

POLICY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM 2022

Research Findings Dissemination Conference

March 20, 2023









TOBACCO CONTROL
POLICY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM 2022

Research Findings Dissemination Conference

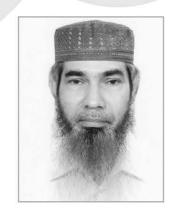
March 20, 2023



Coordinator (Additional Secretary)
National Tobacco Control Cell
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Message

I have heard with joy that BCCP is going to launch a funding program to create statistics by promoting research. As we know the research lead us to some statistics that creates excellence to take decisions. As for example



the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Bangladesh 2017, among 15 years and above, currently, 35.3% or 37.8 million population use any form of tobacco (46% of men and 25.2% of women). According to Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2013, nearly 7% of students aged between 13 to 15 years are currently using some form of tobacco, and many more children were exposed to tobacco smoke.

Due to tobacco-related diseases, more than 1,61,000 people died (Tobacco Atlas 2018) and nearly 400,000 people became disabled every year (WHO, 2004). Moreover, Treatment of tobacco-related diseases are the burden for affected individuals, their family members and severe burden for the national economy.

The Government of Bangladesh is committed to curbing tobacco use in the country and has taken important measures for tobacco control. The National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) was established in 2007 as the functional arm of the Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with a mission to protect the people of Bangladesh from the devastating and harmful effects of tobacco through enhancing mass awareness and effective enforcement of tobacco control law.

Currently, NTCC is playing a pivotal role to develop a bunch of laws/ policies/ strategies/ guidelines. Bangladesh also has proposed National Tobacco Control Programs including a roadmap to Make Bangladesh Tobacco-free by 2040, as the vision foreseen by the Honorable Prime Minister. In order to strengthen the implementation of the tobacco control law, NTCC is working closely with the District and Upazila Taskforces committees to undertake various capacity-building and awareness-building programs.

I believe that evidence is needed to develop strategies and effective tobacco control programs. In this respect, the Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program will play a significant role to generate evidence for tobacco control activities in the country. I hope, all the stakeholders will involve in tobacco control and collaborate in designing effective programs to achieve the Honorable Prime Minister's vision - Tobacco-free Bangladesh before 2040.

Hossain Ali Khondoker



Institute for Global Tobacco Control

Message

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) was established in 1998 at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with the mission to prevent death and disease from tobacco products. The Institute's work



supports tobacco control capacity building and research around the world to generate evidence for effective tobacco control policies and interventions. The program is supported by funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use.

IGTC supports various research networks internationally, namely the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) and the Indonesia Tobacco Control Research Network (ITCRN). The Institute collaborated to build these networks, which bring researchers from across the country together and offer seed grants to undertake tobacco control policy research.

The Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network managed by the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) aims to contribute towards addressing the gaps in tobacco control research in the country and generate useful evidence for tobacco related policy and programs in Bangladesh. The BCCP team builds the research capacity of the selected professionals, providing mentorship throughout the grant program implementation process and has supported them in research publications. The research studies conducted through this program have documented essential information, and the policy implications were considered during the recent amendments to the tobacco control policies in the country.

At this Research Findings Dissemination Conference, I greatly appreciate the participation of the Government representatives, tobacco control professionals and researchers, local and international partners, and media representatives in the panel and open discussions. I encourage the stakeholders working for tobacco control in the country to come together for effective policies and positive outcomes.

It continues to be an honor and pleasure to collaborate with BCCP on this critical initiative. BCCP has exceeded our expectations vis-à-vis overseeing the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Policy Network and building tobacco control policy research capacity in Bangladesh. I also want to enthusiastically congratulate the researchers of all the grant cycles for successful completion of the research studies, and for generating local evidence for future tobacco control policies and programs in Bangladesh. I wish you all success.

Joanna Cohen, PHD, MHSC

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



Message

Since 2013, the Tobacco Control Research Grant Program with Bloomberg Initiative funding through the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, is being administered by the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP).



BCCP's Research team provides mentorship to build the capacity of researchers from universities and institutions focusing on Tobacco-related issues. The annually recurring grants program helps to generate local evidence for the development of new or revised policy, and for designing effective Advocacy and Communication Programs for Tobacco control in Bangladesh.

A systematic process is followed to award the research seed grants each year that begins with announcements for research proposals made in the national dailies. The proposals received are evaluated by a Review Panel comprised of renowned researchers from home and abroad and the final selection is made based on collectively approved criteria. This year, we are providing digital options to accomplish the proposal submissions and selection process through the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) website.

At the end of each Grants cycle, the Tobacco Control Research Dissemination Conference presents the summary findings of the selected tobacco related research studies that were conducted. I congratulate the researchers for successful completion of their research studies. I also appreciate the technical guidance provided by the BCCP Research team throughout the research process and beyond. A remarkable success is that many of the research studies have been published in international journals and presented in conferences both in Bangladesh and abroad.

I would like to thank IGTC for their technical and financial support to the program and for supporting the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) as an important forum for stakeholders to exchange and generate research ideas, enabling them to utilize research findings to strengthen existing tobacco control policies and programs.

I look forward to the continued and collaborative efforts of the Government, the Bloomberg Partners, the World Health Organization, NGOs, leaders and activists in the effective planning and implementation of tobacco control strategies and programs in Bangladesh that will help to achieve the nation's vision of a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040.

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 not sufficient to adequately 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 Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh has made a commitment to make Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040. In order to achieve the 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-base 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.

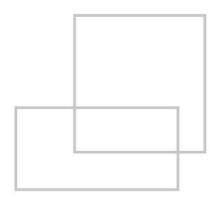
Tobacco Control Policy Research Grant Program



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 nine 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 every year. Representatives of relevant government departments, public and private universities, BI partners and grantees and other organizations working on tobacco control attend 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 developing a new policy or strengthen an existing one in line with the components of the World Health Organization's MPOWER package are recommended.









Proposal Selection Process:

BCCP follows a rigorous process for 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:

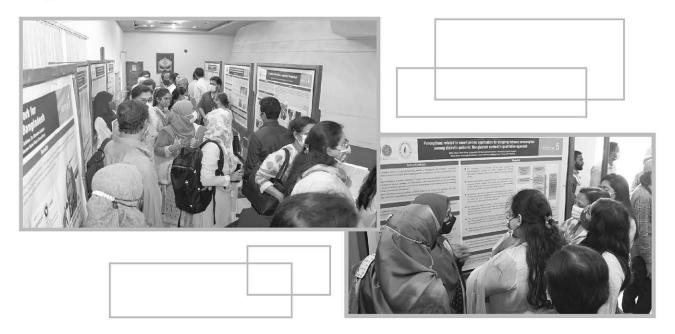
- Research Method, Procedure and Data Collection
- Data Management, Analysis and Report Writing
- Effective Presentation Development and Facilitation Skills

The team also provides mentorship while the researchers develop manuscripts and recommends 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 2022, one hundred and fourteen 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 poster.

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.btcrn.org. Twenty-five 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.

A7- Member Executive Board of BTCRN

N-N-N-N-N-N-N

President

Dr. Nawzia Yasmin

Pro-Vice Chancellor, State University of Bangladesh

Vice-President

Dr. Shahida Haque

Senior Deputy Director (Research and Evaluation), BCCP

Treasurer

Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan

Project Manager, National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute

General Secretary

Mr. Mohammad Shamimul Islam

Deputy Director, BCCP and Team Leader, JHSPH-BCCP Tobacco Control Project

Members

Dr. Sohel Reza Choudhury

Professor and Head, Department of Epidemiology and Research, National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute

Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam Mian

Tobacco Control Expert

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.

BTCRN Members Reiterated Their Commitment for Tobacco Control Research in Bangladesh

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of BTCRN was held on 25th November 2022. Prof. Dr. Nawzia Yasmin, President of the network, who is also the Pro Vice Chancellor of the State University of Bangladesh, presided over the meeting. An activity report of the network was placed in the AGM which was appreciated by the members. In the open discussion, the members reiterated their commitment to promote tobacco control research in Bangladesh. The concerned members mentioned that BTCRN needed to be more vibrant in terms of promoting the research findings to be conducted by their members through different media including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Moreover, it was decided that a small group comprising of the senior researchers of the network will be formed to provide input and support to the young researchers for publishing their journal articles.

At the end of the meeting, the members unanimously decided that the current Executive Committee will continue their roles and responsibilities for another two years.



