



2nd International Conference on
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TITLE: ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH CONDITIONS OF STREET CHILDREN IN SELECTED AREAS OF DHAKA CITY

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ABSTRACT (up to 300 words)

Boys and girls who use the street or public places as sources of their livelihoods and shelter – are one of the extremely marginalized child populations. Due to environmental influences of street-life, most of them are impoverished and at serious health risks. The purpose of this study was to explore the health conditions of street children in Dhaka city, Bangladesh. The study focused on health problems, health needs and healthcare service seeking behaviours of street children. It also determined their nutritional status by anthropometric measurements.

A descriptive cross-sectional design was adopted for the study. Four major hubs – where street children congregate in Dhaka City – were selected and children attending the outreach programs run by their educational service providers were invited to participate. A purposive sampling was used to conduct the study and participants included children between 8-14 years of both sexes. A standardized questionnaire was used that included questions related to history of health problems, food intake, and health services seeking behaviour. Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Findings showed that most of the street children (61.5%) sleep on street or open places at night and only 50% have parenteral supervision. Most of them (64.1%) are dropped out of school, earn by selling things (47.4%) or offering informal services like carrying passenger luggage. About one third (32.1%) of the participants found underweight though they consumed various types of food.

Most has access to fresh drinking water and proper sanitation (82%) and thus they maintain personal hygiene practices such as hand washing (71.8%). Respiratory problems (23.4%) were the most common health problem among participation. A majority (65.4%) reported to be immunized and were aware of their blood groups (85.9%). Over half of them (57.7%) do not seek any health care (57.7%) services and continued working (62.8%) despite being sick. Poverty remains the main (51.2%) barrier to seek health care.

This study showed that street children in Dhaka city are vulnerable in terms of their health needs and health care service seeking behaviours. Most of the street children live in open places for their livelihood and don't seek health care services in their illness. Still their sanitation and hygiene practices are somewhat satisfactory. The government and service providers should create more access to health services for them.



BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

I'm Dr. Syed Nazin Morshed, currently working as a Project Research Physician, Maternal and Child Nutrition Unit in Nutrition Research Division, International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr, b) under supervision of Dr. Dinesh Mondal, Emeritus Scientist from the same division of the institute.

I am a passionate and dedicated public health professional committed to advancing scientific knowledge in the field of child health and infectious diseases. I have completed my MBBS and got registration from Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council as a registered physician. Then I acquired Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Reproductive and Child Health from Department of Public Health and Informatics, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. I did my master's thesis focusing on the health condition of the street children in Dhaka who are one of the most vulnerable and unprotected among the child population in the capital city of Bangladesh. So, with a background in medicine, my journey in

research has been driven by a relentless curiosity to understand child health. I acquired formative experience that ignited my passion for unravelling the intricacies of child health and motivated me to pursue a career dedicated to scientific inquiry.



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