

Treatment Included Prevention Service

TIPS

Why TIPS necessary in Bangladesh?

Bangladesh is a country of about 150 million people occupying an area of 55,560 Square Kilometer. It is one of the most densely populated countries of the world. Massive growths of hazardous pollutant bodies turning the situation worse day by day. No wonder available healthcare facilities are no-match to the rapidly increasing urbanites and people suffer a lot owing to the lack of basic sense of healthcare and cleanliness practices. Inhabitants face diseases arising from pollutions & lack of consciousness on healthcare practice. In some cases, it has been found that city dwellers are encountering basic health related problems because of their self-made causes. The impacts of all these together are causing havoc to our common health. In light of what has been stated earlier, we decided to go ahead with 'Environment and Health'. AFEAHRD do believe 'TIPS' could help reduce the growth of diseases in Bangladesh.

What is the 'TIPS'?

TIPS is a health treatment center where patient or doctor is not affiliated the same way as in a clinic or hospital. The core mission of the center is to develop a sustainable and conscious community & environment where the rate of health related diseases would reduce gradually in a given time frame. Community people, Doctors, field officers would work together in a certain area. The proposed Center will try to identify the causes of the health related diseases, and go for remedial action with the community involvement.

Why is the 'TIPS'?

'Prevention is better than cure' keeping this slogan in mind TIPS works in a certain community. We are paying a lot for health related problems. Apart from gin or genetic matters, diseases occur either as a consequence of environmental issue or lake of consciousness towards them. 'TIPS' is necessary for a sustainable community where disease wouldn't play its toll continuously.

Rationale of the 'TIPS':

The ratio of doctors and patients is not at a balancing stage in Bangladesh. Newborns suffer from various diseases as a consequence of unplanned development, pollution & lake of consciousness like Dengue, Diarrhea, Viral fever etc. Sustainable pollution free environment and conscious citizen from all walks of life could cure & reduce diseases through a preventive way. The marginalized community lack basic cleanliness education. Awareness may serve as a short-term remedy but sustaining it demands long time guidelines.

Methodology:

The Study Circle Process



A Study circle is small group democracy at work. Community participants from all walks of life agree to attend a number of Study Circle sessions to discuss an issue of common concern. A Study Circle is a peer-led discussion of 8-12 participants; each participant has an equal voice. An impartial facilitator who is not necessarily an expert of an issue leads the group. The facilitator poses some questions to stimulate the discussion and to keep the discussion focused. The Study Circle is run in a spontaneous and friendly environment. Study Circle is a widely practiced social mobilization program in the Nordic States, especially in countries like Sweden, Finland & Norway. This has given the formation of firm democratic governments in those countries. Basic democratic principles were followed in the implementation of the SC process. Prior to the initiation of discussion, participants of each group were given a booklet containing a brief scenario of the present condition / extent of pollution along with a handful of questions on types of pollutions that are to be discussed so that it becomes easier for them to initiate discussion and to avert confusion.

Objectives of the Study Circle programs

The objectives of running 'Study Circle' on 'Environment and Health' in Dhaka city are to identify the sources of Environmental Pollution, discussed the health issues people face as result of pollution, increase awareness on Environmental issues and associated health problems faced by the people, and finally discuss action and remedies to eliminate or reduce some of the problems. Five common issues of Environmental concern such as: a) Unplanned Urbanization, b) Air Pollution, c) Pollution related to non-disposal of waste, d) Noise Pollution & e) Water Pollution has been selected as the topic of discussion of this SC program. First, the effects that are caused by those problems are sorted out followed by their causes & consequences on the health of individual as well as in general people. At the concluding stage, discussion takes place with a view to coming out with a handful of remedial actions. Test the study circle method for its effectiveness in having public discussion.

Response pattern of the Study Circle Participants

Other than discussion, the response pattern of the SC participants came out in the form of finding out causes, consequences as well as indicating on the remedial steps that could be taken on each specific type of pollution. The order denotes from common to group specific. After the discussion session, the participants pointed out to the causes, consequences and some remedial actions that could be taken with a view to lower the pollution associated with it.

How to materialize the problems?

It is quite difficult for an individual to materialize the recommendations by own. With the recommendations at hand along with representative team & TIPS team approach the policy makers at both regional as well as national level so that these are materialized if not all together but in phases. The hierarchy will be from the local ward commissioner to the Member of Parliament and Ministers of concerned ministries. Community involvement with the assistance from prevention team also keeps a vital role to materialize the problems.