



Newsletter

July-September 2022

Dear Members, Advisors and Friends,

Warm greetings from Shuchona Foundation. This year seems to be going in a flash! During the third quarter of this year, the Inclusive Education team had been quite busy, attending workshops and revising our manual based on findings and suggestions. There has been a couple of journal articles published, and events attended.

We were happy to note that in August 2022, the National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030 has been approved by the cabinet, and can now be accessed from <https://old.dghs.gov.bd/.../6021-national-mental-health...> Shuchona Foundation was a member of the Working Group on the National Mental Health Strategic Plan and the Technical Task team formed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to develop the National Mental Health Strategic Plan (NMHSP). Our Chairperson, Saima Wazed was one of the primary contributors as the Chief Advisor of the Working Group.

The National Mental Health Strategy 2020-2030 is developed to establish a comprehensive, inter-sectorial, integrated, and responsive system as a means to ensure proper utilization of quality mental health and psychosocial wellbeing services and information.

Please let us know if you would like to learn more about our work. We would love to hear from you!

With best wishes,
Shuchona Foundation Secretariat

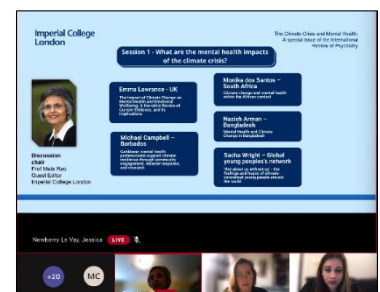
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Publication

Mental Health and Climate Change in Bangladesh

Two articles co-authored by our Chairperson, Ms. Saima Wazed was published in a special issue of the *International Review of Psychiatry* journal on the climate crisis and mental health. The article titled "Mental Health and Climate Change in Bangladesh" has been co-authored with Nazish Arman and Salowa Salam Shaoli. The article titled "Climate Change in Bangladesh: meeting the Mental Health Needs in Times of Crisis", is co-authored with Dr. Joanne Byron, M.S., S.S/P, NCSP.

The special issue of the *International Review of Psychiatry* was launched online on 27 September 2022. This collection of research studies, commentaries and analyses focuses on the impacts of climate change on mental health and wellbeing. The online event was moderated by Guest Editor of the issue, Professor Mala Rao (Imperial College London), where President, Dr Adrian James (Royal College Psychiatrists) along with a panel of authors from around the world, participated. From Shuchona Foundation, Nazish Arman spoke as one of the authors.





Content Expertise

Inclusive Education



A 3-day-long stakeholder validation workshop to revise the training manual developed by Shuchona Foundation was organized by Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) from 19-21 July 2022. Team members from SF, different officials and experts from DPE, NAPE, NCTB, PTIs, UNICEF, USAID, and representatives from several government and non-government organizations participated in the workshop. The workshop was designed with reference to one of the requirements of the MoU on implementing subcomponent 2.6 under 'Access and Participation' of PEDP4, between DPE and Shuchona Foundation. Director General of DPE, Md. Muhibur Rahman was present as the Chief Guest of the workshop. The participants appreciated the content and instruction guide of the manual and provided feedback on them, which will be incorporated accordingly.



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In August, RTI International invited Shuchona Foundation to participate in a two-day long workshop on the principles and application of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) under the project 'Shobai Miley Shikhi' funded by USAID. The project aims to improve learning outcomes for children with disabilities in government primary schools in Bangladesh. The core objective of the workshop was to conceptualize the integration of UDL into classroom instructions and teachers' professional development programs. Academics and officials from educational institutes, NGO/INGOs, and government agencies participated in the workshop, including Pranay Bhuiyan and Evalin Rafia representing Shuchona Foundation, from 10-11 August 2022.

On 04 September 2022, our colleagues from Shuchona Foundation attended another day long workshop organised by Shobai Miley Shikhi project as per DPE's instruction, where officials from DPE, UNICEF, USAID, and colleagues who are part of the project went through our manual. The participants collectively agreed that the concepts and the strategies organized in the manual are aligned with UDL's philosophy. Currently, the feedback from the participants is being incorporated and soon will be shared with relevant stakeholders again. Inclusive Education expert, Professor Dr. M. Tariq Ahsan of the University of Dhaka; Chief of Party of the 'Shobai Miley Shikhi Project', Dr. Jordene Hale, and Pranay Bhuiyan from Shuchona Foundation facilitated the sessions at the workshop. The event was chaired by the Additional Directorate General (PEDP4) of DPE, Mr. Dilip Kumar Banik. Our COO, Dr. Saqui Khandoker was also present as the special guest. The objective of the workshop was to identify the components of UDL in our training manual on 'Inclusive Education' and explore further provisions in it.



Teaching-Learning Material Development based on National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Framework 2021

This quarter, Shuchona Foundation's Assistant Coordinator, Content Development, Pranay Bhuiyan attended a workshop titled 'Digital Content Mapping for Grade 6 & 7 Based on New Curriculum'. This workshop was organized by NCTB from 12-13 September 2022. Mr. Bhuiyan is one of the resource persons of NCTB in developing teaching-learning materials for the subject 'Bangla', and has outlined the content for grades 6 & 7. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Covid-19 School Sector Response (CSSR) project, UNICEF, NCTB, Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE), World Bank, and Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The objective of the workshop was to identify the areas for developing accessible digital content, and design an outline for the technical team based on the new curriculum for grades 6 & 7.



