

7th Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session

Date: July 15, 2025 (Tuesday)
Time: 3.00 PM - 4.30 PM BST (GMT+6)

Topic: Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Urban Health

Seminar Minutes

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN) successfully organized its 7th Bi-Weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar titled “**Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Urban Health**.” Held via Zoom from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM BST (GMT+6), the session was expertly moderated by *Ummay Farihin Sultana, Project Manager at BUHN*. The seminar focused on the role of digital innovation in transforming urban healthcare. Speakers shared insights on the application of IT and AI in enhancing healthcare management systems, improving disease prediction, and addressing urban health challenges. The discussion also explored the integration of AI into medical education and underscored the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration to drive progress in Bangladesh’s urban health landscape.

Seminar Agendas:

- Welcome speech
- Panel discussion
- Open Discussion/ Q&A Session
- Speech by the Chief Guest
- Speech by the Session Chair
- Closing remarks and next step

Seminar Discussions:

SN	Discussion Points	Seminar Discussion
1	Welcome Speech	<i>Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir, Health Specialist (Urban), Health Section, UNICEF Bangladesh, welcomed participants by underscoring the urgent need for digital transformation in urban health to tackle fragmented and under-resourced systems, and emphasized the importance of a national strategy to scale ethical, equitable, and accountable digital solutions.</i>
2	Panel Discussion	<i>Professor (Dr.) Shah Ali Akbar Ashrafi, Former Director of MIS at DGHS, MoHFW, shared the transformative role of IT and AI in urban health-emphasizing real-time data systems, improved monitoring, and AI-driven predictive analytics to enhance healthcare delivery and policy-making.</i> <i>Dr. Khondaker Abdullah Al-Mamun, Professor at United International University and Founder of IRIIC, CMED Health, and AIMS Lab, shared his work on leveraging AI and IoT to develop an intelligent general practitioner model aimed at delivering personalized and comprehensive community-level healthcare in Bangladesh.</i>

		<i>Dr. M. Shamim Kaiser, Professor at the Institute of Information Technology (IIT), Jahangirnagar University, emphasized the urgent need for better integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into urban health services to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and data-driven decision-making.</i> <i>Dipto Biswas, Sr. Lecturer at the Department of ICE, Daffodil International University, presented insights on leveraging wireless body area networks and digital content analysis for urban health monitoring, highlighting the need for stakeholder mapping, data-driven policymaking, and improved coordination to address urban health system gaps.</i> <i>Dr. Taufiq Hasan, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Director of the mHealth Research Group at BUET, shared innovative AI applications in urban healthcare, including low-cost ventilators, dengue prediction models, and clinical decision support tools, stressing the importance of locally trained AI to overcome demographic and data limitations in Bangladesh.</i> <i>Dr. Sadid Muneer, Associate Professor, Dept. of EEE, United International University (UIU), highlighted the shift from CPU to GPU and neuromorphic computing in enabling AI, underscoring Nvidia's market dominance and the need to modernize educational curricula by integrating emerging technologies like quantum computing and cross-disciplinary AI applications, citing the VLSI industry as a key example.</i> <i>Dr. Swakkhar Shatabda, Professor at the Department of CSE, BRAC University, presented on agentic AI solutions, showcasing how the integration of traditional AI with large language models can enhance reasoning and contextual understanding in healthcare, illustrated through a case study on polycystic ovary syndrome.</i>
3	Open Discussion/ Q&A Session	<i>VFF Mohammad Abdullah, Consultant (Individual), raised a key question regarding the possibility of developing a unique health ID for all citizens in Bangladesh, similar to systems in other countries. In response, Dr. Swakkhar Shatabda, Professor at the Department of CSE, BRAC University, and Dr. Taufiq Hasan, Professor at the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Director of the mHealth Research Group at BUET, acknowledged its technical feasibility but highlighted policy-level and data integration challenges that must be addressed for effective implementation.</i> <i>SM Moazzem Hossain, Principal Advisor, Chief of Health, UNICEF Afghanistan, pointed out that we need to encourage the private sector to invest in digital health as part of their corporate social responsibility. Without their active participation, it will be difficult</i>

		to secure the necessary funding and infrastructure for digital health, as governments often have many competing priorities.
4	Speech by the Chief Guest	<i>Mohammad Nora Alam Siddiqui, Additional Secretary of the Medical Education Wing, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MOHFW</i> , emphasized the urgent need to expand the Urban Primary Healthcare Project beyond its current coverage of 18 out of 295 municipalities to effectively serve the projected 70% urban population by 2050. He also highlighted the critical importance of integrating data from diverse service providers and establishing a robust referral system to alleviate overcrowding in general hospitals and improve urban health outcomes.
5	Speech by the Session Chair	<i>Dr. Chandrasegarar Soloman, Chief of Health (OIC), UNICEF Bangladesh</i> , emphasized the transformative potential of AI in enhancing preventive health and called for a robust urban health system with integrated data frameworks to effectively harness AI solutions in Bangladesh.
6	Closing remarks and next step	<i>Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eminence Associates for Social Development and Member Secretary of Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN)</i> , extended his sincere thanks to all esteemed speakers and panelists for their valuable insights, emphasizing BUHN's continued commitment to advancing the urban health agenda through sustained collaboration and collective action.

