companies' manipulation on tobacco tax structure and MRP rule and effect on tobacco control due to using the term 'and above' in the national budget proposal. **Methods:** This study was conducted during March-November 2024 following a mixed-method approach. For the quantitative part, data were collected using a semi-structured questionnaire from 160 retail outlets in various public places across 16 cities/towns, including 8 divisional cities, and one additional district town from each division. Besides, 10 Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted with tobacco control experts, NBR officials, and economists/health economists using guidelines. Descriptive statistics were performed for the quantitative data and thematic analysis was used for qualitative data. **Results:** All (160) surveyed outlets reported the highest sales of loose cigarettes, averaging 561.56 sticks daily. By using the term 'and above,' TI introduced multiple price levels for cigarettes, making the pricing structure more multi-tiered. According to the government's four-tier tax structure, if cigarette prices were determined, there would be only four price points for retail cigarette sticks: BDT 5, 7, 12, and 16. However, it was found available at eight price points: BDT 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 18, and 20. In terms of packets, 21 different prices of cigarettes were available in the market as 10, 12, and 20 stick packets. The multi-tiered tax structure made cigarette tax systems more complex. Additionally, the reduced price gap between brands gave consumers more options and increased brand switching during tax hikes. With the multi-tiered tax structure and the term 'and above,' the price gap between brands was limited to BDT 1 for lower and medium tiers instead of BDT 2 and BDT 5. This allowed TI to set prices strategically, ensuring customer loyalty. TI set fractional prices (like in paisa; not the rounding one) per cigarette stick, bypassing MRP laws to sell at higher rates. For instance, a medium-tier cigarette priced at BDT 8.80 became BDT 10 on TI's list, despite a base price of BDT 7. TI used the term 'and above' to raise cigarette prices multiple times within the tier, especially around budgets, making consumers accustomed to price hikes and minimizing the impact of budget increases. Banderoles are tier-specific, not price-specific, allowing the same banderole for BDT 140 and BDT 176 cigarettes in the medium tier, highlighting a tax system weakness. **Conclusion:** The term 'and above' makes cigarettes multi-tiered, reduces price differences between brands, readily available in the market, increases the implementation complexity, and allows consumers to switch brands. As a result, the increase in cigarette prices minimizes the impact on consumers. Therefore, the term 'and above' should be removed from the national budget proposal.



RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS 2024
AND THEIR ABSTRACTS

Student Category



DR. MOHAMMAD AZMAIN IKTIDAR

Research Title:

Comparisons between Smokers' and Nonsmokers' Reactions to Health Warning Labels on Cigarette Stick and Plain Packaging: An Experimental Pilot Study

Dr. Mohammad Azmain Iktidar is a passionate physician, researcher, and editor dedicated to advancing public health and medical science. With over seven years of experience across clinical and research roles, he also serves as an Academic Editor for PLOS One. Dr. Azmain began his journey in medical research after earning his MBBS from Chittagong Medical College. He further honed his expertise by completing a Master of Public Health (MPH) from North South University, specializing in epidemiology and public health interventions.

Dr. Azmain has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications and delivered numerous conference presentations. In addition to securing grants from the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), he has also received funding from the World Health Organization and Chittagong Medical University. His diverse research interests encompass occupational health and well-being, non-communicable disease epidemiology, post-COVID-19 health complications, diagnostic and prognostic tools in medical practice, and the cognitive effects of device use among children.

Outside his professional pursuits, Dr. Azmain is deeply committed to academic mentorship and knowledge dissemination. He co-founded the 'School of Research,' an initiative to foster research literacy and skills among emerging researchers.

Comparisons between Smokers' and Nonsmokers' Reactions to Health Warning Labels on Cigarette Stick and Plain Packaging: An Experimental Pilot Study

Author: **Dr. Mohammad Azmain Iktidar**

Background: Tobacco smoking remains a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality worldwide. Strategies like plain cigarette packaging and health warning labels (HWLs) on cigarette sticks have shown the potential to discourage smoking initiation and encourage cessation. However, little is known in this regard. **Objectives:** This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of three HWLs on cigarette sticks and plain packaging, using a within/between-subject design. **Methods:** This experimental study recruited 359 participants from public places across Dhaka city using convenience sampling. Data were collected through in-person interviews with a structured questionnaire. The participants were exposed to conventional packaging and cigarette sticks, as well as plain packaging and cigarette sticks with HWLs, and their responses were recorded using a set of post-exposure questions containing a 5-point Likert scale (1 = not at all, 5 = very much). The post-exposure assessment questions evaluated the reactions of the participants in the following domains: attention to the warning label, cognitive elaboration, understanding of the negative effects of cigarettes, social interaction, communication, intention to initiate smoking (for non-smokers), and intention to quit smoking (for smokers). Data analysis was conducted using Stata (v.17) and SAS (v.9), which involved descriptive statistics and paired t-tests. General linear mixed models (GLMM) were used to compare post-exposure responses to conventional packaging vs. plain packaging, conventional cigarette sticks vs. HWLs on cigarette sticks, and unattractive cigarette sticks with HWLs. **Results:** The mean age of the participants was 25.97 ± 4.78 years, with the majority being male (77.72%). Compared to conventional packaging, exposure to plain packaging significantly increased participants' attention to warning labels (3.73 ± 1.40 vs. 2.94 ± 1.50 ; $p < 0.001$), cognitive elaboration (3.74 ± 1.31 vs. 3.21 ± 1.46), understanding of the negative effects of cigarettes (3.27 ± 1.47 vs. 2.67 ± 1.49), social interaction (2.88 ± 1.44 vs. 2.57 ± 1.38), and communication (4.17 ± 1.08 vs. 4.08 ± 1.18). Furthermore, smokers exposed to plain packaging reported a higher intention to quit smoking (3.19 ± 1.48 vs. 3.24 ± 1.50 ; $p = 0.02$), while non-smokers exhibited reduced intention to initiate smoking (1.30 ± 0.79 vs. 1.39 ± 0.84 , $p = 0.03$). Cigarette sticks with HWLs and unattractive colors further amplified these effects, yielding the highest scores for attention (3.89 ± 1.29), cognitive elaboration (3.74 ± 1.28), and intention to quit among low-nicotine-dependent smokers. Non-smokers scored 0.56 units higher in the attention domain in response to plain packaging ($\beta = 0.56$, 95% CI: 0.09, 1.04), and it was statistically significant. Similarly, they showed significantly greater response to plain packaging in cognitive elaboration ($\beta = -0.89$, 95% CI: 0.38, 1.40), understanding of the negative effects of cigarettes ($\beta = 0.38$, 95% CI: 0.02, 0.73), and communication ($\beta = 0.76$, 95% CI: 0.40, 1.12) domains compared to regular smokers. They also demonstrated significantly increased cognitive elaboration ($\beta = -0.64$, 95% CI: 0.11, 1.16) and communication ($\beta = -0.58$, 95% CI: 0.14, 1.02) domain response to cigarette sticks with HWLs compared to regular smokers. Smokers with high nicotine dependence showed lower responsiveness to interventions. **Conclusion:** Plain packaging and HWLs on cigarette sticks were found to be effective tobacco control measures for both smokers and non-smokers, with a stronger impact on the latter. These findings support adopting these strategies in national tobacco control policies to mitigate smoking-related health risks.