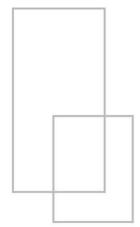


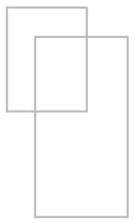


Unmask Tobacco Industry Interferences at the University Campuses

Different multi-national tobacco industries carry out aggressive brand promotion activities targeting the educational institutions in Bangladesh. The industries do such activities in disguise the name of "talent hunt" programs and most cases, the university authorities are not aware of their ill motivations. One of the multinational tobacco industries organizes an event called "Battle of Mind" at a regular interval involving the fresh graduates to promote itself in the name of employment generation. However, the tobacco control law bans all types of advertisements and promotion of tobacco industries in all types of media including the mass media. In the prevailing situation, the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Tobacco Control Research Network (BTCRN) has been organizing a series of University-based Lecture Program on Tobacco Control.









As of 2022, seven University-based Lecture Programs on Tobacco Control were organized at North South University, Northern University Bangladesh, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, Southeast University, Jahangirnagar University and American International University- Bangladesh. Vice-Chancellors, faculties and students of the universities, representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bloomberg Initiative (BI) partners and grantees, BTCRN, Leaders in Tobacco Control Alumni Association attended the programs. Renowned tobacco control experts from the country made brief presentations on different tobacco control issues.

The programs have created a lot of enthusiasm among the students, faculties, and administrative staff members of the universities as evident from the fact that a huge number of participants attended the programs. The university authorities made commitments not to entertain the tobacco industries at their campuses. As an immediate outcome of programs, the membership-base of BTCRN has significantly increased.



RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS 2022 AND THEIR ABSTRACTS

Researcher Category





Dr. Md. Azharul Islam

Effects of Tobacco Cultivation on Soil Fertility and Environment in Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Azharul Islam is a Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental Science at the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh. He completed his PhD in Environmental Chemistry from the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Tokyo, Japan, in 2009; and his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in 2000 and 2001 respectively. He has completed postdoctoral research at the University of Arizona, USA, and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan. He has contributed to a number of research work on chemical ecology, environmental pollution and management, environmental toxicology, analytical analysis of natural products, environmental impact assessment, etc. He participated in various national and international scientific meetings, seminars, workshops, and conferences for sharing his research results. He has published 57 scientific research articles in peer-reviewed national and international journals. Currently, he is working as an expert reviewer and section editor of a number of peer-reviewed national and international and international journals.

Effects of Tobacco Cultivation on Soil Fertility and Environment in Bangladesh

Author: Dr. Md. Azharul Islam

Background: Tobacco cultivation is associated with the destruction of soil quality, productivity, and environmental pollution. Many studies in developed countries have reported on the negative impact of tobacco cultivation on soil and the environment. Since the relevant evidence is limited for Bangladesh, investigating the effects of tobacco cultivation on those factors is required. **Objective:** To assess soil fertility in tobacco-growing areas and examine the effects of tobacco cultivation on soil and the environment. Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted from April to November, 2022. A total of 64 soil samples were collected from tobacco and non-tobacco growing areas in 17 upazilas across nine districts to explore fertility status based on their chemical characterizations. Besides, water samples were measured at both types of study sites. Samples were examined to check the level of various chemicals like Organic Carbon (OC), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), and other heavy metals using ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy) in the laboratory. Moreover, 15 focus group discussions (FGDs) with tobacco farmers and 14 key informant interviews (KIIs) with scientists, researchers, and academicians of soil and environmental science and local Agriculture Officers were conducted using separate guidelines. The T-test was used to compare the means of the soil fertility parameters. For FGD and KII data, the thematic analysis technique was used. Results: Overall, the levels of OC, N, P, and K were lower in tobacco-growing lands than in non-tobacco-growing lands; whereas OC, considered an important factor of soil quality, significantly (p<0.05) varied between both types of land. In tobacco-growing areas, levels of OC (less than 0.50%) and N (0.041-0.29%) were found to be much lower than the standard limits. Similarly, the levels of P and K were found at 20-40 ppm and 10-50 ppm respectively, in tobacco-growing lands; those were still lower than standard levels. Except for Pb in the water, all the heavy metals examined in the soil and water samples were found higher in tobacco-growing areas than in non-tobacco-growing areas. Among the heavy metals, Cd, Ni, and Cu in soil samples and As, Cd, Ni, and Cu in water samples significantly (p<0.05) varied between both types of land. In comparison to the standard limits, all the heavy metals, except Pb, in water samples from both types of land, while Cd and Cu in soil samples from tobacco-growing lands exceeded the limits, which is very alarming for human health and the environment. From the FGDs, farmers experienced differences between tobacco and non-tobacco lands, and mentioned the reduction of soil fertility, poor production, necessity of excessive fertilizers, use of forest wood for curing, and decreasing trend of forest areas, particularly more visible in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. KII also reiterated and indicated the difference between tobacco and non-tobacco-growing lands, such as strong changes in soil fertility and productivity, excessive use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, increased air and water contamination, deforestation, and air pollution due to tobacco curing, negative impacts on biodiversity, long-term cultivation of tobacco, and an increasing trend of soil erosion. Conclusion: Soil and other environmental parameters exceed the standard limits more in tobacco-growing lands than in non-tobacco-growing lands, indicating the hazardous situation in those areas. An effective tobacco cultivation control policy is needed to protect soil health and the surrounding environment, by shifting to food crops and preventing the spread to new areas.



Maliha Tabassum

On Screen Tobacco Usage in Popular Bangladeshi OTT Platform: How does it Influence Young Adults of Bangladesh

Maliha Tabassum has been instructing in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism as an Assistant Professor at the Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) for about four years. She completed her second master's degree at Coventry University in UK after earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in the same discipline from Dhaka University. She received the Sitara Parven Award for securing first class 3rd position in the Bachelor of Social Sciences final exam of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University. She ranked 2nd in a national competition titled "Young Leaders Programme" and won a prestigious scholarship worth \$25,000 to study abroad for a master's degree. She took part in numerous national and international conferences. Her areas of interest in research are media, culture, and communication. She has a good number of publications in both national and international journals, with several citations. She led a number of projects for the Bangladesh University of Professionals and University Grant Commission as the Project Director.

On Screen Tobacco Usage in Popular Bangladeshi OTT Platform: How does it Influence Young Adults of Bangladesh

Author: Maliha Tabassum

Background: Over-the-top (OTT) platforms have grown significantly in Banqladesh and are rapidly gaining popularity among young adults. Tobacco incidents in OTT content are increasing; though dramas and web series are not allowed to depict them by law, in a few cases, movies are an exception. The evidence on the frequency of smoking scenes in OTT content, law compliance, and influence on youth is limited. Objective: To examine on-screen tobacco usage in Bangladeshi OTT content and find out the influence of these smoking scenes on young adults. Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted from May to November, 2022, adopting a mixed method. Three popular local Bangladeshi OTT platforms, Chorki, BongoBD, and Bioscope, were selected for content observation. The top five contents (movies/dramas/web series) were taken from each of the three platforms, based on the highest number of viewers, and then observed using a checklist to explore smoking incidents and tobacco control law compliance. This checklist was developed following the Breathe California guideline that counts smoking incidents, defined as the use or implied use of a smoking tobacco product in the contents. Besides, 8 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with young adults aged 18-35 to determine perception and influence on young adults. Both thematic and content analysis techniques were used to analyze the data. Results: A total of 253 smoking incidents were found in all 15 movies, dramas, and web series. The law was found to be entirely violated by all dramas and web series, with 143 smoking incidents. While in movies, there were 110 smoking incidents, though the term "utmost necessity" was not well understood during content observation. Health warnings were shown in 94.6% of movies' smoking incidents, but none of those followed the instructions as per the law. Smoking incidents were characterized by active smoking incidents (90.2%), men (especially young folks) who smoke, an alarming presence of female smoking scenes, and smoking in public places. It also portrayed the normalization of smoking, associated with on-screen smoking depictions such as glorifying smoking/person, representing a luxurious lifestyle, sexual attractiveness, stress release, and indulging in high-risk behaviors. Other incidents exhibited cool culture and boosted intellectual ability. In FGDs, both smokers and non-smokers viewed on-screen smoking incidents as a cool trend and a sign of manliness relating to their own smoking experience. Regarding the influence of smoking incident scenes, smoker participants mentioned having the immediate desire to smoke, and a good number also denied it, while another portion confessed to getting influenced by watching their favorite celebrities smoke. In terms of self-smoking initiation experiences, the results are quite contradictory. Most participants confessed to getting highly exposed to smoking-related content, but claimed not to be influenced by such media representation. It seemed hard for them to confess a self-reported smoking initiation. This tendency can be explained by A. Bandura's social cognitive theory, where personal and environmental factors make indirect influence higher than perceived influence. Conclusion: Smoking incidents in OTT content are quite common, resulting in an influence on young adults, and dramas, web series, and films were found to be non-compliant with the law. In addition to strengthening implementation, OTT platforms should be explicitly mentioned in current tobacco control regulations and other pertinent laws, with an emphasis on tobacco control.