Seminar Decisions:

1. Formulate and implement a comprehensive national framework to scale ethical, equitable, and accountable digital health solutions across urban areas.
2. Encourage private sector investment in digital health under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to reduce dependence on government funding and fast-track innovation.
3. Urgently scale the Urban Primary Healthcare Project (UPHCP) beyond the current 18 municipalities to meet future demand from a projected 70% urban population by 2050.
4. Design and implement a standardized digital referral and integration mechanism to streamline service delivery and reduce overcrowding in tertiary hospitals.
5. Strengthen urban health infrastructure with integrated data frameworks to unlock the full potential of AI for preventive care and system efficiency.
6. Establish real-time data platforms and AI-driven predictive analytics to enable proactive urban health policy and service delivery.
7. Support the development of intelligent GP models and IoT-based community health tools to deliver localized, low-cost, and preventive healthcare.
8. Update university curricula to include AI, GPU computing, neuromorphic engineering, quantum computing, and cross-disciplinary applications in healthcare.

Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

Following attendees from BUHN, UNICEF, DGHS, MoHFW, NGOs and other partner organizations joined the virtual seminar-

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Mohammad Nora Alam Siddique	Additional Secretary (Medical Education Wing)	MEFWD, MoHFW
2.	Professor (Dr.) Shah Ali Akbar Ashrafi	Former Director	MIS (DGHS), MoHFW
3.	Dr. Sharmin Nahar	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Manager	UPHCSDP II
4.	Dr. Chandrasegarar Soloman	Chief of Health (OiC)	UNICEF Bangladesh
5.	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Specialist (Urban)	UNICEF Bangladesh
6.	Dr. Khondaker Abdullah -Al-Mamun	Professor	Department of CSE, United International University
7.	Dr. M. Shamim Kaiser	Professor	IIT, Jahangirnagar University
8.	Dr. Taufiq Hasan	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering, BUET
9.	Dr. Swakkhar Shatabda	Professor	Department of CSE, BRAC University
10.	Dr. Sadid Muneer	Associate Professor	Dept. of EEE, United International University
11.	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
12.	Dipto Biswas	Sr. Lecturer	Department ICE, Daffodil International University
13.	Francis Nyakoojo	Health Advisor	Plan International
14.	Zahidul Quayyum, PhD.	Professor and Director	BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
15.	SM Moazzem Hossain	Principal Advisor, Chief of Health	UNICEF Afghanistan
16.	Dewan Md Emdadul Hoque	Health Manager	UNICEF Bangladesh
17.	Dr. Fida Mehran	Health Systems Specialist	UNICEF, Bangladesh
18.	Khondker Rebaka Sun-Yat	Executive Director	Coalition for the Urban Poor-CUP
19.	Dominic Gomes	Area Programme Manager-Urban	World Vision Bangladesh
20.	Mary Rashid	Deputy Director, Programme Implementation and Impact	Concern Worldwide
21.	Md Jahirul Alam Azad	Urban Health Specialist	Individual

22.	Dr Md Saidur Rahman	Team Leader (Aalo Clinics)	Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
23.	Md Harun-or-Rashid	Chief Executive	Light House
24.	Dr. Abu Jamil Faisel	Chairman & Treasurer	Health21
25.	S.M. Mazibur Rahman	Executive Director	Socio-Economic and Rural Advancement Association (SERAA)
26.	Md Jahirul Alam Azad	Urban Health Specialist	Individual
27.	Masuda Begum	Director (Health and Nutrition)	Nari Maitri
28.	VFF Mohammad Abdullah	Consultant	Individual
29.	Dr. Abu Jamil Faisel	Chairman & Treasurer	Health21
30.	Dr. Saiha Marjia	Senior Program Manager	BRAC Health program
31.	Md Arif Billah	Senior Research Officer	icddr,b
32.	Dr. Nazia Rahman	Project Coordinator	Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
33.	Syeda Umaiya Wali	MEAL Officer	Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
34.	Mohammad Sohel Shomik	Deputy Project Coordinator	icddr,b
35.	Ponuel Mollah Swadesh	Associate Officer (ICT & Digital Development)	WaterAid Bangladesh
36.	Moumita Khandaker	ICT Associate	WaterAid Bangladesh
37.	Dr Nasrin Romi	Senior Advisor, Health Systems	Ipas Bangladesh
38.	Mohammed Nabinur Rahman	Advocacy Advisor	Concern Worldwide
39.	Zakera Hannan Rubayet	Project Manager	Population Services and Training Center (PSTC)
40.	Shourov Jamil	ICT Officer	CMED Health
41.	Mohammad Khairul Hasan		
42.	Ahosan Habib		
43.	Jahid Hassan Akash		
44.	Komal Khatun		
45.	Anzali Rani		
46.	Asif		
47.	Rubaiya		
48.	Sazeeb		
49.	Shaheen		
50.	Nazmul		
51.	Md Rubel		
52.	Tapan Chandra		

53.	Dipika		
54.	Zihad		
55.	Tanjina Farhana Upoma	UNV Health Officer	UNICEF Bangladesh
56.	Dr.Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence Associates for Social Development
57.	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
58.	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
59.	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
60.	Md. Saddam Hossain	Senior Data Management Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
61.	Md. Jahangir Alam	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO)	Eminence Associates for Social Development
62.	Md. Dipta Saha	Health and Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
63.	Abhijeet Kumar Singh	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
64.	Abir Chowdhury	IT Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
65.	Md. Shoriful Islam	Graphic Designer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
66.	Minhajul Islam	Health and Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development

Snapshot of the Seminar:

