

## Editorial

### Public Health Challenges of Bangladesh

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Bangladesh is the eighth-most populous country in the world and is one of the most densely populated countries with a population of nearly 170 million in an area of 148,460 square kilometres (57,320 sq mi) as well as having one of the fastest growing economies in the world. As a result, Bangladesh faces challenges and opportunities in regards to public health.<sup>1,2</sup>

Public health is a term that encompasses to all spheres of human life and their work to promote and retain the health of a country or community. Public health take actions to improve the overall healthful conditions those influences the factors the health of the community by improving the health of the individual's activities which include disease prevention, disease screening, disease treatment, as well as monitoring the environmental, social, economic, and political factors to improve the health of the public.<sup>3</sup>

Infectious diseases are becoming menace worldwide particularly for the third world countries like Bangladesh. Emergence and re-emergence disease have an increasing trend of incidence and prevalence and depend on the geographical and economic background of the country. Although most emerging diseases can be treated and controlled by new-generation chemotherapeutic agents, they are becoming resistant rapidly. Again, the infectious diseases like severe acute respiratory syndrome, pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis, malaria, cholera, dengue, chikungunya, meningitis, food-borne gastro-enteritis, salmonellosis etc. are continue to threaten global public health in particular country like Bangladesh.<sup>4</sup>

In Bangladesh, the majority of people have a poor quality of life, lower level of education, poor perception, awareness regarding personal hygiene and disease transmission.

Essential functions of Public Health are monitor health status, diagnose and investigate, inform, educate, and empower, inform decision-making choices, mobilize community partnerships, develop coalitions, develop policies and plans, enforce laws and regulations, identify barriers to care, leadership development, evaluate health services and links public health practice and academic/research settings. Bangladesh lacks many of its fundamental and essential public health activities.<sup>5</sup>

One of the main public health challenge now a day for Bangladesh is effects of global warming and climate change. Effects of climate change are evident in water quality, air quality, agriculture, sanitation, and habitable spaces and related fields. It is also evident in hills and haors of mainly which affects community health of the vulnerable populations as well as mental wellness of the population at large. The public health professionals play

critical role in educating the mass population about the effects of climate change on health through efforts that include clean and renewable energy and initiatives.

Waste management is another major public health challenge for the authority in Bangladesh. Waste generated Dhaka and Chottogram is 350 g/capita, and the major constituents of wastes are organic and compostable materials.<sup>6</sup> The other municipal authorities are facing the same challenges. The management of this huge waste matter, both organic and inorganic remains a major challenge for the city corporation. The major problem of waste management is the people's attitudes and behaviour. Lack of proper disposal sites and modern technologies for reuse or recycle both the organic and inorganic waste matters remain the major obstacle for clean and green environment.

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