Hasan Mahammad Sammy

Research Title:

Profitability Analysis with Comparison of Three Major Crops and Tobacco Production in Tobacco-Cultivated Areas in Bangladesh

Hasan Mahammad Sammy is a PhD researcher at the Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, and also a Research Fellow of the Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship Trust. He is working as an Associate Professor at the Department of Agricultural Statistics, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka. He has more than 9 years of experience in teaching and research. His areas of specialization include profitability, resource use efficiency, and climate change adaptation. To date, he has successfully worked on more than 10 nationally and internationally funded projects. He has participated in more than twenty national and international scientific meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences for sharing his research findings. He got more than 14 scientific research articles published in peer-reviewed national and international journals. He is also a trainer and conducts training sessions for different government research organizations in Bangladesh.

Profitability Analysis with Comparison of Three Major Crops and Tobacco Production in Tobacco-Cultivated Areas in Bangladesh

Author: Hasan Mahammad Sammy

Background: A common myth about tobacco cultivation is that tobacco is more profitable than other crops. However, tobacco farming becomes unprofitable when the opportunity costs of unpaid family labour and the costs of their significantly severe illnesses and medical care are considered. High environmental impacts from tobacco farming result in a net loss to the society. **Objective:** To analyze profitability by comparing three key crops with tobacco, and estimate the health costs of individuals in tobacco-cultivated areas. Methods: A cross-sectional and comparative study was undertaken among tobacco and non-tobacco farmers with family members in Bandarban, Kushtia, Lalmonirhat, and Manikganj districts. A total of 483 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 hazards (categorized as severe, moderate, and mild), and farming. Besides, 10 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with Agriculture Extension Officers, Agricultural Economists, and experts in Health, Environment and Tobacco Control using a guideline. 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 this study, 483 households consisted of a total of 2,080 household members. Around 16% of the respondents were seasonal unemployed, and the average household sizes of non-tobacco and tobacco growers were 4.34 and 4.31 respectively. The average land use for cultivation was 93.7 decimals for non-tobacco growers and 111.6 decimals for tobacco growers. Considering all crops in a cultivation year, the undiscounted Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of non-tobacco growers was higher (1.35) than that of tobacco growers (1.04). In Bandarban district, BCR for High Yield Variety (HYV) production was 1.25, while that of tobacco production was 1.14. The BCR of Aman rice production in the Kustia district was 1.06, while that of tobacco production was 1.01. The BCRs of maize production were higher against tobacco in Lalmonirhat (1.33 vs. 1.25) and Manikganj (1.22 vs. 1.03) districts. Three-fourths (75.7%) of all household members suffered from various types of sickness. The average treatment costs for non-tobacco and tobacco growers were BDT 9,960 and BDT 17,701 respectively. The average number of sick days and lost workdays were 16 and 8 for non-tobacco growers, compared to 18 and 10 for tobacco growers. The binary logistic regression results indicate that 10 out of 11 sicknesses were found to be a higher risk for tobacco growers at the severe level compared to non-tobacco growers. KII also identified the health risks of tobacco farming, including green tobacco sickness and other issues caused by excessive exposure to pesticides, chemicals, tobacco dust, and long working hours; the severity of these issues increased during cultivation. The environmental effects of tobacco farming explored by KII were the vast consumption of water, intensive use of agrochemicals, extensive deforestation, and contamination of air and surface water. **Conclusion:** Food crop cultivation is more profitable than tobacco cultivation for individual and annual crop production. Moreover, tobacco cultivation carries the risk of disease burden and environmental hazards. To achieve a tobacco-free country by 2040, tobacco farmers should switch to food crops that are profitable from a broader perspective.



Md. Shahedul Alam

Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2022: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 in Bangladesh

Md. Shahedul Alam has been working at PROGGA since 2008 and now serving as Head of Research and Advocacy. He has been in the development sector for more than 16 years. At PROGGA, he is responsible for developing research materials, coordinating research fieldwork, providing technical support in developing advocacy campaign materials. Apart from this, he is also responsible for overseeing the organization's financial management. Previously, he worked for several organizations and was involved with different socio-economic research studies. He obtained Bachelor of Social Science and Master of Social Science degrees in Anthropology from the University of Dhaka. His research interest includes, among others, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, disaster management, livelihoods, tobacco control, and sustainable development.

Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2022: Report on Implementation of FCTC Article 5.3 in Bangladesh

Author: Md. Shahedul Alam

Background: Despite being a party to the WHO FCTC, Bangladesh still faces a high level of tobacco industry interference (TII). The frequency and intensity of such interference are in grave conflict with Bangladesh's ambitions of realizing the SDGs by 2030 and becoming a tobacco-free country by 2040. The TII Index compares efforts made by governments to tackle TII in policy and legislation using a scoring system. The 2022 TII Index is the fifth country report on Bangladesh since 2018. Objective: The objective of the study is to measure the implementation status of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 and specifically to measure the progress and deterioration of tobacco control in Bangladesh. Methods: The study covered the incidents of tobacco industry interference in Bangladesh that took place between April 2021 to March 2022. TII Index was developed based on the Tobacco Industry Interference Index of the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) to make the findings comparable with previous years. Following the SEATCA and Article 5.3 Guidelines, a checklist was developed and the indicators were grouped into seven categories: level of participation in policy development, so-called CSR activities, benefits to the tobacco industry, forms of unnecessary interaction, transparency, conflict of interest, and preventive measures. For most indicators, a sliding scale from one to five was used, but for those answerable by yes or no, scoring was limited to either 1 or 5. The lower the score, the better the compliance with Article 5.3 guidelines it suggests. **Results:** The study revealed that the overall score in the TII Index 2022 was 72, which was exactly the same as the previous year's index (2021), representing the frequency and intensity of TII remaining unchanged. Besides, the trend of the country's TII Index scores showed little fluctuation within a narrow range (78 in 2018, 77 in 2019, 68 in 2020, 72 in 2021, and 72 in 2022). It implies that the country has largely failed to translate its public health commitments into actions. Areas facing highest level of industry interference are govt. officials and policymakers engaging in unnecessary interactions with tobacco industry during different events and also the conflict of interests posed by the govt. holding share in a multinational tobacco company and its high officials holding key positions in its Board of Directors. As a continuation of previous years, the govt. continued to accept donations from the industry (i.e., BATB's donation to Bangladesh Labor Welfare Foundation) and endorse and participate in so-called CSR activities of the industry as evident in policymakers attending different BATB events. However, the Ministry of Industries disqualified tobacco companies from the President's Award for Industrial Development which can be considered as an advancement in the preventive measures against TI interference. **Conclusion:** As Bangladesh continues to score high in the Index, it suggests that tobacco industry interference has remained unchanged and unchecked over the years for the lack of effective preventive measures. The government must amend the law to make it more compliant with WHO FCTC, thus adopting a complete ban on tobacco industry's CSR activities and also undertaking awareness- raising activities with regard to obligations under the FCTC Article 5.3, particularly in the ministries that have been proven to be vulnerable to tobacco industry interference. Lastly, the government must divest its share in the tobacco industry and adopt a code-of-conduct for govt. officials while dealing with tobacco companies.



RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS 2022 AND THEIR ABSTRACTS

Student Category





Md. Minhajul Abedin

Exploring the Prospects and Challenges of Implementation of the Tobacco Vendor Licensing in Bangladesh

Md. Minhajul Abedin has recently obtained postgraduate degree from the department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka. He has an excellent academic background securing CGPA 3.94 out of 4 (1st class, 1st position) during the postgraduate program. He is interested in social research, especially in public health, local government, human right and the gender related issues. He is ambitious about working in the academic field and explores the research opportunities in his interested fields. Additionally, He got three articles published in renowned journals. First one, The Role of Union Digital Centers in Reducing Social Inequalities in Bangladesh (2021) at the Bangladesh Journal of Public Administration (BJPA). Second one, Future Tradeoff under Forth Industrial Revolution in Bangladesh: A study on RMG sector in Bangladesh (2021) at the International Journal of Scientific Progress & Research (IJSPR). Third one, Impact of COVID-19 on Textile Industry Workers in Bangladesh: A Socio Economic Perspective (2023) at the Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.