MANSURA MANZIL CHOITY

Research Title:

**Tobacco Industries III Tactics on Tertiary Education Institutions:
Policy Gaps and Managerial Challenges**

Mansura Manzil Choity is presently employed as a lecturer in the Department of Development Studies at Daffodil International University. She completed her Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) and Master of Social Science (MSS) in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Dhaka with an exceptional academic record. She worked for an international research project titled "Collaborative Outcome Study on Health and Functioning during Infection Times (COH-FIT)" as a research assistant. Additionally, she served as a research assistant for the project of North South University named "Innovation in the Agricultural Sector in Bangladesh". She participated as a field researcher in the "Realisation of Digital Bangladesh: Promise and Reality" research project, funded by the University of Dhaka under the Centennial Research Grant 2022. Choity's research interests encompass governance, public policy, public health, and climate change.

Tobacco Industries III Tactics on Tertiary Education Institutions: Policy Gaps and Managerial Challenges

Author: **Mansura Manzil Choity**

Background: Despite banning Tobacco Advertisement, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Bangladesh, some prominent multinational tobacco industries conduct aggressive brand promotion activities targeting educational institutions bypassing the Tobacco Control Act 2005. The industries do such activities disguising the name of 'talent hunt', job fair', sponsoring various student clubs such as career clubs, debating clubs, sponsoring a batch day or various cultural days, excursions, etc., and in many instances, university authorities are unaware of the ulterior motives behind these actions. Another alarming issue is that, though smoking in public places is banned, most of the universities have tobacco points of sale and availability of mobile vendors in Bangladesh. Previous studies have focused only on direct Advertisement tactics ignoring widespread direct and indirect TAPS and legal constraints. **Objective:** This study attempts to unmask the nature and extent of ill tactics of tobacco industries targeting tertiary educational institutions and identify the policy gaps and managerial challenges of smoke-free legislation in tertiary education institutions. **Methods:** The research was conducted at five public and five private universities in Dhaka. Utilizing qualitative method, this research employed 18 in-depth interviews (IDIs) of students who were directly engaged with the Tobacco Industries student engagement program at the tertiary level and 12 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with Tobacco Control activists, academicians, NGO professionals, journalists, and tobacco control researchers who previously worked to unmask Tobacco Industries Advertainment, Promotion and Sponsorship in disguise. All interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed; transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis, generating major themes and sub-themes. **Results:** It has been found that maintaining brand reputation, positive impression, and increasing product promotion is the prime motive behind TIs' operations in tertiary education institutions. Tobacco industries capitalize on students' employability concerns and organize various student-centric programs named 'Xceed', 'Xcelerate', 'Battle of Minds', 'Let's Vibe Bangladesh', 'Supernova', 'Global graduate program', and in disguise they promote their company and tobacco products. They use student clubs mostly "career clubs" of universities as the gateway to enter and communicate with students and spread false and misleading information about themselves to maintain brand reputation such as "Largest employer, largest taxpayers, high range of CSR activities, substantial economic contribution, promoting tobacco as an economic crop and discovering covid vaccine. They also utilize students as instruments for promoting their CSR operations, instructing them to disseminate these initiatives within their universities. This study also found significant policy loopholes and managerial challenges such as the legal status of TIs' CSR activities, the absence of a specific legal provision regarding tobacco banning in education institutions, the absence of clear jurisdiction of university authority to enforce bans in their institutions, financial constraints of enforcing comprehensive institutional banning, lack of awareness of the university authorities regarding TIs activities, absence of specific regulation on TIs sponsorship in universities. **Conclusion:** The findings of this research significantly advocate for the amendment of existing tobacco control laws to introduce comprehensive institutional banning on tertiary education institutions and hold TIs accountable for their ill tactics to influence youth.



ABDULLAH AL MASUM

Research Title:

Unregulated Street Tobacco Vendors: A Gateway to Increased Tobacco Availability and Consumption Among Public University Students of Bangladesh

Abdullah Al Masum is a dedicated young researcher with a solid academic foundation in Public Administration, holding a Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) degree from the University of Dhaka. He also continues his Master of Social Science (MSS) program at Dhaka University. His passion for research and community development is evident through his extensive involvement in various research projects and leadership roles. Abdullah has contributed to studies on diverse topics, including inclusive startup ecosystems, political socialization of youth, safety culture in academic institutions, and compliance with tobacco control laws in public transportation. Beyond academia, Abdullah has honed his leadership skills as the President of BlackBox and a Young Leader with Youth Connect - British Council. His enthusiasm for debate and intellectual growth was highlighted during his tenure as Vice President of the Bijoy Ekattor Hall Debating Club (BEHDC). Masum's dedication to research and leadership positions him as a promising contributor to public policy and community development.

Unregulated Street Tobacco Vendors: A Gateway to Increased Tobacco Availability and Consumption Among Public University Students of Bangladesh

Author: **Abdullah Al Masum**

Background: Around 80% of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco consumers, primarily in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) like Bangladesh, are at risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Despite national and international tobacco control commitments, law enforcement remains inadequate, especially in informal markets like unregulated street tobacco vendors. **Objectives:** This study aims to investigate the availability of street tobacco vendors around public university campuses, and to analyze the students' tobacco purchasing behavior and tobacco consumption facilitated by the availability of street tobacco vendors. **Methods:** The study used a cross-sectional design with a quantitative research approach. Multistage sampling was used to select four study areas. Convenience sampling was used to conduct surveys with 400 students using structured questionnaires and observe the street vendors within specific geographic zones using the Kobo Toolbox. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping was utilized to locate and categorize tobacco vendor availability in campus areas. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, including correlation and regression analyses. **Findings:** A total of 521 vendors were identified across the study areas, with 38%, 17.66%, 24.38%, and 19.96% vendors near the University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, and Bangladesh Agricultural University, respectively. The vendors' density was observed near academic/institutional areas (33.32%), residential areas (21.46%), common places (20.28%), and other locations (15.58%) which increases students' accessibility to tobacco, enabling impulsive purchases. Demographically, 83% of student respondents were male, with most (85.4%) residing in university dormitories. Students spent 19.44% of their monthly expenditure on tobacco. The regression analysis found a significant association between vendor availability and increased tobacco purchase and consumption. This study follows Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behavior integrating components like attitude, subjective norms, perceived behavioral control, and behavioral intentions that shape an individual's behavior. Additionally, similar to the prior studies, tobacco industry interference was found to be influential in tobacco purchasing and consumption behavior. The correlation analysis reveals that Attitude (0.424), Subjective Norms (0.229), Perceived Behavioral control (0.356), Tobacco Industry Interference (0.303), and Behavioral Intention (0.380) have a significantly positive correlation with Tobacco Purchasing and Consumption Behavior. The regression analysis reveals that Students' Attitudes, Perceived Behavioral Control, and Behavioral Intentions toward street tobacco vendors have a significant influence on their Tobacco Purchasing and Consumption Behavior, with a 0.221, 0.124, and 0.127 increase in Tobacco Purchasing and Consumption Behavior with their per unit increase respectively. However, subjective norms showed a negative relationship with Tobacco Purchasing and Consumption Behavior, with a 0.118 decrease for each unit increase in discouraging norms. Moreover, tobacco industry interference contributes to a 0.097 increase in students' Tobacco Purchasing and Consumption Behavior. The overall significance of the regression model ($p < 0.001$) confirms the reliability of these predictors. **Conclusion:** Street tobacco vendors in Bangladesh contribute to high smoking rates among university students by increasing accessibility through strategic placement and promotions. Policy interventions, including banning street tobacco vendors, and effective public awareness campaigns, are needed to mitigate tobacco use among youth and thereby ensure a tobacco-free future in Bangladesh.