Another 3-day long residential workshop was organised by NCTB from 17-19 September 2022. Mr. Bhuiyan is part of the team that drafted the manual for grades 6 & 7 that will be finalized soon and be used to train the teachers throughout the country by the end of this year. The event was chaired and facilitated by Professor Md. Moshuazzaman (Member, NCTB) and Chairperson of NCTB, Professor Farhadul Islam was also present as the Chief Guest. The objective of the workshop was to develop a curriculum dissemination training manual for all the subjects of Grade 6 & 7 based on the national curriculum 2022.



Capacity Building

Assessment of the Effect of Mother and Child Benefit Program on the Cognitive Development of Children

Our colleagues from Shuchona Foundation alongside Dr. Nusrat Y. Ahmed as Consultant, conducted training for data collectors on research tools for the project "Assessment of the Effect of a Mother and Child Benefit Program on the Cognitive Development of Children". The training was held from 22-24 July 2022, and included a one-day field attachment on 25 July 2022.



From 10-12 August 2022, the data collectors accompanied by SF Program Coordinator, Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury visited Godagari and Lalpur to collect data. During the field visit, the data was collected from local participants considering Godagari as the intervention area/ case area, and Lalpur as the non-intervention area/ control area.



Background: Shuchona Foundation signed a MoU with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in April 2020 for the project titled "Assessment of the Effect of the Mother and Child Benefit Program on the Cognitive Development of Children". Due to the pandemic, the project was inaugurated on 28 October 2021. This joint collaboration is designed to understand the impact of Shuchona Foundation's *Social Communication and Emotional Skill Development (SCESD)* intervention with nutrition programs. Furthermore, this project is to facilitate the multi-sectoral approach for cognitive, social, and emotional development with the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA), using the SCESD manual developed by Shuchona Foundation.



Events

Chairperson's participation as Keynote speaker at First National Symposium on Child Protection

UNICEF and the European Union, together with relevant government and non-government agencies, organized the First National Symposium on Child Protection held on 19 September 2022. The event brought together government, international partners, civil society, and expert practitioners to look for critical actions to strengthen child protection systems, so all children in Bangladesh are protected, including children with disabilities. This symposium also included an expert discussion on best practices in the field of child and adolescent development and formulating recommendations to build on these best practices.



The symposium was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the keynote speaker was our Chairperson Saima Wazed whose talk was titled "The Well-being of Our Children Today is the Prosperity of Bangladesh Tomorrow." Our COO, Dr. Saqui Khandoker, Secretariat Coordinator, Aneeqa R. Ahmad, Program Coordinator, Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury and Assistant Coordinator (Content Development), Evalin Rafia attended. The symposium focused on specific aspects of child protection, including early identification and intervention, the strengthening of child protection social service workforce, early learning and education, social security, the rights and

needs of children with disabilities, and the legal framework on child protection and its implementation. Examples of best practices from Bangladesh and the rest of the world was also included in discussions, drawing on agreed international standards and benchmarks, including the SDGs.

The partners of the symposium were Government of Bangladesh (various Ministries and Departments like the Ministry of Social Welfare, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Department of Women Affairs); EU Delegation to Bangladesh; Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities; International Organisations; Bangladesh Supreme Court Special Committee; etc.



Activities

SF attending Special Initiative for Mental Health meeting as Working Group member



This quarter, colleagues attended WHO's Special Initiative for Mental Health (SIMH)'s Working Group meeting twice, representing Shuchona Foundation. The meeting took place at the SIMH Secretariat in NIMH, where our EC member Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor of Child Adolescent and Family Psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) along with colleagues from NIMH; NCDC, DGHS; WHO; and iccdr,b participated. The meetings were held on 05 July and 14 September 2022.

About SIMH: WHO's SIMH seeks to ensure that universal health coverage involving access to quality and affordable care for mental health conditions is provided to the Special Initiative countries, of which, Bangladesh is one. It aims to enhance quality interventions and services for individuals with mental health conditions.



Participation in workshop Develop a Baseline Assessment Tool on the Mental Health Services in the Four Selected Districts of Bangladesh

Md. Abu Arif from Research and Capacity Building team attended a workshop titled "Develop a Baseline Assessment Tool on the Mental Health Services in the Four Selected Districts of Bangladesh" representing Shuchona Foundation along with 17 other resource persons on 01 August 2022. The workshop was organized by Center for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB).



This workshop was organized to develop tools for the baseline study on mental health services in four districts of Bangladesh. The study will explore the situation of the service provision of mental health in



selected districts of Bangladesh so that intervention can be designed according to needs, which will help the country to reach the sustainable development goals by 2030 focusing on the target of the special initiative for mental health by WHO Bangladesh. CIPRB focal person presented four tools to be reviewed by the resource persons, which were District Level Socio-Demographic & Economic Information; Facility Survey: District Hospital and Medical College Hospital; Facility Survey: Upazila Health Complexes; and National Level Data on Mental Health. After the presentation of each tool, resource persons discussed and provided valuable recommendations to enrich the quality of these tools.

Climate Vulnerable Forum colleagues at Shuchona Foundation office

On 03 July 2022 colleagues from Climate Vulnerable Forum & V20 Secretariat paid a visit to Shuchona Foundation office to meet Chairperson Ms. Saima Wazed. During the meeting, the attendees discussed the way forward and possible future engagements, focusing priorities in 2022/23 of our Chairperson as the CVF Thematic Ambassador for Vulnerability. The meeting attendees were: Matthew McKinnon, Program Head, CVF & V20 Support Program, Sirazoom Munira, Program Officer from CVF, Muniyat Fabbaha, Program Analyst, and Salwah Chowdhury, Assistant Coordinator, Secretariat along with SF Chair from Shuchona Foundation.

