Message

Bangladesh joined FAO on 12 November 1973 within two years of gaining its independence. In the immediate post-independence period, FAO was one of the first international agencies to extend a considerable amount of assistance to Bangladesh to support relief and rehabilitation, as well as national efforts for economic recovery and reconstruction.

FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the global economy. With this view it believes in building sustainable development through multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination.

Though Bangladesh gained significant success in reduction of hunger, more than 25 million Bangladeshis remain undernourished by FAO's definition- not having access to adequate amounts of safe, nutritious food to sustain a healthy and productive life. In spite of impressive development in the agricultural sector in the recent decades challenge of the existing under nutrition is among others due to rapid population growth and dwindling land resources. Today, the situation is being exacerbated by climate change.

Very recently with the collaborative efforts of FAO and Government of Bangladesh (GOB) the National Food Safety Laboratory has been inaugurated at Institute of Public Health and started functioning to ensure safety and quality of food. The Food Safety Programme in Bangladesh funded by the Netherlands and being implemented by FAO has one component related to "Preventive approaches to food safety and quality management". This includes working in partnership with GOB to develop and implement activities which focus on the needs of consumers including increasing public awareness about food safety and hygiene.

Bangladesh is sparing no efforts to strengthen its institutions and programmes so it will have the capacity to cope with natural disasters, environmental change and population growth. Though the future impact of climate change is still uncertain, Bangladesh is preparing for the likely eventualities of increasingly serious weather-related events. FAO is incorporating responses to these growing concerns in its development initiatives.

Bangladesh is now about to achieve many MDGs and is working hard to reach status of middle income country. For that GOB must work in partnership with non-govt organizations and other stake-holders. I am sure Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (pHfBD) with all its dedicated work force will extend and expand their fullest support to build a healthy Bangladesh.

Dominique Burgeon
FAO Representative in Bangladesh

James P Grant School of Public Health (MPH) Programme

Established in 2004, the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), located within BRAC University, is an innovative international educational and research institution focusing on knowledge creation through research and training that connects with practice. Aside from its flagship Masters of Public Health (MPH) programme which attracts a student body of health and development professionals from around the world (WHO Bulletin, 2007), JPGSPH also provides public health courses for national health professionals through its Continuing Education Programme (CEP), as well as specialized trainings, advocacy workshops, and seminars. JPGSPH's extensive research portfolio spans discovery, intervention, implementation, policy, systems and evaluation research but with a singular focus on addressing the health and development needs of the poor and disadvantaged in Bangladesh and internationally.

Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme

The MPH is a one year residential programme with a curriculum offering in-depth and intensive courses in core areas of public health. It is uniquely structured to ensure that classroom learning is reinforced by witnessing the origins of the knowledge through complementary field visits. Faculty members are from reputed international universities, institutions and research centres.

JPGSPH's location in Bangladesh provides an unparalleled diversity of its health challenges - from infectious and non-communicable diseases, to maternal, child and adult health, to environmental threats including road traffic injuries, industrial pollution and climate change. At the same time, Bangladesh is home some of the most innovative and successful public health programs in the world which also offer unique learning opportunities. The School takes advantage of this unique context in its teaching programmes which apply community-based experiential learning approach. Students observe first-hand the complex challenges of public health, and apply public health principles and tools in the context of real communities and programmes. Since its inception, more than two hundred students have graduated from JPGSPH with diverse academic backgrounds in the social sciences and medicine, representing 21 countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Australia, North and South Americas, and Europe.
Continuing Education Programme (CEP)

The School serves as a national and international training hub through its Continuing Education Programme (CEP), which was introduced in 2007 to strengthen the capacity of public health professionals from government and non-governmental organizations as well as facilitate exchange of new knowledge from the North and South. The CEP provides public health education and training to a large audience through subject-specific short courses covering research skills, priority health issues, health system strengthening, and leadership and management training, etc. The varied courses take place throughout the year and cater to the needs of the public health professionals. A total number of 1042 health professionals have been trained through the Continuing Education Program over the last four years.

BRAC: BRAC's development programs spanning microfinance, education, legal rights, water and sanitation and health target the poor and ultra-poor, and offer a dynamic and diverse learning laboratory for students of public health. The School draws on the program expertise of BRAC in health and related sectors for formal teaching, field-based experiential learning and collaborative research. BRAC International works in 9 countries around the world including Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Southern Sudan, and Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda. The School draws on the rapidly growing presence of BRAC International to identify students for its training programs, enrich its curricula and forge opportunities for collaborative research.