Exploring the Prospects and Challenges of Implementation of the Tobacco Vendor Licensing in Bangladesh

Author: Md. Minhajul Abedin

Background: The Bangladesh government has set a target of a tobacco-free country by 2040 in response to the SDG for tobacco control. But in Bangladesh, tobacco retailers do not require any license to sell the tobacco products. There are currently no specific restrictions on who can sell tobacco products or where tobacco products are allowed to be sold. **Objective:** The objective of this study was to explore the prospects and challenges of implementation of tobacco vendor licensing (TVL) in Bangladesh by comparing the compliance of tobacco control law between TVL-implemented and non-implemented areas. Methods: This study used a cross-sectional study design and a mixed-method approach. A systematic random sampling method was used to select 190 tobacco retailers from Jhenaidah district, where TVL was implemented, and 190 from Dhaka district, where there was no TVL. In-depth interviews (IDI) were conducted with government employees, tobacco control activists, license officers, sanitary inspectors, and university faculties with relevant expertise. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Chi-square test was conducted to see if there was any association between compliance with tobacco control quidelines and the implementation of TVL. Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Results: According to the findings of this study, 98.9% of licensed vendors were aware of the prohibition of selling tobacco products to or by minors, whereas 52.6% of non-licensed vendors' knew about this prohibition. Selling to minors by licensed and non-licensed vendors were 5.2% and 82.1%, respectively. Furthermore, understanding about the restriction regarding sales of tobacco-based products around educational institutions was 96.8% among the licensed vendors and only 40.5% among the vendors without a license. In the same way, 99.5% of licensed vendors followed the ban on tobacco advertisement and promotion (TAPS) at the point-of-sale (POS), while it was only 38.9% for the non-licensed vendors. Results revealed that having awareness (p <0.001) and support (p <0.001) of tobacco control guidelines were significantly associated with TVL implementation status. Also, the implementation of TVL had a significant association with the sale of tobacco to or by minors (p < 0.001), availability of healthcare institutions (p < 0.001), and educational institutions (p < 0.001) within 100 meters of the POS, and the presence of TAPS at the POS (p <0.001). During the IDI, the experts suggested that renewing and cancelling the license, visiting /monitoring regularly, having holding number for POS, conducting mobile court, and launching tobacco control campaigns can be helpful for the effective implementation of TVL. There were some challenges that hinders the implementation of TVL in the local area, such as incapacity of the local government, lack of collaboration among the various government departments, and the selling of tobacco by a lot of peddlers and hawkers. Conclusion: Awareness and compliance with tobacco control laws and quidelines were found to be poor in TVL non-implemented areas than in implemented areas. Ensuring wide and proper implementation of TVL needed for the tobacco retailers to follow the tobacco control law at the local level, and it is expected that this will reduce the consumption of tobacco and create a healthy Bangladesh.



Shukti Bala

Exploring the Direct and Indirect Tobacco Advertisement and Promotion around the Point-of-Sale in Urban and Rural Areas of Bangladesh

Shukti Bala has completed Bachelor of Social Sciences and Master of Social Sciences in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka. She achieved an excellent academic record (1st Class, 1st Position) during the undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Currently, she is working as a Research Associate at Community Development for Peace (CDP). The focus of her research interests includes social research, especially gender, governance, local government, etc. Some of her research articles have been published in different international journals including "Future Tradeoff under Fourth Industrial Revolution in Bangladesh: A Study on Readymade Garments Sector" and "Cash Aid Program of Government during COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh: Effectiveness and Challenges". She is highly enthusiastic about exploring opportunities in her fields of interest and her academic arena.

Exploring the Direct and Indirect Tobacco Advertisement and Promotion around the Point-of-Sale in Urban and Rural Areas of Bangladesh

Author: Shukti Bala

Background: Tobacco consumption is one of the leading curses of the present world. The advertisement and promotion of tobacco products can have a great influence on the sale of tobacco, especially at the point-of-sale (POS). Though it is completely prohibited, the tobacco industry (TI) in Bangladesh is trying to make its POS advertisement and promotion lucrative. **Objective:** To explore different types of advertisements and promotions at the point of sale in urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Methods: In this research, a cross-sectional study design and quantitative approach were used. A sample of 400 POS from urban and rural areas of Mymensingh and Chattogram, the highest and lowest tobacco consumption divisions respectively, were selected for collecting data using the observational checklist and the POS retailer questionnaire survey. Descriptive statistics were used to interpret the data. Results: In this study, the common types of POS were grocery shops (42%), tea stalls (25.5%), tobacco shops (15.5%), kiosks (7.8%), roadside sellers (6.8%), etc. The type of advertisements observed at POS were the display of tobacco products (85.5%), posters with brand names (63.3%) and prices (61.8%), stickers with brand names (61.5%) and prices (51.5%), mini signboards (34%), shops painted with tobacco brand color (27.8%), multiple mini signboards (21%), power wall (18%), mentioning of flavors (17.5%), etc. In urban areas, POS painted with tobacco brand color (32.5%) were observed more than the rural areas (23%). On the other hand, some other advertisements were more visible in rural areas than urban areas, those were posters with tobacco brand names (52% and 74%), and selling prices (58% and 65.5%), and brand names (49% and 74%). In regard to the highest and lowest tobacco-consuming areas, the types of advertisements observed varied between Mymensingh and Chattogram, such as posters with selling prices (68.5% and 55%), Power Wall (23% and 13%), Mentioning of flavors (25% and 9.5%), Sticker with Price (60% and 42.5%), etc. The most observed promotional means were free gifts (38.3%), multi-pack discounts (29.3%), free samples (25.8%), coupons (11.3%), lotteries (9.3%), and some special offers (19%). From the survey with POS retailers, it was found that 91.0% of them offered promotional gifts and offers from TI to induce for selling tobacco products. The extent of free gifts (43.5% Vs. 33%), coupons (15.5% Vs. 7%) and lotteries (11.5% Vs. 7%) were higher in urban areas than rural while free samples (30.5% Vs. 21%), multi-pack discounts (31% Vs. 27.5%), and special offers (21% Vs. 17%) were more prevalent in rural areas than urban. According to tobacco-consuming areas, 94.5% POS retailers from Mymensingh and 87.5% from Chattogram received promotional gifts and offers from TI to instigate them for selling tobacco products. **Conclusion:** This study has revealed that advertisement and promotional offers are widely prevalent in POS, being higher in Mymensingh division and in the rural areas in most of the cases. For this, the bans must cover all the direct and indirect advertisements and promotional strategies at the POS and the compliance should be ensured immediately.



A.M.M. Mubassher Shah

Digitalization of Tobacco Taxation System: Prospects and Challenges

A.M.M. Mubassher Shah recently earned Master of Social Science degree from the Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka. Previously, he completed Bachelor of Social Science degree and secured the position of first class second from the same university. He worked with Community Development for Peace as a Research Associate. He contributed to the final evaluation of the Efficient and Accountable Local Governance project under the Participatory Management Initiative for Development. In addition, he has been involved in a number of research projects including Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Rural People on Antibiotic Usage: Bangladesh Perspective; Fourth Industrial Revolution in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges; Patients' Satisfaction on the Service Quality of Upazila Health Complex in Bangladesh; and Measuring Quality of Public Participation in the Local Government of Bangladesh. Two of his research studies have been published in the Bangladesh Journal of Public Administration and the International Journal of Social, Political and Economic Research. He aspires to work in academia and is enthusiastic in social research, particularly on e-governance, local government, and social issues.