KHANDAKER ROBIN

Research Title:

Exploring E-Cigarette Consumption: Perception Among Diverse Youth Age Cohorts in Bangladesh

Khandaker Robin is a dedicated professional with a robust academic foundation in social welfare, holding a Master of Social Science (M.S.S) and a Bachelor of Social Science (B.S.S) from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka. Robin's professional journey encompasses impactful roles such as Primary Investigator for prominent research projects funded by esteemed organizations, including BCCP and the Embassy of Sweden. Beyond research, Robin has contributed significantly as a trainer and managing body for the Government of Bangladesh, imparting skills to educators and caregivers in neurodevelopmental disabilities. As a volunteer and fieldworker, Robin has collaborated with organizations like Transparency International Bangladesh and UNICEF, underscoring a commitment to societal betterment. A published author of multiple international seminars and conference papers, Robin's work addresses diverse topics, from youth engagement with political satire to climate action strategies in Bangladesh. Robin aspires to drive sustainable community development, blending academic rigor with a hands-on approach to social welfare, and remains committed to making meaningful contributions to social work and beyond.

Exploring E-Cigarette Consumption: Perception Among Diverse Youth Age Cohorts in Bangladesh

Author: **Khandaker Robin**

Background: Among the 160 million people living here in Bangladesh 37.8 million people are habituated with the use case of tobacco. There are currently 0.2% of electronic cigarette users in Bangladesh (GATS, 2017). E-cigarettes have gained popularity around the world as a healthier alternative to traditional smoking and a tool for quitting. The usage of e-cigarettes among young people is a cause for concern, with high adoption rates and notable regional variations. Studies in Bangladesh have shown that young people are increasingly using e-cigarettes, but little is known about how this development is perceived or what factors are driving it. **Objective:** To identify and explain the different factors that influence how young people of various age cohorts consume E-cigarettes, their perception on the usage of E-cigarettes, and understand the complex reasons behind these differences. **Methodology:** The study used a mixed-methods approach, conducting focus group discussions and surveys with young people aged 16-19, 20-24, and 25-28 in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed to get the data of 444 participants in the quantitative part—222 e-cigarette users and 222 non-users—while nine Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted among vape users to understand individual experiences and viewpoints better. Descriptive statistics, multivariate regression analysis, Pearson's chi-square, and t-test were used to analyze the data. **Findings:** The result shows that 78% of the first time e-cigarettes users was influenced by friends. Curiosity (58%) and Flavor (27%) are the top-most causes of e-cigarette use, whereas 56% consuming e-cigarettes containing nicotine. Also, there is a high prevalence (81%) of sharing their vape kit/pod with others. There are varying perceptions across age groups regarding the association between long-term health effects and e-cigarette use ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$). Accessibility, marketing, and flavor diversity are important factors driving e-cigarette consumption. E-cigarettes are perceived as socially more acceptable with younger users ($p\text{-value} < 0.009$). Other Perceptions and usage habits also vary significantly by age group, with younger cohorts being more likely to view vaping as a modern, safer alternative to smoking. Comparative analysis shows that significant perception differences exist between e-cigarette users and non-users, including beliefs about harm reduction (mean difference = 0.21, $p = 0.035$), addiction (mean difference = -0.49, $p < 0.001$), and passive smoking risks (mean difference = -0.58, $p < 0.001$), highlighting the influence of usage on attitudes. The qualitative findings reveal that social influence, particularly from friends and colleagues, plays a significant role in initiating and sustaining vaping behavior. Curiosity, perceived health benefits compared to smoking, and stress management are common motivations. Media portrayals and availability of vape products further reinforce usage. While some respondents view vaping as a safer alternative, skepticism about long-term health effects persists. **Conclusion:** The study presents the need for holistic public health plans and regulatory mechanisms that are suitable for the different young populations in Bangladesh. Understanding the complex views and factors affecting the use of e-cigarettes by the youth would foster the development of better public health treatments and policies that are against the rising trend of consumption of e-cigarettes.



SHAHIN SULTANA

Research Title:

**Compliance and Enforcement of Smoke-free Legislation
in Hospitals in Bangladesh**

Shahin Sultana completed her graduation from the Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka in 2023. She completed the BSS (Hon's) exam by securing the 2nd position with an outstanding CGPA of 3.80 and completed the MSS exam with the highest distinction. She achieved a CGPA of 3.97 in the MSS exam, placing her in 1st place. She received notable awards for her academic excellence, such as the Dhaka University Post Graduate Scholarship 2021 and the Shamsun Nahar Mahmud Foundation Merit Scholarship 2023. She worked as a teachers' assistant (TA) for a semester at the Department of Public Administration. She participated in a daylong campaign on 'Cyber Crime Awareness' organized by the Cyber Crime Awareness Foundation in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). She has a keen research interest. Her bachelor's monograph is entitled "Domestic Violence Against Adolescents in Bangladesh". She also participated in a course on 'Advanced SPSS for Researchers' from 15 January to 20 February 2024 and completed it successfully which increased her research skills. Her hobby is reading books and learning new languages. She aspires to pursue higher studies abroad in public affairs. She strives to be a valued member of society by working for the betterment of the people.