BRAC University: The University currently has 7 departments, 4 schools, 3 institutes and 1 centre for languages. It offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in 14 disciplines along with postgraduate diploma and certificate programmes. The University aims to develop core capacities to accelerate equitable development in Bangladesh. The School has active links to various centres of the University such as Development Studies, Governance and Education that provide depth expertise to diverse disciplinary and intersectoral perspectives essential to address complex public health problems.

icddr,b: The high concentration of world class scientists and cutting-edge health research at icddr,b brings the opportunity of the best science and latest knowledge to School’s teaching programs and research. Many icddr,b scientists are active faculty at the School, and advise and mentor students doing research or writing theses. Moreover its urban and rural field research sites and clinical facilities offer important hands-on learning opportunities.

Child Health Care Camp at Srinagar, Munshiganj

Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFBD) organized a health care camp at a village in Srinagar Upazila of Munshiganj on 29-5-12 for providing community health care services including care and treatment of skin diseases among the children. Dr. Tamanna Begum, Associate Professor of Pediatrics of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital (ShSVMCH) led the team and other members were Dr. Istrat Bhuiyan and Dr. Shahadat Hossain, both Assistant Professors of Dermatology of SHSVMCH who also devoted their valuable services towards the health care seekers.

Mostly services were provided to the children age range from neonate to 15 years. About 90 children received health care services. Majority (45 in no.) of the children were below 6 years of age, 33 were between 7-12 years and only 12 were between 13-16 years. Out of 90 patients 52 were male and 38 were female.

Services given to the Community:
- Identification of common skin diseases like- Scabies, Pediculosis, Eczema, Fungal infections etc.
- Health education by rendering common consultation regarding fever, cough, running nose, sneezing, dietary habit (including breast feeding, complimentary feeding), immunization, deworming, personal hygiene hand washing specially before taking meal & after coming from latrine.

Family planning advices were also given to the accompanying parents.

Assessment taken:
History was taken from parents which included feeding history, immunization history, occupational status of parents, socio economic condition, number of family members & educational
Shegufta Mohammad also played a commendable role as the Program Coordinator. The Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFBD) successfully conducted the 5th four days training on Basic and Applied Teaching Methodology (BATM). A total of 23 teachers of various disciplines of Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College participated in the training from 12-15 May, 2012. The training course was facilitated by Prof. Sharmeen Yasmeen, Acting CEO of PHFBD, Dr. Tamanna Begum and Dr. Shegufta Mohammad, members of the Academic Faculty of PHFBD. Dr. Shegufta Mohammad also played a commendable role as the Program Coordinator.

Specially mentionable that this was the first training program organized by Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh outside Dhaka. The enthusiasm was great among the organizers and it was also a good experience for the resource persons of PHFBD as they believe that teaching is another learning session.

Participants actively took part in every event and successfully completed the course. Many of the participants were very senior and knowledgeable persons. Their eagerness towards teaching methodology made all the sessions very much interactive. In the closing ceremony, Prof. Fazlul Karim, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College requested to organize more trainings and seminars at this college. All our hard work paid off by a memorable conclusion with the distribution of certificates. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, Principal of this medical college and Prof. Anjuman Ara graced the session with their kind presence and inspiring speech. PHFBD is also very much thankful to Dr. Nasrin Chowdhury, Head of the department of Biochemistry and the local co-ordinator of the training program who has an excellent organizing capability.

Identification and treatment of diseases:
Out of 90 children 15 were suffering from scabies, 5 had pediculosis, 2 children were suffering from atopic dermatitis and 8 had prurigenous dermatitis. Patients were treated accordingly and counseling was done regarding prevention of skin diseases.

As PHFBD will continue rendering their health care services towards this group of population at a periodic interval, there will be a scope to have a follow up care. Besides, the positive changes in their attitude towards health promotion and maintenance can also be assessed.

Acknowledgement: to Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited for their kind support.

Training Course on Basic and Applied Teaching Methodology at
cHATTAGRAM MAAB- O-Shishu Hospital Medical College

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Training Course on Basic and Applied Teaching Methodology at
Bangladesh Medical College

Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFBD) conducted four days training course on “Basic and Applied Teaching Methodology” at Bangladesh Medical College, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. A total of 19 teachers of various disciplines of Bangladesh Medical College, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College, Ibne Sina Medical College, Anwer Khan Modern Medical College, Infectious Disease Hospital participated in the course from 02-05 June, 2012. The course was coordinated by Prof. Sharmeen Yasmeen, acting CEO of PHFBD. Other facilitators were Prof. M Muzaherul Huq, Prof. Mahfuzar Rahman, Prof. Ashrafuddin Ahmed, Dr. Tamanna Begum and Dr. Shegufta Mohammad, honourable members of the Academic Faculty of PHFBD.

This course was hands on training of the participants based on the essential areas of ongoing medical education at the undergraduate and post-graduate level. It was based on adult learning principles incorporating teaching & learning and student assessment. All the participants showed their keen interest in all the sessions.

