

James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
in collaboration with ICDDR,B offers

A Short Course on
Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD) for Health Professionals

The James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of BRAC University has been successfully running its Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program for the last three years. ICDDR,B is one of the important partners in the MPH Program of the School. These two partners now entered into a new dimension of collaboration-the Continuing Education Program (CEP) which facilitates development and offering of tailor-made certificate/short courses on health system research, research design and methodology, grant writing skills etc in order to meet the career needs of health professionals and health services providers particularly in Bangladesh.

The Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of this short course is to further strengthen the health system in Bangladesh through capacity building of health professionals and health service providers. The following objectives will be pursued to achieve this goal:

- Provide a comprehensive understanding on the goals, critical components of and relationships among various components of health systems;
- Further enrich the conceptual as well as practical understanding of the health system in Bangladesh;
- Articulate and help internalize the application of a systems perspective in addressing health care related issues;
- Better understanding and appreciating the role of health systems research in identifying, analyzing and resolving health system problems and applying health systems research tools and techniques in the context of Bangladesh; and
- Enhancing the knowledge and understanding about the nature and dynamics of the relationship between health and sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Who are eligible for the Course ?

The course is primarily aimed at mid-level health care professionals/workers in both the Public, NGO and Private sector who are engaged in either (a) Policy development, strategic planning, governance and organizational/structural change/reform; or (b) Service delivery at the macro (health ministry) or micro (community) level. Teachers, training instructors and other professionals in institutions designed to train primary and/or allied health care workers will also benefit from this course.

How the Course is Organized ?

This is a four-week course organized and conducted in sandwich pattern: **Phase 1 for 3 weeks**, and **Phase 2 for 1 week**, and in between there will be **a fieldwork for 2 weeks**.

Phase 1: It will cover all aspects of health systems research and development in a comprehensive manner and relate them to the ground level realities in Bangladesh. It will also cover a critical analysis of the relationship between health and

holistic/sustainable development. Each participant will identify a particular health system related issue at his/her workplace for further study and analysis following the tools and techniques discussed in the class.

Fieldwork and Report Writing: Following completion of the Phase 1, participants will return to their respective workplaces and carry out the already identified study and prepare a report for presentation in the class.

Phase 2: At the end of the fieldwork, participants will return to the class for Phase 2 of the course, further analyse collected data and fine tune the final report in consultation with the course supervisor. All participants will present their final reports in the class, participate in discussion/debate and will help identify key health system issues in Bangladesh. Participants' course performance evaluation/assessment will also be done in Phase 2. It will end with a closing ceremony where certificates of course completion will be awarded to the participants.

Course Contents

Week 1: Defining health system and its goals

- Health Systems: A Conceptual Framework
- Population Health vs. Individual Health: Demographic and epidemiological realities in Bangladesh
- Responding to the non-medical expectations (ensuring dignity, respect, and confidentiality in service provision) of consumers – the Bangladesh context
- Providing financial protection against ill health in Bangladesh (understanding and overcoming the poverty-ill health nexus)
- Engendering the health system in Bangladesh: A Critical Challenge

Week 2: Health System Development: the Bangladesh Context

- Stewardship and governance of the health system (Policy, Strategic Directions and Public/Private Partnership)
- Evidenced-Based Policy Making
- Management and Leadership: Critical Needs for Bangladesh
- Financing health care in Bangladesh (Sources, Constraints and the Role of ODA)
- Human Resources for Health – Challenges and Constraints
- Delivering health care services – decentralization and community participation
- Health System Development: Strengthening Primary Health Care in Bangladesh
- The Essential Package Concept: Its Relevance for Bangladesh
- Globalization and Development: Challenges for Bangladesh

Week 3: Health Systems Research

- Inquiry Paradigms: Positivism to Post-positivist Constructionism
- Health Systems Research: Its Nature and Functions
- Tools and Techniques of HSR: The Value of Mixed Methods Approach

- Evidence and Decision Making: Context and Culture in Bangladesh
- HSR and Advocacy: Implications for Public Health
- HSR: Its Application in Bangladesh
- HSR: Proposal Development (each participant)
- Field Work and Report Writing: Developing Guidelines

Week 4: Further Data Analysis and Finalizing the Report

- Presentation of HSR Reports
- Developing Consensus: Identifying Common HS Issues in Bangladesh
- Course Performance Assessment/Evaluation of Participants
- Closing Ceremony

Course Assessment/Evaluation

The course uses two tools to assess performance: (a) a short paper and its presentation in the class; (b) class participation in general. During the end of the first week, the subject matter of the short paper to be written and presented will be negotiated. Class “participation” will attempt to assess the degree of one’s contribution to the discussion in the class. The relative values of these tools are: 70% (paper and presentation) and 30% (class participation).

Teaching Methodology

A thoroughly participatory approach will be followed. Along with lectures (PowerPoint presentations), participants will meet in small group sessions to debate specific issues and develop consensus through exchange of ideas and negotiation. Classroom exercise on different HSR tools and techniques will also be held to make participants familiar with their practical application.

Resource Persons

The course will benefit from a host of renowned scholars drawn from BRAC University and ICDDR,B. Particular mention may be made about the following faculties- one from BRAC University, and the other from ICDDR,B.

Dr. Anwar Islam who is currently working as Professor of James P Grant School of Public Health in BRAC University. He is the primary resource for this training course and will provide overall leadership to the Health Systems Research and Development course. He has recently relocated to Bangladesh following a 34-year professional career in the health sector in Canada that included working for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa during the 1990s as a Senior Program Officer/Medical Sociologist with its Health Sciences Division. In this capacity, Dr. Islam reviewed, funded and monitored research projects in various areas of the health sector in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Immediately prior to relocating to Bangladesh, Dr. Islam was with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as the Principal Advisor, Health Systems in its Policy Branch. While in Canada, he also contributed as an academic and researcher to numerous universities (Carleton University in Ottawa, University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba in Manitoba, and the University of Alberta in Alberta) teaching courses on Medical Sociology, Complex Organization and

Management, Comparative Health Care Systems, and Health Care Financing and Health Sector Reform. Dr. Islam also worked as an Associate Professor and Head of the Health Systems Division in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan for a four-year period (1998-2002). He brings his rich academic expertise, extensive knowledge in international health and multicultural teaching skills to the short course.

Dr. Tracey Perez Koehlmoos is head of the Health and Family Planning Systems Program and is the point person for conducting health system research at ICDDR,B. She is a Health Systems Research Scientist at ICDDR,B, and an adjunct Professor at the James P Grant School of Public Health. She is pioneering global teaching and distance learning while teaching graduate courses on-line from Dhaka for the College of Health and Human Services of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, USA. She has extensive knowledge of global and South Asian Health Systems, and she brings a rich international experience and expertise in teaching short courses in health systems research and development.

Course Fee

The course fee is BDT 25,000 per participant. For BRAC and ICDDR,B staff members the fee is BDT 10,000 per participant. The travel, food and accommodation costs are not included in the course fee.

How to apply

Interested candidates should apply on or before the last date of receiving applications indicated in the announcement. Applications should accompany a CV and a brief description of how the knowledge and skills will be utilized. Employed persons should apply through their employer.

Last date of Application

6 February 2008.

Scheduled Sessions

17 February - 27 March 2008

Phase 1-Class Room Teaching: 17 Feb- 6 March 2008 at BRAC School of Public Health

Field Work: 9-20 March 2008 at Worksite

Phase 2-Report back: 23-27 March 2008 at Sasakawa International Training Centre, ICDDR,B

Further Information

For further information and to apply, please contact:

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