Compliance and Enforcement of Smoke-free Legislation in Hospitals in Bangladesh

Author: **Shahin Sultana**

Background: Globally, smoking is becoming a widespread public health issue, causing around 8 million deaths annually. Non-smokers' health is affected by tobacco smoke through second-hand smoke (SHS) exposure. The Government of Bangladesh formulated the 'Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, of 2005' which included smoke-free policies banning smoking in healthcare facilities and required the display of 'No smoking' signages to protect people from SHS exposure. However, around 13% of adults were still exposed to SHS at healthcare facilities in Bangladesh. Very few studies were conducted to assess the level of compliance with the laws at healthcare facilities in Bangladesh. So, a compliance study is required to determine to what extent the laws are being implemented to improve the situation. **Objectives:** To examine the level of compliance and enforcement with smoke-free legislation in hospitals in Bangladesh. **Methods:** The study followed a qualitative approach. An observational study was conducted in the Dhaka and Brahmanbaria districts, representing urban and rural health centers. Hospitals were selected through multi-stage sampling. Two districts were selected through cluster sampling, and then six hospitals were selected through purposive sampling. Furthermore, an administrative official from each selected hospital and an official from the National Tobacco Control Cell were also chosen through purposive sampling to learn about enforcement efforts. Observational data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis was conducted for the qualitative data. **Results:** The results revealed that the three hospitals indoors were in good compliance among the six hospitals. "No smoking" signage was visible indoor in only half of the observed hospitals indoor. Active smokers were observed in all hospitals in rural settings. At the same time, most of the hospitals had cigarette butts, bidi ends, or ashes in different areas i.e. stairs, corridors, floors, indoor cafeteria. In the outdoors, "no smoking" signage was present in two hospitals. Active smokers and tobacco points of sale (POSs) were also observed in most of the observed hospitals. Comparatively, the number of smokers and POSs was higher in outdoor areas and within 100 meters of the hospitals and the availability of POSs increased the number of smokers. People also consumed smoke-less tobacco in hospitals. Spittle of betel leaves was found indoors in most of the hospitals. On average, six persons consumed betel leaves with zarda in outdoors. Overall, low compliance was observed both indoors and outdoors, due to weak enforcement of the Laws. The authorities faced various challenges, such as low awareness among the people, lack of willingness to quit smoking, lack of ethics, loopholes in the law and interference from tobacco companies. **Conclusion:** The overall compliance with the smoke-free laws in hospitals indoors was lower than expected. The results indicate that healthcare facilities could not ensure 100% compliance with smoke-free laws. Policymakers should focus more on the stringent enforcement of the Act and ban POSs and consumption of both smoked and smokeless tobacco within 100 meters of hospitals. Moreover, enhanced efforts such as providing health education to the patients and staff, establishing counseling corners, and mass media campaigns by the enforcement authorities must be undertaken.



RESEARCH FINDINGS
DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2025

Poster Session



Dr. Bilkis Banu

Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Independent University, Bangladesh

Insights into tobacco use including its demographic and dietary correlates among specific ethnic people of Bangladesh

Author: Bilkis Banu, Nasrin Akter, Rinku Baral, Nawzia Yasmin

Background: Tobacco use poses a substantial public health challenge in Bangladesh, disproportionately affecting specific ethnic communities. Exploring the interplay between tobacco use, demographic factors, and dietary practices is crucial for addressing this issue effectively. This research aims to generate insights that can inform targeted interventions and culturally sensitive public health strategies to reduce tobacco use and its associated risks for this overlooked population.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to assess the insight of tobacco use and its associated factors among specific ethnic people in Bangladesh. **Methods:** An analytical type of cross-sectional study was conducted among 350 adult Rakhain people residing in the Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district within the Chattogram division of Bangladesh. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews using semi-structured questionnaires; information related to tobacco use, socio-demographics, lifestyle, and food practices. Overall food practices were assessed by calculating positive and negative scores based on the consumption of seven food types (fast food, fish, fruits, meat, vegetables, soft drinks, and coffee), which were then categorized as either poor or good. Bivariate and multivariate techniques were adopted to analyze the data. **Results:** This study revealed that the majority of participants (310, 88.6%) engaged in various forms of tobacco use. Survey responses, analyzed using the multiple response method, revealed that participants were consuming cigarettes (139, 39.7%), bidi (11, 3.1%), zarda (289, 82.6%), gul (26, 7.4%), and hookah (24, 6.9%). Tobacco use was significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) associated with higher odds among individuals with primary-level education or less (AOR/ $p=3.25/0.01$, 95% CI: 1.33-7.96), those who were married (AOR/ $p=4.20/0.01$, 95% CI: 1.85-9.53), individuals with more than two children (AOR/ $p=4.35/0.01$, 95% CI: 1.50-12.61), those not engaged in physical exercise (AOR/ $p=3.06/0.01$, 95% CI: 0.99-9.39), and the people with poor dietary practices (AOR/ $p=2.28/0.01$, 95% CI: 0.90-5.78). **Conclusion:** Tobacco use is prevalent among a concerning number of Rakhain people in Bangladesh and significantly linked to low education, marital status, lack of physical activity, larger family size, and poor dietary practices. Targeted interventions focusing on education, lifestyle modification, and culturally tailored health promotion programs are essential to reduce tobacco use in these communities.



Dr. Nasrin Akter

Lecturer, Department of Public Health, Northern University Bangladesh

Tobacco consumption status and Quality of Life among hypertensive patients of Bangladesh: An analytical cross-sectional study

Author: Nasrin Akter, Bilkis Banu, Farhana Faruque, Fatema Afrin, Sarder M Hossain

Background: To combat the growing prevalence of the double burden of tobacco consumption and hypertension in Bangladesh, it is critical to have an in-depth understanding about quality of life (QOL) among people consuming tobacco as well as suffering from hypertension. **Objectives:** This study aimed to assess tobacco consumption status and QOL among hypertensive people in a selected tertiary hospital in Dhaka city, and its association with the basic characteristics of the patients. **Methods:** This study was conducted among randomly selected 300 hypertensive patients from two cardiac departments of Square Hospitals Limited. Data were collected through face-to-face interview method. WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire was used to assess the QOL of the subjects. Cronbach's alpha coefficient and Pearson's correlation coefficient were applied to estimate the internal consistency, and the level of agreement among different domains of WHOQOL-BREF, respectively. Chi-square test followed by binary regression analyses were used to identify the determinants. **Results:** Among all components of WHOQOL-BREF had a good internal consistency, ($r = 0.13-0.77$, $p < 0.01$). More than half of the patients (51.3%) were tobacco consumers, among them 78.3% were consuming cigarettes. The QOL among the patients was found poor in the psychological (71%) and social (74.7%) domains and good in the environmental (63%) and physical (65%) domains. However, all the components of QOL were found poor among tobacco consumers ($p=0.01$). Binary regressions revealed significantly higher odds of poor QOL for physical ($AOR/p=4.79/0.01$), and environmental health ($AOR/p=32.40/0.01$) domains in the smokers group including their poor QOL perception of general health ($AOR/p=2.59/0.03$). In addition, being older than 55 years ($p=0.01$), diabetic ($p=0.02$), and having a history of COVID-19 ($p=0.01$) were significantly associated with poor QOL in all domains. **Conclusion:** The outcome of significantly poor QOL among tobacco consumer hypertensive patients is alarming. Planning and implementation of effective tobacco control intervention strategies are needed to improve QOL among this vulnerable group focusing on a tobacco free state.