Digitalization of Tobacco Taxation System: Prospects and Challenges

Author: A.M.M. Mubassher Shah

Background: Price and tax measures are effective in reducing tobacco consumption, according to FCTC Article 6. In low- and middle-income countries, a 10% increase in prices results in a 2%-8% reduction in tobacco use. However, tobacco prices in Bangladesh are among the lowest globally. The reasons could be tax evasion or other malpractices using the traditional tax administration system, but information on the prospects of digitalization over the existing system is very limited. **Objective:** To explore the prospects and challenges of the digitalization of the tobacco tax administration system in Bangladesh. Methods: This cross-sectional study used qualitative approaches and was conducted in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, and Rangpur during June-November, 2022. A total of 30 in-depth interviews (IDIs) with tobacco retailers and 10 key informant interviews (KIIs) with National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials, tobacco control activists, and relevant tax experts were conducted using separate guidelines. Besides, secondary data was collected from relevant reports and journal articles using a checklist. The data were analyzed using content and thematic analysis techniques. Results: It was revealed that tax evasion for tobacco products occurred through various means, such as illicit trade, fraudulent financial reporting, loose selling, and secret distribution of tobacco products; by tobacco types, those were the absence of tax stamps, the use of counterfeit tax stamps, and smuggling for smoking tobacco, while for smokeless tobacco, those were the absence of a tax registration number and illegal manufacture. Tax evasion was mostly prevalent in tourist places and remote and border areas. The challenges to preventing these evasions using the existing system were the misuse of the tax tier system, false reporting on financial, production, and distribution, limited capacity to manually manage, physical monitoring to enforce compliance, and controlling corrupt intermediaries and tax agents. Findings demonstrated that the prospective digital tobacco tax administration system could only adopt comparable and practical measures taken by other developing countries. Overall, the results suggested various measures, such as an online registration system for tobacco farmers and the tobacco industry (TI), digital tax stamps or QR codes, scanners or Android apps to detect tax information, including the date of manufacture, and a central digital database under tax authority. Findings also revealed that the potential benefits of implementing this perspective system included cost savings, preventing tax evasion, ensuring transparency and efficiency, protecting revenue, and boosting productivity and tax administration resilience. It also explored that it ensured convenient and routine monitoring by tracking the tobacco products through an auto-tracking system that utilizes QR codes, which enables anyone to verify tax compliance and report any discrepancies to the authority. Challenges for the prospective digital tobacco tax administration system were identified as administrative resistance, the lack of ICT skills and infrastructure, registering farmers and informal Bidi and SLT companies, verifying deceptive information, and the lack of standard tobacco packaging. Some suggestions were put forward to overcome those challenges, such as restructuring and training for ICT, registering tobacco farmers through union digital centers, and making surprise visits to find fake information. Conclusion: In the traditional system, tobacco tax evasion occurred in various ways that could not be prevented efficiently using manual management. Along with the progress towards a digital Bangladesh, the adoption of a digital tobacco tax administration system could be an important step to ensure an effective management and monitoring system, thereby serving the actual purpose of tobacco taxation.



Md. Abu Sayem

Patterns and Determinants of Electronic Cigarettes Usage among Young Adults in Bangladesh

Md. Abu Sayem has recently completed his postgraduate degree from the Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka. He has a great passion for social research, especially in the fields of political economy, gender issues, public policy, and social problems. He worked as a Research Associate in the Community Development for Peace (CDP). Earlier, he worked for several projects under different organizations, including Water Aid Bangladesh, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Bangladesh Police. He got a series of articles published in both national and international journals, including Routledge, the International Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Research (IJOSPER), and the Bangladesh Journal of Public Administration (BJPA). He is enthusiastic about working in academia and exploring research opportunities in his areas of interest.

Patterns and Determinants of Electronic Cigarettes Usage among Young Adults in Bangladesh

Author: Md. Abu Sayem

Background: The global consumption of e-cigarettes is rapidly increasing, with more than 81 million users, the majority of whom are young adults. The consumption of electronic cigarettes has deleterious effects on brain development and lung function and increases the risk of tuberculosis and many other diseases in the long run. Objective: This study attempted to explore the present patterns of electronic cigarette usage and identify the key determinants of using electronic cigarettes among young adults in Bangladesh. Methods: A cross-sectional study design and mixed method approach were followed in this study. A total of 210 young adults, aged 18 to 35 years, who were e-cigarette users were selected from Dhaka city, and the face-to-face interviews were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire. Ten in-depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted with current and former e-cigarette users using a guideline. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the analysis of quantitative data. Frequency tables were used to explore the present patterns of e-cigarette use, and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was used to identify the factors behind using e-cigarettes. Thematic analysis was used to explain the qualitative data. Results: The result showed that 46.2% of e-cigarette users' age range was between 18 and 23, 42.9% were between 24 and 29 and the remaining 10.5% of the users' age range was between 30 to 35 years. The average age of initiation of e-cigarette use was 20 years. Among the respondents, those who are regular users consume e-cigarettes around 5 times a day. On average a user spent about 966 BDT on e-cigarettes monthly, 49.5% changed their e-cigarette solution in less than one month and 92.9% shared e-cigarettes with their friends. About 77.1% of e-cigarette users heard about e-cigarettes for the first time from their friends and 13.3% first knew about it from social media. According to 61% of users, the flavor is the main difference between conventional and electronic cigarettes. Finally, the study identified six inducing factors that influence 72% of young adults in Bangladesh to use e-cigarettes, which include that they perceived it as being more enjoyable, less negatively perceived by the society, better tasted, and more prestigious. Moreover, they perceive consumption of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation option and consider it as refreshment. The qualitative findings showed that users perceived e-cigarettes contain nicotine but are less harmful, cheaper and contains different types of flavors than conventional cigarettes. Conclusion: To reduce tobacco use, the government agencies need to amend the current tobacco control law to ban e-cigarette. The media and other non-government organizations (NGOs) should undertake anti-e-cigarette campaign, and celebrities should be motivated to come forward to advocate for the prevention of e-cigarette use among young people.



Dilara Begum

Barriers and Opinions to Declaring Tobacco Smoke-Free Homes in Dhaka City: A Mixed Methods Study Focusing on the Home Setting Approach

Dilara Begum is currently working as a National Junior Consultant at the Health Economics Unit of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Previously, she worked as a Senior Research Officer at ICDDR, B under the Health System and Population Studies Division. She completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Psychology from the University of Dhaka. At present, she is doing her Master of Public Health (MPH) at the Northern University, Bangladesh. She attended various training programs and workshops on different issues, including childhood development. She has a keen interest in contributing more to the field of public health research.

Barriers and Opinions to Declaring Tobacco Smoke-Free Homes in Dhaka City: A Mixed Methods Study Focusing on the Home Setting Approach

Author: Dilara Begum

Background: The Southeast Asia region, which includes Bangladesh, has the highest burden of disease attributable to second-hand smoke in the world. Even at home, individual smoking is continuing drastically and is affecting children and members of the same dwellings directly. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2017 states that 39.0% (40.8 million) of adults were exposed to tobacco at home. **Objective:** To explore the barriers and opinions to declaring tobacco smoke-free homes among the landlords in Dhaka city. Methods: This was a cross-sectional study with a mixed-methods approach. A sample of 402 landlords was selected from Dhaka North (199) and Dhaka South (203) City Corporations through systematic random sampling, both from formal and informal home settings. Besides, 12 In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted with landlords, tenants, and implementing authorities from both city corporations. Descriptive statistics were used to interpret the quantitative data to explore the barriers and opinions perceived by the landlords using SPSS (V26.0). Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis. Results: The study findings showed that the mean age of the landlords was 49.08 years, 81.6% were male, and 39.9% had a higher secondary or above level of education. The average family size of the household was 4.5, and 58.5% of respondents had more than 2 children. Around half of the landlords (47.3%) were current tobacco smokers, and 86.6% had at least one tenant who consumed smoking tobacco. Among the study respondents, 70.4% were willing to make their house smoke-free, whereas 66.7% had no restriction on smoking in the building compound, and 46.5% had no restriction on smoking in their homes even inside the room. Around 72.0% of landlords perceived that tenants may create a barrier to declaring a smoke-free home, and the major barriers would be negligence to maintain the smoke-free rule (42.8%) and avoiding renting the house (33.6%). Other perceived barriers included housing society (39.1%), resistance from smoker household members (30.3%), and the structure of the building (9.5%). Respondents perceived that creating awareness (83.1%) and hanging "no smoking" signage (40.0%) would be very effective tools to make a house smoke-free. From IDI, it was explored that participation of the housing society and the house owner's association can make the houses smoke-free. IDI also explored several orders of initiatives, which included piloting in a few areas by hanging no-smoking signage and imposing smoking restrictions at homes, formulating a regulation, and then, implementing it gradually all over the country. **Conclusion:** Along with awareness creation among the tenants, imposing restriction by house owners and city corporation authorities may contribute to make home smoke-free and reduce the curse of second-hand smoke in Bangladesh.



