

Advocacy activities and materials developed in 2021

1. “#ChooseToChallenge”: DMP Celebrated International Women’s Day-2021

In the midst of adversity of Covid-19 DMP celebrated “International Women’s Day (IWD)-2021 (#ChooseToChallenge)” quite innovatively this year on 8th of March 2021, with the participation of the students who are staying their residence since last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was arranged virtually in two parts, in the first part 72 students participated in a quiz competition using google form and in the second part a virtual “Dress as You Like” or “Jemon Khushi Temon Sajo” competition was organised. On 14th March 21 students participated in the virtual “Dress as You Like” competition where they portrayed a few inspiring women both from national and international arena like as Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, writer Helen Keller, Ila Mitra and many others who have been able to challenge the stereotypes despite all the hurdles. Among the 21 participants 5 students were announced as winners for best performance.

2. Workshops on strengthening Midwifery Led Care (MLC) in Bangladesh:

DMP arranged two workshops on 12th and 24th March 2021 with the policy makers and professionals to explore whether the introduction of midwifery-led units (MLUs), staffed by dedicated midwives (acknowledged as the lead professionals and accountable for the care they provide), can improve the birth environment and experience of care for women and midwives and provide reproductive health care at a lower cost than the current focus on medically-led birth facilities for all women. The workshops were the outputs of collaboration between the IMAgINE network (Implementing Midwifery-units-a Global Innovation and Evaluation programme), City University, London and James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGPSH) BRAC University (BRACU). Key focus areas were “where Bangladesh is now and where does it want to be in terms of MLC or Midwifery unit (MU) and how to get desired level of MLC.”

3. Follow the data, invest in midwives: Webinar for celebrating the International Day of the Midwife 2021

DMP has organised a webinar on the theme of International Day of the Midwife 2021 “**Follow the data, invest in midwives**” on 18 May 2021 to explore and share the inter-country learning from the evidence-based midwifery investments. This year, International Day of the Midwife (IDM) coincides with the launch of the State of the World’s Midwifery (SoWMy) Report 2021 that brings the latest data as an evidence on the critical importance of investing in quality midwifery care to the forefront of global health discussions. This report states that increased investment in midwives could save up to 4.3 million lives every year by averting 67% of maternal deaths, 64% neonatal deaths, and 65% stillbirths. On the other hand, the rate of progress in building the midwifery workforce is not improving at the rate required to meet SDG 3. Considering this scenario, the International Confederation of Midwifery (ICM) has declared the IDM theme of this year to be ‘Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives’. The panel speakers **Sharmina Rahman**, Strategy Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University, Bangladesh, **Laxmi Tamang**, RN, MPH, PhD, Freelance President, Midwifery Society of Nepal, **Lesley Kay**, PhD, Associate Professor in Midwifery and the Divisional Lead, Midwifery and Radiography Division in the School of Health Sciences at City, University of London, UK and **Nathalie**

Leister, Research Fellow, Centre for Maternal & Child Health Research, City University of London, Brazil shared their experience on the theme.

4. **DMP commissioned two internal studies titled “Students’ ability to receive online classes and facing challenges in the new learning environment during covid-19 pandemic in the diploma in midwifery education BRAC university: a qualitative exploration” and “The impact of covid-19 on the payee students’ ability to continue midwifery education with fees”**
5. **Engage in 29th International Scientific Conference of OGSB to influence policy on midwifery:**
On 27 March, one Senior Instructor participated as a speaker in the virtual 29th International Scientific Conference organized by Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB)

LIVE WEBINAR

FOLLOW THE DATA: INVEST IN MIDWIVES

18 MAY 2021 | TIME (BST)
7:00PM - 8:30PM

The webinar will be broadcast live on the BRAC JPCSPH Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/BRACJPCSPH

zoom



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89882229595?pwd=eGRtQTZ-KUU9iNUpLaTZvN25KQWNLU09>





PANEL SPEAKERS



NATHALIE LEISTER
Research Fellow, Centre for Maternal & Child Health Research School of Health Sciences, City, University of London, will represent Brazil



LAXMI TAMANG
Freelance President, Midwifery Society of Nepal
Lead co-founder, APS birth and RH Centre, Midwifery Society of Nepal



LESLEY KAY
Associate Professor in Midwifery and the Divisional Lead, Midwifery and Radiography Division in the School of Health Sciences at City, University of London



SHARMINA RAHMAN
Strategy Advisor, Developing Midwives Project
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh

MODERATOR



SELINA AMIN
Head, Midwifery Education Programme & Project Director, Developing Midwives Project, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh

and presented the topic on ‘Enabling factors and barriers in midwifery education and clinical practice related to delayed cord clamping.’ Besides, Midwife Kanata Akter attended in the pre-congress workshop of 29th International Scientific Conference on obstetrics perineal injuries on 12th March 2021 where she shared a story titled ‘Women and the thoughts of Refugee community about the tear and perineal Injury’.

6. **Engage in the ICM Triennial Congress Bali 2021 to highlight the role of Midwives DMP**
The 32nd ICM Virtual Triennial Congress, the largest virtual gathering for midwives ever has started from June 2, 2021 and will continue on 9, 16, 23, 30 June 2021.

7. **Celebrating National Safe Motherhood Day 2021**

The theme of the National Safe Motherhood Day 2021 was “করোনাকালে গর্ভকালীন সেবা নিন, মাতৃ ও শিশু মৃত্যু রোধ করুন”. Developing Midwives Project observed this day on May 28, 2021 by a sharing a video describing the importance of Safe Motherhood Day by the students of seven academic sites and safe motherhood messages in the social media.

8. **Inter academic site debate competition**

Since March 2020 the students are passing time with many asymmetrical experiences of COVID-19, they are feeling fear and grief over the impact of the virus on their families. To increase student’s involvement not limited to only academic activities but as a group, Developing Midwives Project

(DMP) has hosted a virtual inter academic site debate competition. Students of seven Academic sites took part in the primary three rounds. The topic of 1st round debate competition was “শুধুমাত্র মিডওয়াইফরাই পারে সকল নারীর জন্য নিরাপদ মাতৃত্ব নিশ্চিত করতে”, in 2nd round was “Influence of Social-media is turning students away from books” and in the 3rd round was “To become a skilled midwife, practical knowledge is more important than theoretical knowledge”.

Besides, the regular academic lessons, the debates competition allowed students to demonstrate their excellent preparation and evidence-based argumentations. Students showed off their very impressive problem-solving and creative thinking skills.

After winning in the first three rounds the students of Shimantik and PHD Academic Site reached in the final round to debate on the topic “**Covid-19 situation is influencing early child marriage**”. Lastly, students of PHD academic site were crowned the winner of the final debate competition.