Mohammad Zobair Hasan

Deputy Executive Director, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor-DORP

Socio-economic and Occupational Challenges of Bidi Workers in Tangail, Bangladesh- 2023

Author: Mohammad Zobair Hasan, Ms. Rubina Islam, Saykot Kabir Shayok, and Md. Golzar Hossain

Background: The production of bidis is a hazardous and low-wage livelihood for the impoverished community, involving socio-economic and different health problems. Despite the decline of demand for bidis in Bangladesh, it is seen that many of the workers, mainly women, are still dependent on this home-based work due to socio-cultural constraints and very few alternatives. **Objective:** This study aimed to explore the socio-economic conditions, occupational health hazards, and possible alternative livelihoods for bidi workers from the Tangail District of Bangladesh. **Methods:** The study used a mixed methods design study that included cross-sectional surveys of 100 bidi workers and two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). For quantitative data collection, a pretested semi-structured questionnaire was used while semi-structured guideline was used for qualitative data. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. **Results:** Most of the bidi workers (64%) were getting below 5,000 BDT a month, and, almost exclusively, women worked as an option due to the convenience of home-based work. Long working hours were reported (45% of workers worked for 12 hours daily) and workers were paid around 46 BDT for 1,000 bidis. Workers were also subjected to respiratory distress (42%) and back pain (80.5%) due to exposure to tobacco. Child labour (21%) continues despite legal prohibitions. Most workers expressed dissatisfaction with their jobs, with low wages (95%), health risks (62%), and lack of opportunity for improvement in their status of living (53%), and all the women in the bidi factory work on “no work, no pay” basis, they did not have leave facilities, even maternity leave. **Conclusion:** The bidi industry, through sheer oppression of vulnerable classes, continues to proliferate poverty and health hazards. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive measures, such as skill development programs, strict enforcement of child labour laws, and ensuring access to alternative livelihoods. Findings suggest that intervention is likely necessary for solid mitigations of the socio-economic and health impacts of bidi production in Bangladesh.



Fahmidur Rahman

Senior Research Associate, ARK Foundation

A mHealth intervention for smoking cessation in people with tuberculosis: a two-stage adaptive design, randomised trial- Quit 4 TB Trial

Authors: Fahmidur Rahman, Shakhawat H Rana, Asiful H Chowdhury,
Dr. Rumana Huque, Dr. Kamran Siddiqi.

Background: People with tuberculosis (TB) who continue to smoke are more likely to have poor health outcomes than those who quit. Considering the challenges to integrate face-to-face behavioural intervention in existing health systems of developing countries, a mHealth smoking cessation package (mTB-Tobacco) was developed by WHO that can be delivered as SMS messages via mobile phones to TB patients. **Objectives:** To assess the effectiveness of mTB-Tobacco in achieving continuous abstinence for at least six months among TB patients, enhancing TB treatment adherence and improving clinical outcomes. **Methods:** A multi-center, open-label, cluster-randomized superiority trial was conducted in 15 TB health sites of Dhaka Division randomized to mTB-Tobacco (10 sites) and usual care (5 sites). The trial enrolled 600 adult pulmonary TB patients (40 from each site), daily smokers, willing to quit, with mobile phone access. The primary outcome was 6-month continuous abstinence, verified by self-report and biochemical breathing (carbon monoxide) test. Through a screening process, only eligible and consenting patients were recruited from a pool of 2,959 TB patients. mHealth intervention group received regular SMS reminders in local language during the intervention phase confirmed by the follow-up phone calls and SMS delivery dashboard monitoring. **Results:** Preliminary analysis revealed that the mTB-Tobacco intervention resulted in a significantly higher smoking cessation rate compared to the control group. More evidence from the trial will be gathered after the final analysis to further validate the effectiveness of mTB-Tobacco over usual care. **Conclusions:** The mTB-Tobacco intervention effectively promoted smoking cessation among TB patients, offering a scalable, cost-efficient solution. Its integration into national TB control programs could revolutionize smoking cessation strategies, enhancing outcomes with minimal resource demand.



Shagufta Sultana
Project Director, AID Foundation

Advancing Law Implementation Related to TAPS in Bangladesh: Monitoring Through Digital Application and Intensive Capacity Building Efforts

Author: Shagufta Sultana, Abu Naser Anik, Md. Nasir Uddin Biswas, Syed Mahbubul Alam

Background: In 2020 the Ministry of Local Government passed a comprehensive Guideline on the basis of Tobacco Control Law 2005 and Amendment 2013. In this guideline, most of the tobacco control issues were covered. Additionally, the Ministry of Local Government included two more important issues; 1) Tobacco Vendor Licensing, and 2) Monitoring (Central to Local level). **Objectives:** To assist in implementing the local government guideline and TC law in Model municipalities and to strengthen the monitoring, evaluation, and documentation system. **Methodology:** We carried out surveys of tobacco vendors from 5 municipalities. Data was collected two times (before and after the intervention) through a digital questionnaire and saved for further use. Baseline and endline survey data were collected and analysed in this study.

Interventions:

1. Capacity building of 518 local government officials was completed through 25 divisional and district workshops.
2. Additionally, 584 officials were oriented from the LG Ministry, local government officials, municipal association of Bangladesh, MAHC.
3. Supported in starting the licensing system.
4. Supported the local Task force committees to remove the TAPS Violations.
5. Supported to stop tobacco product selling within 100 meters of educational institutions and health facilities.

Vital Strategies served as the technical partner for this initiative, and the municipalities and city corporations supported its implementation. After the intervention, the same survey was done again to see the changes.

Achievements:

1. Based on the 1353 violations reported in five municipalities, 59 enforcement drives were conducted.
2. Types of TAPS violations reduced at endline as compared to baseline.
3. Bangladesh currency 1,496,350 (USD 13,600) fine was imposed.
4. For the first time in Bangladesh, the court sentenced one month of imprisonment to the two violators at Khulna.
5. The National Tobacco Control Directorate initiated a process to develop an online monitoring system.

Challenges:

1. Developing and maintaining mobile applications is cost-effective.
2. A comprehensive plan and effort for monitoring; training and enforcement is essential for law enforcement. Standalone interventions are not very effective.

Recommendations: Based on the findings, the study proposes the following recommendations-

- Need to ensure Tobacco Vendor License as per Local Government Tobacco Control Guidelines.
- Raise awareness of the importance of Tobacco Vendor Licenses.
- Raise awareness among the vendors to run a business according to the TC law.
- Sensitize authorized officers to take initiative in TAPS ban violations.



Farah Sabrina

Senior Executive (Research), Development Research Network

Vaping and mental health: A Cross-sectional study among university students in Bangladesh

Authors: Farah Sabrina, Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Md. Nur Alam, Md. Farhan Ibne Faruq, Farah Parisha Bhuiyan, Biswajit Banik, Muhammad Aziz Rahman

Introduction: Vaping has continued to rise, besides smoking among youth in Bangladesh in recent years. While there has been evidence of the impact of vaping on physical health, studies focusing on mental health, specifically from the South Asian context, are almost non-existent. Therefore, this study examines the association between vaping and a spectrum of mental health issues, such as psychological distress, depression, and anxiety among university students in Bangladesh. **Methods:** A cross-sectional with undergraduate students aged 18-25 years from seven universities in Bangladesh was conducted. Data were collected using a web-based questionnaire. Data on smoking, vaping, and dual-use were collected. Psychological distress was measured by using the K10 scale, while the CES-D10 and GAD-7 scales assessed depression and anxiety, respectively. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses determined the relevant associations. Adjusted Odds Ratios (AORs) and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) were reported. **Results:** Out of 1615 study participants, males and females were distributed equally, and 54% were from two private universities. Findings revealed that close to one in six (15.4%, n=248) participants were currently vaping. Exclusive current smokers were 6.2%, vapers were 6.5%, and dual users were 8.9%. Among vapers, the prevalence of psychological distress (76.6%), depression (60.88%), and anxiety (57.66%) was notably high. Vaping was significantly associated with psychological distress (OR 1.55; 95% CI 1.13-2.13, p=0.006), depression (OR 1.45; 1.10-1.91, p=0.008), and anxiety (OR 1.48; 1.12-1.94, p=0.005), although the significance did not remain after adjusting for potential confounders. However, dual use was significantly associated with depression (AOR 1.93; 95% CI 1.04–3.57, p=0.037). **Conclusion:** The study underscores a concerning impact on mental health amongst the young group of the population who were vaping, specifically among the dual users. Besides raising awareness, university-based tobacco cessation support and counseling should be considered a student well-being support strategy.