RESEARCH FINDINGS
DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2023

Poster Session





Dr. Mohammad E Islam

Professor, Department of Business Administration, Northern University Bangladesh

Tobacco Tax Implications for Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Consumption in Bangladesh: PLS-SEM Approach

Authors: Dr. Mohammad E Islam*, Md. M Rahman and AKM Maksud

Background: The study highlights Bangladesh as a leading tobacco-consuming country, with 37.8 million adults (Global Adult Tobacco Survey Bangladesh 2017) using various smoking and smokeless tobacco products. The multi-tiered ad-valorem tax structure applied in the country includes four types of cigarettes and two types of bidis. The cheaper cost of these products makes it easier for users to switch to lower-priced brands. The high consumption of tobacco causes significant harm and deaths. The study notes that the government has set the goal of making Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040 to address this critical issue. Objective: The study investigates the relationship between tobacco taxation and tobacco control, explicitly chewing and smoking tobacco. However, it is important to note that the effects of taxation on different forms of tobacco consumption may vary and should be considered separately. Additionally, it would be valuable to consider the cultural and socioeconomic factors that may influence the use of chewing tobacco specifically, as it has a different usage pattern and user demographic compared to smoking tobacco. **Methods:** This study employs a quantitative methodology and utilizes 567 responses from tobacco users in Dhaka. The study model is examined using the Partial Least Square-Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) technique using Smart PLS v4 software. The model is evaluated against various fit measures, including reliability, validity, factor analysis and goodness of fit to test the research hypotheses. **Results:** The study finds that increasing taxes on chewing tobacco and smoking decreases consumption of those products. It is important to note that the effectiveness of this approach may vary depending on the demographics of the consumers. For example, higher taxes may significantly impact lower-income individuals who cannot afford the increased cost. Additionally, it's essential to consider alternative approaches and their effect, such as education and awareness campaigns, which may also impact consumption. Policymakers may consider increasing taxes as a strategy to decrease chewing tobacco and smoking consumption, particularly among certain demographic groups. However, it's important to consider the potential impact on lower-income individuals and explore other approaches in conjunction with tax increases. **Conclusion:** To effectively reduce tobacco consumption and achieve the goal of a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040, it is essential to implement higher tax rates on tobacco products to increase retail prices and make them less accessible to consumers. Additionally, implementing targeted taxes and a uniform tax base can prevent consumers from switching to lower-priced brands. Furthermore, revising and strictly enforcing tobacco control laws to ensure their effectiveness is crucial.

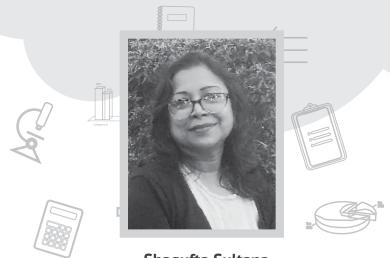


Deputy Director, Health Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Factors those influence to use E-Cigarette by the University Students in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Mukhlesur Rahman, Iqbal Masud, Sharmeen Rahman, Md. Adut Rahman Md. Hayatun Nabi and Md. Ataur Rahman

Background: Use of E-cigarette among youth is becoming increasingly common. E-cigarettes are not harmless – they expose users to nicotine, a highly addictive substance that can harm adolescent brain development and negatively affects fetal development when used during pregnancy. In addition, e-cigarettes contain at least 80 other harmful ingredients including acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, acrolein and metals such as nickel, chromium and lead. The increasing popularity of e-cigarette use among youth threatens to create a new generation of young nicotine and tobacco users, as youth who use e-cigarettes are up to three times more likely to use tobacco products in the future. **Objective:** To understand the students' knowledge about e-cigarettes and how and why they use. Methods: Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted three semi-structured focus group discussions with students who use e-cigarette. A total of three focus group discussions (FGDs) (1 female group, 2 male group) were conducted with the current e-cigarette user students selected by using snowball sampling technique from North South University in Dhaka and University of Dhaka. Each FGD lasted approximately 90 minutes and was audio recorded and then transcribed. Results: Most of the participants (15 out of 23 participants) reported trying e-cigarettes because of flavors. Common flavors are strawberry, green apple, lemon, mango, cinnamon, mint, desert, cotton candy, and chocolate. Most participants reported using e-cigarettes to help them guit smoking conventional cigarettes. Participants perceived e-cigarettes to be less harmful to health compared to conventional cigarettes. When first trying an e-cigarette, most participants were not sure if it contained nicotine or not. The ability to do smoke tricks was a common reason among male respondents to use e-cigarettes, and safety of youth and future. Conclusion: In order to protect the health and safety of youth and future generations, government should completely ban production, storage, advertisement, promotion, sponsorship, marketing, distribution, sale, import, export and use of E-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and other emerging tobacco products by incorporating such provisions in the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005.



Shagufta SultanaProject Director, AID Foundation

A Digital Survey to Discover Tobacco Vendor Licenses and TAPS Ban Violations in Bangladesh

Authors: Shagufta Sultana, Syed Mahbubul Alam, Kazi Mohammad Hasibul Huq, Abu Naser Anik and Md. Nasir Biswas

Background: The Ministry of Local Government passed a comprehensive guideline in 2020 based on the Tobacco Control Law of 2005 and its amendment in 2013. The majority of tobacco control issues were tackled in this quideline. The Ministry of Local Government also tackled a few other crucial concerns, such as tobacco vendor licensing, TAPS ban violations, selling cigarettes beyond 100 meters of educational and healthcare institutions, and an active monitoring cell to track tobacco control initiatives. **Objective:** To know the present situation of TAPs ban violation and tobacco sales licensing for introducing Local Government Institutions (LGIs) Guidelines in all the Sadar municipalities of Khulna division & Khulna City-Corporation. Methods: Student volunteers, with the support of the Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) member organizations in the respective area collected information by physically visiting stores where tobacco products are sold. Through the android application, the data is saved on the web server. It is a digital survey with a simple questionnaire. The process was called the 'Digital TAPs Ban Survey' from March to May 2022. Results: A total of 8485 tobacco vendors were found. None of the shops have a tobacco vendor license. All display different types of tobacco advertisements, including 26% stickers, 21% leaflets, 19% banners, 22% flyers, 5% cash boxes with tobacco signs, 6% empty packet displays, 2% showcases with tobacco signs, and 0.32% other tobacco products. About 26% of tobacco shops are within 100 meters of educational and healthcare institutions. **Conclusion:** It is important for local governments to properly enforce tobacco control laws to avoid the dangerous health hazards of smoking. The government should quickly amend the law so that it includes licensing as a way to make this easier.



Tobacco Control Researcher and Special Reporter of Ekatter Television

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of British American Tobacco Bangladesh: Myths and Realities

Author: Sushanta Kumar Sinha*

Background: Bangladesh has the world's eighth-largest cigarette market, with annual volumes exceeding 86 billion units and a growth rate of 2%. Due to the ad valorem tax structure, it's clear how BATB has been able to increase its profits so significantly while maintaining the affordability of its products. Several Secretaries of the Government of Bangladesh have been sitting on the BATB board for a long time. They play a proactive role in benefiting tobacco companies. BATB has been able to promote the myth that they have the major CSR portfolios and that millions of people are being benefitted from CSR. Objective: Analysis of BATB's CSR activities in BATB's annual reports from 2011 to 2020. Methods: The research has been conducted following qualitative and quantitative research methods. The annual financial reports of BATB from 2011 to 2020 were collected and analyzed. Relevant data was also collected from the NBR, media agencies, and the Bangladesh Network for Tobacco Tax Policy. Results: There is a myth that the BATB spends a huge amount of money on CSR programs every year. But no one has ever asked this question: how much money BATB spends on CSR in a year? The financial report states that BDT 90 million was spent on CSR in 2011. But they manipulated this 2011 data and reported in the 2012 financial report that CSR expenditure was BDT 60 million. The difference is BDT 30 million in a single year, which is extremely unusual. Similarly, in 2014's annual report, they showed CSR expenditure at BDT 18.6 million. The expenditure of 2014 was changed to BDT 11.9 million, which was published in the 2015 annual report. The most striking observation is that BATB has raised its CSR spending when the government has taken the initiative to amend the tobacco control law or other rules and regulations. They raised their CSR spending, for instance, in the years before the 2013 Tobacco Control Law amendment, the formulation of regulations in 2015, the addition of graphic health warnings to tobacco product packaging in 2016, and the amendment of the proposed current Tobacco Control Law amendment. Sector-wise expenditure on major CSR projects is not disclosed in BATB's annual financial report. From 2011 to 2020, BATB spent only BDT 653 million on CSR. But their other accounts showed that the total amount of CSR for 10 years stands at BDT 617 million. The difference is BDT 36 million. However, BATB spent an average of only BDT 62 million annually and received various awards, including 5 state awards. Conclusion: Although financial anomalies are unacceptable to the government, BATB has been doing it for years. BATB uses CSR as a weapon to build goodwill and influence tobacco control policies.

