

5th Bi weekly knowledge sharing Virtual Seminar Report

Date: 4th April 2024 (Thursday)

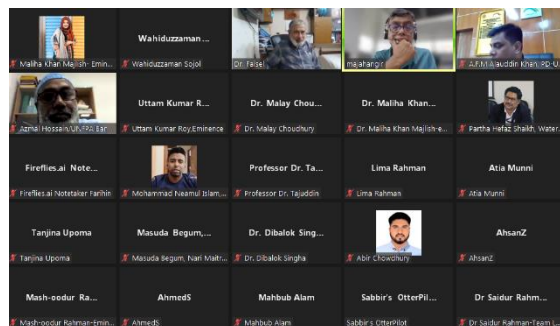
Time: 11:30 – 13:00 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Seminar Report

BUHN 5th Virtual Seminar Insights: Advancing Urban Health and WASH Initiatives

The 5th Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), organized by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), convened on April 4, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 01:00 PM (BST) via the Zoom platform, honoring *Dr. Malay Choudhury*, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture as the Chief Guest, *Dr. Dibalok Singha*, Executive Director, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) and *Dr. Md. Tajuddin Sikder*, Professor & Former chairman, Department of Public Health & Informatics, Jahangirnagar University, as the panelist. *Md. Azmal Hossain*, the UNFPA Program Analyst for Urban Health, and *Partha Hefaz Shaikh*, Director- Programmes and Policy Advocacy, WaterAid Bangladesh, gave presentation on "“Ma Jaan: solving referral challenges for urban poor to access emergency obstetric and newborn care in Bangladesh”" and "Health and Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)" respectively. The seminar opened with *Dr. Dewan Md. Emdadul Hoque*, Health Manager at UNICEF, extending a warm welcome to the participants and underscoring the pivotal role of urban health in realizing SDG targets in Bangladesh.



Following this, in the 1st presentation of *Md. Azmal Hossain*, the UNFPA Program Analyst for Urban Health, delved into the intricacies of solving referral challenges for urban poor communities to access emergency obstetric and newborn care in Bangladesh. His presentation shed light on various aspects, including innovation, policy testing, and the crucial role of technology, notably the "Ma Jaan" app, in facilitating emergency referrals and ensuring quality



Ma Jaan: solving referral challenges for urban poor to access emergency obstetric and newborn care in Bangladesh

Md. Azmal Hossain
Programme Analyst – Urban Health
UNFPA Bangladesh



care during childbirth. Subsequently, in the 2nd presentation, *Partha Hefaz Shaikh*, Director of Programmes and Policy Advocacy at WaterAid Bangladesh, emphasized the imperative of universal access to safe wash facilities and advocated for enhanced WASH service delivery capacity through technological applications.

This discussion set the stage for a robust panel discussion led by *Dr. Dibalok Singha*, Executive Director of Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK), who addressed challenges in inclusive sanitation and public health services, stressing the need for increased budget allocation and strengthened community-level public health systems. The discussion further unfolded with *Dr. Md. Tajuddin Sikder*, Professor & Former Chairman of the Department of Public Health & Informatics at Jahangirnagar University, provided insights into enhancing urban healthcare accessibility, advocating for the integration of artificial intelligence and decentralized waste management strategies.

The seminar culminated in an open discussion and Q&A session led by *A.F.M Alauddin Khan*, Project Director of UPHCSDP-II, highlighting the critical importance of prioritizing primary healthcare for vulnerable urban populations and fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities to achieve SDGs by 2030.

The speech by the Chief Guest *Dr. Malay Choudhury*, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, discussing the roles of development partners, emphasizing the significance of urban primary healthcare and water supply, sanitation & waste management, and exploring opportunities for government-stakeholders coordination.

As the seminar concluded, *Dr. Shahin Akter*, Technical Operation Director at Eminence, expressed gratitude and underscored the urgent need for budget allocation to support urban slum development, advocating for enhanced WASH facilities, affordable transport for referrals, accessible water supply, cost-effective waste management, and coordinated efforts among local governments and institutions for sustainable urban health outcomes.



Chief Guest
Dr. Malay Choudhury
 Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (2024)
 Former Additional Secretary, GOI, MCD/DCs
 Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Presenters
Md. Azmal Hossain
 Program Analyst, Urban Health
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Partha Hafiz Shaikh
 Director, Programmes and Policy Advisory
 VisionFund Bangladesh

Panel Speakers
Dr. Dibalok Singha
 Executive Director
 Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK)
Dr. Md. Tajuddin Sikder
 Professor and Former Chairman
 Department of Public Health & Informatics
 Jahangirnagar University

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