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Initiative to Make Bangladesh Railway Tobacco Free (IMBRTF): Results from a Baseline and Endline Survey

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Background: Bangladesh Railways serves over 90 million passengers annually, offering safe, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly transport. However, second-hand smoke (SHS) remains a significant concern in trains and railway stations, posing risks to vulnerable passengers, including women, children, the elderly, and individuals with health conditions. The Ministry of Railways (MoR) initiated the Initiative to Make Bangladesh Railway Tobacco Free (IMBRTF) project to address these challenges. **Objective:** To assess the implementation status of tobacco control laws following intervention in selected railway stations in Bangladesh. **Method:** Out of 489 stations across the country, 10 stations (Dhaka, Dhaka Bimanbandar, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Saidpur, Khulna, Chottogram, Rajshahi & Ishwardi) were purposively selected in consultation with the Ministry of Railways. An observational study using a pre-tested structured questionnaire was conducted at baseline and endline, before and after the intervention respectively. **Results:** The baseline study found that implementation and monitoring of existing tobacco control laws are inadequate in railway stations. On the other hand, the Endline survey found that implementation and monitoring of existing tobacco control laws are exemplarily improved in the selected model railway stations after the intervention. The overall number of smokers across all locations dropped from 402 (baseline) to 224 (endline). Ishwardi and Sylhet stations lacked no-smoking signage during the baseline survey which has been changed in the endline survey with signage in four areas in Ishwardi and three areas in Sylhet which showed significant improvement. The number of signage is remarkably increased at different points in all stations especially at the main entrance in endline survey with 8 stations compared to the baseline survey with 4 stations. The baseline survey showed tobacco points of sale (POS) at all stations except Chittagong, with the Dhaka Airport station having the most at 19. By the end of the survey, POS numbers had dropped at Dhaka Airport (19 to 15), Sylhet (12 to 6), and Rajshahi (1 to 0), while Rangpur saw a slight decrease (15 to 13), and Mymensingh remained unchanged, suggesting an overall reduction in tobacco POS in selected railway stations. **Conclusion:** Gaps and different challenges still persist in reducing tobacco consumption and sales. The need for stronger policy measures along with stricter implementation of existing policies and integrated monitoring mechanisms still stands.



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Bangladesh Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2023: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3

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Background: In 2008, Bangladesh adopted the FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines which provides specific measures to protect the government from tobacco industry interference. As the Guidelines are still legally non-existent in Bangladesh, the government efforts to implement measures to reduce both demand for and supply of tobacco are being undermined by tobacco industry. This study attempts to measure the level of tobacco industry influence the country is suffering from and produces a number of recommendations. **Objectives:** The main objective was to measure country-level implementation of Article 5.3. The study assesses how the government has responded to interference from the tobacco industry and what action the government has in place to protect itself. The lower the score, the better the compliance of Article 5.3 Guidelines. **Response:** A study has been conducted using Tobacco Industry Interference Index tools, developed by Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) to promote the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, based on incidences of interference in April 2021 to March 2023. There are 20 questions based on the Article 5.3 guidelines. Information used in this report is obtained from the public domain only. **Results:** Overall, the government of Bangladesh has performed poorly in implementing Article 5.3 Guidelines, scoring 72 out of 100. As this is the first report of its kind for Bangladesh, it is the baseline from which further improvements must be ensured. **Conclusion:** The government must fully implement Article 5.3 guidelines. Immediately, following measures should be undertaken including undertakes awareness raising of non-health sectors, disclose all interactions with the tobacco industry, halt all participation in award ceremonies involving tobacco industry, ban tobacco-related CSR activities, terminate government officials' positions in tobacco companies, remove all incentives provided to tobacco industry and adopt a code of conduct for all officials dealing with the industry.



Shakhawat Hossain Rana

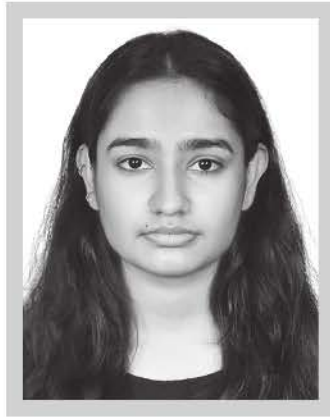
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Impact of Adult Smoking Behavior on Children's Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke

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Background: Exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS) is a serious health risk for children, especially those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). However, the use of biomarkers to study the distribution and determinants of SHS exposure is rare in LMICs compared to high-income countries.

Objective: To assess children's exposure to second-hand smoke by measuring cotinine levels in saliva and categorizing exposure based on home smoking behaviors: Nonsmoking Homes (NSH), Smoke-Free Homes (SFH), and Smoke-Permitted Homes (SPH). **Method:** We analyzed baseline data from the Children Learning About Secondhand Smoke (CLASS III) trial, a cluster-randomized controlled trial of the Smoke-Free Intervention in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The study recruited 1,383 children (aged 9–15 years) from 34 randomly selected schools. Ethics approvals were obtained from the University of York and the Bangladesh Medical Research Council. Salivary cotinine, a biomarker of SHS exposure, was analyzed at ACM Global Laboratories, UK. We also collected data on children's sociodemographic variables, smoking-related behaviors including smoking restrictions at home, exposure to and visibility of tobacco smoke and their attitudes towards smoking. Children who reported active tobacco use were excluded. The data were collected during a classroom session. Participating children provided saliva samples in a sterile individually labeled tube and completed a questionnaire on a digital tablet. Data collection involved three follow-up periods, with 1,325 students participating in the first follow-up, 1,280 in the second follow-up, and 1,268 in the third follow-up. **Results:** 1,383 schoolchildren provided saliva samples; with an even gender split (54% female, 46% male), of these 1,269 had cotinine concentrations within quantifiable limits (0.1ng/mL-50ng/mL). Overall, 91% of children had cotinine levels between 0.1ng/mL and 12 ng/mL, indicating SHS exposure. The median salivary cotinine level among children was 0.27 ng/mL, meaning half of the children had levels above this and half had levels below. Out of these 1,269 children, most children's cotinine levels ranged between 0.16 and 0.49 ng/mL. Children residing in Non-smoking Homes (NSH) had lower median cotinine levels. In Smoke-Free Homes (SFH) children exhibited slightly higher median cotinine levels compared to NSH. Children living in homes where smoking was permitted indoors (SPH) had the highest median cotinine concentrations. The study observed that children in SPH had median cotinine levels approximately 0.1–0.3 ng/mL higher than those in NSH and about 0.05 ng/mL higher than those in SFH. **Conclusions:** Exposure to SHS is common in children in Bangladesh. Limiting smoking in households is the key to addressing this but to ensure full protection from SHS in LMICs, access to smoking cessation services and enforcement of comprehensive smoking bans are also necessary. The level of SHS exposure in Dhaka indicates widespread and unrestricted smoking. Smoking restrictions in households and enforcement of smoking bans are urgently needed.