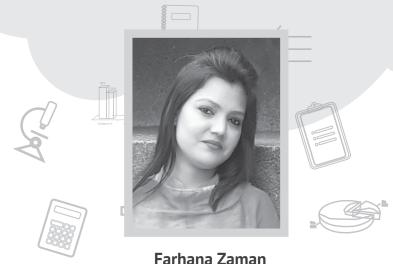


Khandaker Reaz Hossain, Director (Programmes), Grambangla Unnayan Committee (GUC)

Licensing of Point of Sales: An Effective Approach to Tobacco Control with Special Focus on TAPS Ban in the Coastal Region of Bangladesh

Authors: Khandaker Reaz Hossain* and Sabrina Alamgir

Background: Bangladesh has made significant progress in tobacco control, being a signatory country to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). However, the desired impact could not be achieved due to inadequate strategies. As a result, the prevalence of tobacco use among all adults is still high at 35.3% (Global Adult Tobacco Survey Bangladesh 2017). Grambangla Unnayan Committee is implementing a tobacco control program in six districts and twelve Upazila-level municipalities in Barisal Division. TAPS ban violations are monitored regularly through an online surveillance system. Grambangla believes that licensing Point of Sale (PoS) is an effective approach for tobacco control that can be monitored through the surveillance system. Objective: Establishing a provision for licensing of Point of Sales for selling tobacco products by the municipalities for enforcing tobacco control laws and Local Govt. Institutions (LGI) quidelines for tobacco control effectively. Strategy for Interventions: The process for intervention to implement TAPS bans in six districts and twelve Upazila-level municipalities under the Barishal division was to impart capacity-building training to the mayors of the selected municipalities for enforcing tobacco control law and implementing licensing provisions for the point of sales and for facilitating enforcement of mobile courts with particular focus on TAPS ban violations. Results: Grambangla TAPS Ban project succeeded in implementing 339 points of sales, taking separate licenses for selling tobacco products in eighteen municipalities in the Barishal division. A total of 1,068 PoS received an official letter from the municipality for mandatory obligation for taking licenses from the municipalities to sell tobacco products, and 750 PoS were sensitized through a mobile message on taking separate licenses. Besides, 30 mobile courts have been organized where 1,52,400 Taka was fined from the owner of PoS. This licensing initiative created great awareness among the mayors. Conclusion: Licensing initiative for the Point of Sales is a great initiative taken by the local government institutions of the eighteen municipalities in the Barishal division. It created a positive mindset of the mayors and the owners of the PoS in implementing tobacco control laws. It accomplished one step ahead in achieving a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040, declared by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.



Research Assistant & Project Manager, Tobacco Control & Research Cell (TCRC)

Perception of Current GHW of Cigarette Packets in Bangladesh

Authors: Farhana Zaman* and Aminul Islam Sujon

Background: In Bangladesh, 37.8 million (GATS-2017) people are using tobacco, whereas 15.0 million (14%) adults smoke cigarettes. To reduce tobacco consumption and the implementation of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Guidelines, the Bangladesh government enacted a tobacco control law in 2005. It was amended in 2013, and notified of the revised rules in 2015. As per rules, Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) have been implemented from 19 March 2016 on 50% of the principal area of all tobacco product packs. **Objective:** This study aimed to explore the perception of both smokers and non-smokers about graphic health warnings (GHW) on cigarette packets in Bangladesh. Methods: The study was conducted from June 2021 to November 2022 using a semi-structured questionnaire. A total of 376 respondents were selected purposively from all over the country, and the age ranges were from youth (13-18 years), young adults (19-35 years), and adults (above 35 years). Descriptive statistics were used to explore their perception of graphic health warnings in cigarette packets. Results: The study showed that among the respondent, 22.6% were current smokers, 16.5% were former smokers, and 60.9% were never smoked before. According to the study result, 98.4% of the respondents noticed the visibility of graphic health warnings on cigarette packets. 93% of respondents observed that the pictorial warnings are scary and build knowledge regarding health hazards. 55% of respondents stated that pictorial warnings are significantly effective for smokers to quit smoking, which is very effective in ensuring health rights. 55% of respondents reported that they had reduced smoking after seeing the pictorial health warnings. 65.4% of respondents (35.9% of smokers and 29.5% of non-smoker respondents) thought these graphic health warnings are effective for young people to reduce smoking, and GHW significantly supports non-smokers not starting smoking, 68% of people thought the current warnings successfully describe the danger of using tobacco products, but these should be scarier for more effectiveness. More than 70% of smokers usually buy single-stick cigarettes (not full packets); therefore, GHW doesn't affect them. Conclusion: GHWs have a strong influence on smoking reduction. GHWs should be more specific, vivid, and informative, covering a large area to attract smokers' attention and motivate them to quit smoking. Sales of single sticks cigarettes should be banned so that everyone will observe GHW while purchasing or consuming cigarettes.



Md. Mehedi Hasan Advocacy Coordinator, PROGGA

Profiting off the Backs of Bidi Workers: An In-depth Look at the Exploitative Tactics of Bangladesh's Bidi Industry

Authors: Md. Mehedi Hasan* and Sadia Galiba Prova

Background: Each year ahead of the declaration of the national budget, Bangladesh's streets fill with bidi workers protesting bidi tax increases. These protests appear highly coordinated and often continue after the budget is passed. As these protests did not improve the workers' well-being, wages, or workplace safety, PROGGA (Knowledge for Progress) sought to understand the motivation and structure behind bidi workers' participation. **Purpose:** The study explores how the protests are repeatedly performed, their level of spontaneity, their sources of financial and other support, and who ultimately benefits. **Methods:** From December 2020 to March 2021, PROGGA carried out a qualitative study consisting of relevant media analysis, 11 focus group discussions (FGDs), and 4 key informant interviews (KIIs) in the areas of Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Pabna, and Kushtia. The four geographical regions were chosen based on their concentration of bidi factories and the frequency and intensity of their protests.

Results:

- 1. Factory owners organize bidi worker tax protests. They are not spontaneous.
 - To draw national-level attention, factory owners bring workers from all over the country to protest in Dhaka. Factory owners cover the trip expenses and give each worker an allowance.
- 2. Factory owners use intimidation methods to coerce workers into protesting.
 - Factory owners threaten their workers with job loss, revocation of workers' cards, and government shutdown of the bidi industry.
- 3. There are no genuine welfare associations for bidi workers.
 - The organizations that falsely claim to be "welfare associations" for bidi workers act only in the interest of factory owners.

Conclusion: To discourage the consumption of bidis by the most vulnerable populations, the Govt. should impose higher taxes on bidis to reduce the adverse health burden of bidi use.



Project Officer, Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust

Tobacco Industry's Price Mechanism & Tax Evasion

Author: Methun Baidya*

Introduction: Due to the global economic recession and political instability, price of daily necessities continues to rise, but this has no effect on the tobacco market system. Due to this increased price of regular commodity, people are reducing their intake of vegetables, fruits, eggs, milk, and other nutritious foods. Besides, tobacco companies are defrauding the government of a huge amount of revenue through their clever price mechanism. In this case, tobacco and all other harmful products can be taxed to subsidize nutritious food. By doing this, it will be possible to save the lives of 2.7 million people, besides improving the health of the country's people. **Objective:** A comparative picture of the price increase of "Daily necessities and Tobacco Products" in the last few years will be presented; and necessary arguments will be presented to prevent price manipulation of tobacco products. Methods: Prices of tobacco and daily necessities has been collected through random sampling from the markets of Dhaka, Jessore, Jhenaidah, and Satkhira districts. In addition to collecting secondary data from national studies conducted on tobacco control, opinions of public health and tobacco control experts were obtained, and more than 400 news articles published in various newspapers were analyzed. Besides, the information obtained after monitoring the websites and annual financial reports of multiple government ministries and others, including The UNION, CTFK, GATS, GGTC, SEATCA, NBR, Bangladesh Cancer Society, and World Bank, has been added. Results: In the last 4 years (2019-2022), the prices of essential commodities like eggs, milk, rice, and flour have increased by around 45%-100%. This growth rate is 25-100 percent in the last 1 year alone. But the only exception is tobacco products. The prices of tobacco products increased by 8%, 3.2%, 19.35%, and 15.5%, respectively, by 4 different tiers in the last 4 years. Apart from this, taking advantage of not mentioning 'maximum retail price' on the packaging of tobacco products and the opportunities of selling single stick cigarettes priced at Tk. 4, Tk. 6.50, Tk. 11.10 and Tk. 14.20 are being sold at Tk. 5, Tk. 7, Tk. 12, and Tk. 16 respectively. The government is losing about Tk. 5000 crores of revenue every year due to the non-taxation of this additional value. In addition, British American Tobacco has started marketing two different price tiers of cigarettes called "Royal" and "Lucky Strike" between the four price tiers set by the government, which is entirely against the prevailing law. Conclusions: Increasing the price of an unhealthy product like tobacco compared with GDP growth, inflation rate, and regular commodity price is inconsistent with the government's commitment to making a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040. Imposing taxes on tobacco products at higher rates and allocating increased revenue to the health sector will play a significant role in tobacco control and health development.