In the closing ceremony certificates were distributed by Prof. Taimor Nawaz, Principal, BMC, who was the Chief Guest of that session. Prof. Fazlul Kader, Director, Medical Education Unit, BMC was also present as Special Guest. It was chaired by Prof. M Muzaherul Huq, Chairman, Public Health Foundation.
Meet the Living Legend

Professor Dr. Mohammad Rafi Khan (MR Khan) is an internationally reputed pediatrician born at Rasulpur, Satkhira, Bangladesh on the 1st August, 1928 in a respectable Muslim family. He obtained MBBS degree from Calcutta Medical College in 1952. He achieved his post graduations of DTM & H (Edinburg, 1957), DCH (London, 1957), MRCP (Edinburg, 1962), FCPS (Bangladesh, 1974), FRCP (Edinburg, 1978) and Ph.D (BSMMU, 2011).

During his bright academic and administrative career Prof. Khan worked as Professor of Pediatrics at Dhaka Medical College and IPGM & R of that time and Dhaka Shishu Hospital. He was the Founder Director and Chairman of Institute of Child Health and Dhaka Shishu Hospital. He was the examiner of FCPS examination in Pakistan. He retired from PSC Bangladesh in 1988. He is the Founder President of Bangladesh Pediatric Association. He is the senior most teacher of pediatrics in this country and has been called “Father of Pediatrics” in Bangladesh. Currently he is a senior visiting Professor at icddr,b since 1989. He is the Vice-Chairman of Jatiya Samaj Kalyan Parishad of Ministry of Social Welfare of GOB. He was the Chairman of Polio Eradication Certification Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He was the first introducer of vaccines against polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus in Bangladesh in January 1965 using “Qurtro Virilon” a combined vaccine, produced by Hoechest.

A number of social voluntary development organizations have been established by Prof. Khan like Shishu Sasthya Foundation, Bangladesh (1983). About 0.5 million women and children are receiving direct services in the field of health, nutrition, education, micro credit, environment etc through its centre and field based program. Presently some 6000 women are provided micro credit supports for small scale income generation activities. Under this organization a number of institutions have been established. Other establishments are Shishu Hospital(ICH-SH), Mirpur, Dhaka, Institute of Child Health, Mirpur,Dhaka, Institute of Nursing, Mirpur, Dhaka, Shishu Hospital Jessore, Support Centre for underprivileged children in Satkhira etc. Satkhira Shishu Hospital, Medical College and Hospital for Women at Uttara, the first women medical college in our country are the other establishments of Prof. Khan. Remarkably mentioned that he also established a Trust with all his pension and gratuity fund after his retirement from public service. Through this trust assistance is being provided to various mosques, schools, hospitals and a number of destitute women and children in Satkhira and other places as well as different social welfare activities. Prof. Khan was awarded by Government of Bangladesh as National Professor of Bangladesh in 1995. Many a times he was also awarded and received gold medals from various organizations or associations of home and abroad for his outstanding social works and contribution to child health. He is the founder of one of the modern and large hospitals in the private sector named Nebedita Nursing Home and Central Hospital Ltd at Dhaka.

Professor Khan in his enlightened career involved in 38 research works which were published in the scientific journals in home and abroad. He is author and co-author of 9 academic and popular books of child health.

Editorial

The doctor patient relationship

Newspapers of recent days cover incidents of agitations & protests by the patients and their relatives against doctors complaining misbehaviours or improper care by them to the patients. On occasions there are litigations against doctors too of medical negligences.

A common feeling among the professionals as well as society that, the doctor patient relationship is eroding day by day. The expectations of the society from the medical profession have increased with the easy availability of information technology & easy access to the information of the advancement of health care sciences around the world.

With the present day commercialization & involvement of many medical professionals to merchandise profession, the society feels that doctors are not now as professional and ethical as they were in the past days. Society expects doctors to be more ethical in practicing medicine with sound professional skill. People expect doctors empathetic & more caring to patients.

Most of the leaders of medical profession have the same feelings.. It is now necessary that we look into the reasons of the erosion and take initiative to improve the relationship so that the desire & expectations of both the society & profession are met. A dialogue among the leaders as well as society is that, doctors need to be done to improve the strenuous doctor patient relationship.

Prof. M. Muzaherul Huq

Announcements

Future Training Programmes of Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh

Training on Basic and Applied Teaching Methodology
Course Duration : 4 Days, Course Fee : Tk. 4000/= Next Course : 14-17 January 2013

Training on Basic and Applied Epidemiology
Course Duration : 3 Days, Course Fee : Tk. 4000/= Next Course : 16-19 February 2013

Training on Basic and Applied Research Methodology
Course Duration : 4 Days, Course Fee : Tk. 4000/= Next Course : 7-10 April 2013

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