

BANGLADESH HEALTH PROJECT

STRENGTHENING NURSING IN BANGLADESH



Sponsored by
Mid Main Community Health Centre
Vancouver, BC Canada



College of Nursing International
University of Business Agriculture
and Technology Dhaka Bangladesh

FACT SHEET 2010

BangladeshHealthProject.com

MID-MAIN/BANGLADESH NURSE EDUCATION PROJECT

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR FUTURE
HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND LEADERS

With 157 million residents, Bangladesh is among the world's most densely populated countries. Despite recent reductions in population growth and some economic upturn, life for many Bangladeshi people remains difficult. Improvements to public services are desperately needed.

The Mid-Main/Bangladesh Nurse Education Project is taking on one small piece of this challenge, ultimately working to improve population health through quality nursing education.

BACKGROUND

Since 2003, volunteers from the Mid-Main Community Health Centre in Vancouver have been working with Dhaka's International University of Business Agriculture and Technology to launch a nursing school. Presently there are about 80 students. The first batch graduated in September 2009 with excellent feedback from employers and expat health professionals working in Dhaka.

Mid-Main Community Health Centre is sponsoring this international project as a means to contribute to global development. Several of the Canadian volunteers on this project have also served on the Mid-Main Board of Directors. As a progressive service provider, Mid-Main wants to share its successful experiences and support international efforts for health improvement and economic development.

HOW WILL NURSING EDUCATION IMPROVE THE POPULATION'S HEALTH?

Nurses in Bangladesh have traditionally been poorly-trained, underpaid, and disrespected as professionals. The better hospitals hire nurses from out of country. Nurse educators – those providing the training – lack basic educational resources and are often out-of-touch with the skills necessary to provide even basic patient care.

A major shift is needed, and indeed is taking place. Nurses need consistent, ongoing education based on international evidence-based practice. When education improves, practice standards are raised, the credibility and contribution of nurses is recognized, better wages are demanded, more nurses are attracted to the profession – and patient care improves.

BEYOND THE BEDSIDE...

As well as preparing nurses for practice at hospitals and health centres around the country, the Mid-Main project is developing future leaders of the profession and the health system itself. Local professors and nurse managers get the skills and support to sustain nurse education ongoing. In addition, IUBAT grads develop the skills to train healthcare workers in Bangladesh's many non-government organizations, enabling them to offer community-based health services such as immunization and maternal/child care. Finally, teaching programs and materials developed for the IUBAT BSN program will be shared with other projects, further extending nursing education and healthcare knowledge.

EDUCATING NURSES IN BANGLADESH

Working with the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) – a non-profit, non-government university established in 1991 – Canadian volunteers from the Mid-Main Community Health Centre in Vancouver have launched a nursing school. Students graduate with an officially-recognized Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Instruction is provided in English, the international language of professional development. Students progress through four years of three semesters each, with lectures, clinical labs, workshops from visiting faculty and practical experience in teaching hospitals and community agencies.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Some of our volunteers are based in Bangladesh, others travel there regularly to work on the project. We value any contributions of educational materials and clinical supplies, which we will take with us. We also appreciate cash donations, which pay local faculty, purchase library books and AV equipment and help pay for volunteer accommodation. Scholarship support for students is also welcome. Tax receipts will be provided for financial donations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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