Programme Manager, Grambangla Unnayan Committee (GUC)

Tobacco-free School Initiative: A Student-led Action Programme to Control Tobacco Use among the Students in Barishal Division

Authors: Sabrina Alamgir, Khandaker Reaz Hossain and Md. Alamgir Hossain

Background: In Bangladesh, the rate of tobacco use is exceptionally high among the adult population. The recent data from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey Bangladesh 2017 report stated that the rate of tobacco use among all adults is 35.3%. But there is a high trend of tobacco use among children below 15 years of age, which also creates an alarming situation that has negatively impacted non-communicable diseases. Objective: The main objective of this initiative was to implement appropriate actions taken by the students to raise awareness among the students and young children and sensitize the parents, school management committees, and teachers to accelerate the creation of sustainable tobacco-free educational institutions. Strategies and actions: (a) Meetings with the Key stakeholders such as mayors, councilors, sanitary inspectors, police inspectors, school/college teachers, etc., to sensitize them to keep the students safe from the harmful effects of tobacco use; (b) Students were involved themselves in tobacco control activities such as distribution of IEC materials among the students of their own schools and marked the walls with 'Tobacco Free Zone' around 100 meters of the educational institutions; (c) To implement the Tobacco control implementation guideline, mayors of these project areas committed to following the guideline and took actions to evict point of sales within the 100 meters of schools in their areas. Results: The mayors, councilors, sanitary Inspectors, and teachers became sensitized through 16 meetings. These meetings helped make a plan to evict the point of sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of the schools. The school authorities became sensitized to evict the POS within 100 meters of schools. Children also affixed stickers of 'No Tobacco' Signage around 105 schools and marked "Tobacco Free Zone" on 61 walls. Conclusion: Tobacco Free School Initiative, led by the students, was an innovative action program that helped mobilize the students to be aware of the harmful effect of tobacco use. The local mayors were also sensitized to take action to evict the POS within 100 meters of the educational institutions. This initiative can be a successful model for the country's tobacco-free school initiative.

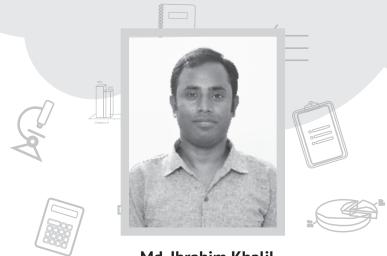


Project Officer, Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust

Tobacco Industry Interference is the Key Hindrance to Achieve Tobacco-free Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Arif Hossain* and Samiul Hassan Shajib

Background: Bangladesh ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2004, developed the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act in 2005, and amended the act in 2013. However, there is no quidance on how to implement FCTC Article 5.3. As a result, tobacco control, public health intervention, and other government programs are unprotected from tobacco industry involvement (TI). Violation of the Tobacco Control Law by industries is widespread in Bangladesh. Objective: The objective of the WBB initiative was to find out the tobacco industries' interferences that hinder the national and local level policy-making and decision-making initiatives in Bangladesh and counter those initiatives to stop the interferences. Initiative: WBB Trust collected TI information published in the newspaper, magazines, and social media from January to December 2022, analyzed those reports, and countered those initiatives to stop the interferences. **Results:** WBB Trust found that 578 industry interferences happened between January-December 2022. The significant interferences include planting trees in different areas of Bangladesh in the name of Bonayan, setting up 'Probaho,' safe drinking water projects, and solar plants. The tobacco industry also sponsored Women's Day, sports, and water day observation. Moreover, the industry engaged Members of Parliament in different programs. WBB Trust team undertook various initiatives to counter the interferences, including removing tobacco advertisements from several websites by sending letters and face-to-face communications with the officials to stop facilitating the tobacco industry's programs. WBB Trust team also sent letters to the University Grant Commission (UGC) to stop Battle of Mind programs all over Bangladesh. Conclusion: The tobacco industries use cash to meddle in tobacco control drives and standard social orders working with moral fortitude. Stopping Tobacco Industry Interferences (TII), FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines must be developed to strengthen the existing Tobacco Control Law, enforce the Code of Conduct for Government employees, and accelerate anti-tobacco movements.



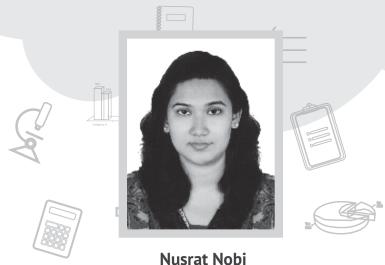
Md. Ibrahim Khalil

Project Officer, Bureau of Economic Research (BER), University of Dhaka

Impact of Price and Tax Changes in the National Budget on the Retail Prices of Tobacco Products (Cigarette): A Cross-sectional Survey

Author: Md. Ibrahim Khalil*

Background: The current tax structure in Bangladesh cannot play any role in discouraging tobacco use. The multi-layered tax structure makes tobacco products very cheap and readily available in the market. So, it is important to see whether the current tax structure helps reduce the consumer or not after the budget of the fiscal year 2021-22. **Objective:** Investigating the impact of the budget on the market prices of tobacco products; Determining the difference between Maximum Retail Price (MRP) printed on the package and the actual selling price; Exploring the tobacco company's strategies in resetting the prices of tobacco products in the face of rising tax rate and price. **Methods:** Information has been collected from the 48 retail outlets (points of sales) in 12 cities. This includes the divisional cities of Dhaka, Barisal, Khulna, and Mymensingh, as well as two other district towns from each division. Data has been collected from four retail outlets in each city. Results: According to the data collected in the survey, the maximum retail price printed on the 20-stick cigarette pack of the premium tier was BDT 270. But retailers are selling for BDT 294.29. The study also found that the maximum retail price printed on 20 stick packets is BDT 204 and BDT 126 in high and medium tiers, respectively. But the average selling price is BDT 221.40 and 135.89 taka. The maximum retail price is BDT 78 printed on a 20 sticks packet of low tier, but it is sold at an average of BDT 96.49 for a 20-stick pack. As such, if taxes could be levied on the highest retail price, the government could get a further tax of about BDT 4879.85 crore from cigarettes (premium BDT 583 crore; high tier BDT 400 crore, medium tier BDT 237 crore and lower tier BDT 3661 crore). **Conclusion:** Bangladesh is one of the top countries in the world where cigarette is the cheapest. Also, tobacco industry profits increase yearly due to the complex tax structure. This research has shown that the current tobacco tax structure does not help to decrease tobaco users. A comprehensive reform of the tax structure is necessary to increase revenue for the government and reduce the health burden caused by tobacco use.



Research Fellow, Department of Public Health
Northern University Bangladesh

Status of the Implication of Tobacco Control Law for the Sustainable Implementation Reported by the Lawyers of Bangladesh

Authors: Nusrat Nobi*, Bilkis Banu, Nasrin Akter and Sarder Mahmud Hossain

Background: Smoking is the act of burning tobacco and inhaling the resulting smoke. Despite coordinated efforts and the establishment of national tobacco control regulations, tobacco smoking among Bangladeshi citizens continues to be a public health concern. Objective: This study aimed to delineate the status of Tobacco Control Laws' implications and identify their related predictors. Methods: An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted in south city corporations of Dhaka city. 350 samples were selected randomly from the registered lawyer's list collected from respective authorities. Data was collected by pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire through a face-to-face interview and analyzed using SPSS software. **Results:** Overall, the status of the implication was poor, 66% corresponding to a good 34%. Important analysts significantly found an association with the implication: practicing duration (≤ 18 years: COR= 1.982; 95% CI: 1.098-3.575; AOR=3.519; 95% CI: 1.618-7.657), department (income tax: COR= 2.046, 95% CI: 1.025-4.086; AOR=4.722/0.01; 95% CI: 1.787-12.477), family member smoker (COR=0.324, 95% CI: 0.187-0.561; AOR=3.456, 95% CI: 1.729-7.270), knowledge on health hazards (COR=1.07, 95% CI: 0.626-1.816, AOR=16.315, 95% CI: 2.528-38.78), 'NO SMOKING' sign pasting in court area (COR= 0.92, 95% CI: 0.012-0.687, AOR= 0.126, 95% CI: 0.015-1.033). Conclusion: The analysis presented a pessimistic scenario for the effects of tobacco control laws. With tobacco control legislation and implementation implications, key aspects of professional qualities, family smoking exposures, understanding of health risks, and personal compliance with tobacco control regulations were significantly identified. Sustainable and effective law implementation is urgently required to improve this situation and allow the user and implementer of laws to maintain a vigilant perspective on this side.



RESEARCH FINDINGS
DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE 2023

List of Research Studies as of 2022





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

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

Sl.	Research Studies Conducted in 2013
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

- Phouse # 8, Road # 3, Block-A, Section-11
 - Mirpur, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.
- (880-2) 48036420-23
- (880-2) 58055262
- info@bangladesh-ccp.org
- www.bangladesh-ccp.org

www.btcrn.org