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E-Cigarette Usage in Bangladesh: Trends, Influences, and Public Health Concerns

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Background: E-cigarettes include a diverse group of devices that allow users to inhale an aerosol, which typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and other additives. Nicotine is highly addictive and exposure during adolescence can harm one's developing brain and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention and mood. The rapid growth of e-cigarette usage and its easy accessibility raised public health concerns, leading to the eventual ban of e-cigarettes in Bangladesh.

Objective: This paper aims to identify the areas of research studies already conducted on e-cigarette issues in Bangladesh especially the trends, influences, and public health concerns in relation to e-cigarettes and to find the gaps of essential research domains on e-cigarettes in the present context of Bangladesh. **Methods:** The data for this article was mainly collected from secondary sources of the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program of Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs. This included reviewing relevant literature and analyzing research findings published during 2015 to 2024 in the conference abstract book. **Results:** Findings of one study show that 74% of respondents were aware of e-cigarettes, though only 2% were current users. Findings of another study revealed that many users, particularly young adults, perceive e-cigarettes as less harmful than conventional cigarettes, with misconceptions about their safety for health and cessation benefits. Findings of another study revealed that social media, online platforms, and celebrity endorsements significantly increased e-cigarette usage and susceptibility, emphasizing the need for stricter regulations and anti-e-cigarette campaigns. Realizing the evil effects of e-cigarettes the government of Bangladesh has recently banned the import of e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems to protect public health. **Conclusion:** The ban on e-cigarettes in Bangladesh marks a significant step toward safeguarding public health, particularly for the youth, who are most susceptible to their appeal. The ban on e-cigarettes in Bangladesh, while intended to curb their potential health risks, may inadvertently fuel the growth of unregulated black markets, making these products more dangerous and harder to monitor. Strict penalties for trafficking, robust public awareness campaigns, and enhanced law enforcement coordination are crucial to addressing this problem at its root.



RESEARCH FINDINGS
DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2025

List of Research Studies as of 2024

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2024
01.	Factors Influencing the Tobacco Growers' Transition to Non-Tobacco Cultivation and Vice Versa: a Comparative Analysis
02.	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of 5A-5R Counseling Services for Tobacco Cessation with or without Mobile Phone-Assisted Remote Support in Rural Primary Healthcare Settings
03.	Exploring Weakness of Cigarette Price Hike Structure and Complications Aroused by the Term "And Above" in Base Price in the National Budget Proposal
04.	Tobacco Industries Ill Tactics on Tertiary Education Institutions: Policy Gaps and Managerial Challenges
05.	Unregulated Street Tobacco Vendors: A Gateway to Increased Tobacco Availability and Consumption Among Public University Students of Bangladesh
06.	Comparisons between Smokers' and Nonsmokers' Reactions to Health Warning Labels on Cigarette Stick and Plain Packaging: An Experimental Pilot Study
07.	Exploring E-Cigarette Consumption: Perception Among Diverse Youth Age Cohorts in Bangladesh
08.	Compliance and Enforcement of Smoke-free Legislation in Hospitals in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2023
1.	Exploring the Distribution, Availability, and Marketing of E-Cigarettes in Bangladesh
2.	Parliamentary Oversight on Tobacco Control in Bangladesh
3.	Knowledge and Practice of Tobacco Cessation Counseling among the Nurses Working at Primary Health Care Facilities in Bangladesh
4.	Trend or Trap: The Influence of Social Media Advertising of E-cigarettes on Young Adults of Dhaka City
5.	Compliance and Implementation Challenges of Tobacco Control Law at Public Transportation in Dhaka City
6.	Influence of Designated Smoking Area (DSA) of Restaurants on Adolescent Smoking
7.	Tax Evasion Strategies of Smokeless Tobacco Industries in Bangladesh
8.	Youth Perception on Introducing Quit-line Service: A Model for Tobacco Cessation in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2022
1.	Effects of Tobacco Cultivation on Soil Fertility and Environment in Bangladesh
2.	On Screen Tobacco Usage in Popular Bangladeshi OTT Platform: How does it Influence Young Adults of Bangladesh
3.	Profitability Analysis with Comparison of Three Major Crops and Tobacco Production in Tobacco-Cultivated Areas in Bangladesh
4.	Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2022: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 in Bangladesh
5.	Exploring the Prospects and Challenges of Implementation of the Tobacco Vendor Licensing in Bangladesh
6.	Exploring the Direct and Indirect Tobacco Advertisement and Promotion around the Point-of-Sale in Urban and Rural Areas of Bangladesh
7.	Digitalization of Tobacco Taxation System: Prospects and Challenges
8.	Patterns and Determinants of Electronic Cigarettes Usage among Young Adults in Bangladesh
9.	Barriers and Opinions to Declaring Tobacco Smoke-Free Homes in Dhaka City: A Mixed Methods Study Focusing on the Home Setting Approach

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2021
1.	Risk Assessment of Pesticides Induced Health Hazards among the Tobacco Farmers: A Study towards Urging New Policy for Tobacco Cultivation Control in Bangladesh
2.	Tobacco Consumption and Severity of COVID-19 Patients: Bangladesh Perspective
3.	Exploring Ban on Selling of Single Stick Smoking and Unpackaged Smokeless Tobacco as a Policy Option for Bangladesh
4.	Effect of Advertisement, Promotion, and Sponsorship on E-cigarette Consumption among the Young Adults in Bangladesh
5.	Does Higher Tax Rate Affect Tobacco Usage? Determinants of Tobacco Control Mechanism
6.	Exploring Conception of Vape Among Young Adults of Dhaka City
7.	Opinions to minimize tobacco consumption and complying tobacco control law: setting approach in private university

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2020
01.	Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Tobacco Control Law among Tobacco Retailers of Dhaka City Corporation
02.	Compliance with Smoke-Free Legislation in Public Places and Smoking Behaviour: An Observational Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh
03.	Implication of Unadopted Measures on Reducing Cigarette Smoking: A Study from Corporate Employees' Perspectives
04.	Failure of Professional Male Drivers to Comply with Smoke Free Policy is Associated with Nicotine Dependence and Motives for Smoking
05.	Investigating Policy Gap Related to Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) Ban in Bangladesh
06.	Situational Analysis of E-Cigarette Usage in Bangladesh
07.	Smoking Zone Facilities in Restaurants and Attitudes and Experiences on Tobacco Smoke among Adults in Dhaka City
08.	Demystifying Tobacco Industry Interferences to Undermine Graphic Health Warning Implementation in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2019
01.	Tobacco Industry Branding Strategies and Its Influence on Young Adults
02.	Ban on Tobacco Advertising, Promotion and Sponsorship in Bangladesh: Investigating Compliance Level and Implementation Challenges
03.	Enforcement of Tobacco Control Law Regarding Smoke free Public Place and Public Transport: A Case of Bangladesh Railways Jurisdiction
04.	Tobacco Related Content on New Media and its Exposure among University Students in Bangladesh
05.	Implementation Status of Article 5.3 of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to Curb Tobacco Industry Interference in Bangladesh
06.	Determining Density of Tobacco Retail Outlets and Patterns of Tobacco Use Near Schools in Dhaka
07.	Smoke-free Housing Policy for Multiunit Housing Complexes: Evidence from Divisional Cities of Bangladesh
08.	Influence of Tobacco Control Related Facebook Messages: Status and Way Forward
09.	Shifting of Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in Bangladesh: Challenges to the Tobacco Control Policy

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2018
01.	Impactful Advocacy Strategies for Tobacco Consumption Prevention in the Char Regions of Northern Bangladesh
02.	Compliance Level of Tobacco Control Law in Public Transportation
03.	Toxicants Release from Different Tobacco Products: Alarming for Environmental Pollution and Health Hazards in Bangladesh
04.	Relationship between Income Elasticity and Tobacco Product Use in Bangladesh
05.	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in Uttara Model Town: A Way Forward to a Smoke-free City
06.	Adoption of Tobacco Retail License in Bangladesh: Exploring Possible Outcomes and Implementation Challenges
07.	Graphic Health Warnings on Cigarette Packs: Exploration of its Effectiveness in Deterring the Youth of Bangladesh
08.	Health Hazards among Women Involved in Tobacco Curing in Selected Rural Areas of Bangladesh
09.	Barriers to Implementing the Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2017
01.	Cigarette Selling to and by the Minors in Bangladesh: Policy Gaps and Implementation Challenges
02.	Influence of Social Media and Peer Group on Smoking among Selected Public & Private University Students in Urban Dhaka
03.	Factors Influencing Tradition of Smokeless Tobacco Use in Rural Communities of Bangladesh
04.	Business of Loose Cigarettes and Losing of Tobacco Control: Current Situation in Urban Areas of Bangladesh
05.	Smoking Behavior among TB Relapse Cases at Tertiary Level Hospitals in Dhaka City of Bangladesh
06.	The Relationship between Tobacco Consumption Habits and Road Traffic Accidents: A Study among the Heavy Vehicle Drivers in Bangladesh
07.	Implementing Tobacco Control Law in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Forward
08.	Effectiveness of Tobacco Control Measures at Public and Private University Campuses in Bangladesh
09.	Exploring Institutional Mechanisms for Economically Sustainable Alternatives for Tobacco Farmers
10.	Socioeconomic Inequalities in Secondhand Smoke Exposure at Home in the Context of Mother-child Pairs in Bangladesh

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

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2015 (Student Category)
01.	Heavy metals (Cr, Cd and Pb) in chewing and other categories of tobacco consumed in Bangladesh and their effects on health
02.	Secondhand smoke in public places: Awareness, attitudes and exposure among university students
03.	Smokeless tobacco consumption and diabetic foot ulcer
04.	Factors associated with female smoking at selected universities in Dhaka
05.	A comparison of avoidance behavior to secondhand smoke (SHS) among male and female residential students of Dhaka University
06.	Smokeless tobacco use among floating people in Dhaka city
07.	The prevalence of tobacco consumption and its determinants among university students in Sylhet division: A cross-sectional study
08.	Adult smokers' views about tobacco warning labels on cigarette packages: A study in Dhaka city
09.	Determinants of exposure to secondhand smoke at home among children in rural Bangladesh
10.	Emotional, behavioral problems and cigarette smoking behavior: A survey among Bangladeshi adolescents

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2015 (Researcher Category)
11.	Factors influencing farmers to turn to tobacco cultivation in khulna division of Bangladesh
12.	Effects of maternal smokeless tobacco use on birth weight and gestational age: A case control study in rural Dhaka, Bangladesh
13.	Level of compliance with the Tobacco Control Act 2005 in relation to exhibition of vigilance notice at public places in Bangladesh
14.	Compliance with Tobacco Control Law in public places: A survey in Dhaka city
15.	Patterns of electronic-cigarette use and users' beliefs about its harmful effects
16.	Knowledge and attitudes regarding the National Tobacco Control Law and smoking behaviors among Bangladesh police
17.	Smoking among the employees and barriers to smoke-free initiative in four medical college hospitals in Bangladesh
18.	The role of mass media in tobacco control
19.	Tobacco knowledge, attitudes and practices among adults attending outpatient departments of public hospitals in Bangladesh
20.	Child labor in <i>bidi</i> factories: Current situation and the way forward

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2014 (Student Category)
01.	Smoking Behavior among Undergraduate Students Living at Hostel and their Homes in Dhaka City
02.	Relationship between Oral Diseases and Tobacco Chewing among Slum-Dwellers in Dhaka City
03.	E- Cigarette: A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices among Private University Students in Dhaka City
04.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Youths towards the Use and Control of Tobacco: A Survey among University Students
05.	Perception of Smoking-Related Risks and Benefits among Selected Urban and Rural Adolescent Students
06.	Realizing the Ways to Keep Teenagers Smoke-Free
07.	Prevalence and Awareness of Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke Exposure among Medical and Dental Students
08.	Expenditure and Knowledge about Tobacco use among the Rickshaw Pullers in Dhaka City
09.	Changing Marketing Paradigm of Tobacco Industry in the Regulated Environment in Bangladesh: Lessons and Challenges for Tobacco Control Policy Advocates
10.	Tobacco Consumption through Flavored Shisha among University Students in Dhaka City of Bangladesh

SL.	Research Studies Conducted in 2014 (Researcher Category)
11.	Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with It
12.	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Tobacco Users among Garment Workers in Dhaka City in Bangladesh
13.	Magnitude of Cross Border Tobacco Trade and its Implications on the National Tobacco Control Program of Bangladesh
14.	Disability and Economic Burden of Tobacco Related Illnesses: Experience from Rural Bangladesh
15.	Smoking among Medical Interns and Their Perceptions towards Training about Tobacco Smoking in the Medical Curriculum
16.	Dynamics of Smoking Behavior among Urban Adolescents and Young Adults of Bangladesh: Peer Effect and Family Influences
17.	Presence of Tobacco Sales and Advertisement within 100 Yards of Schools in Dhaka, Bangladesh
18.	Perception about Health Effects of Passive Smoking among Young Adults in Dhaka
19.	Tobacco Growers and Incentives from Tobacco Companies in Selected Districts of Bangladesh
20.	The Tobacco Consumption Practice of Female Day Labourers at Brick Kilns in Dhaka

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

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