



Intervention workshop of PROJECT Bhasa-II

PROJECT Bhasa-2 of Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh had arranged a two-day residential intervention workshop to fit every one of this project in the same frame. The intervention workshop was organized at RDF Conference Room in Barguna on 22-23 March 2021. To analyze the findings and recommendations of the process evaluation and end-line survey and find out the most suitable ways of interventions from practical experiences, a total of 35 participants from the head office and field offices attended that workshop. The main objectives of the event were to summarize the learning from phase-I of PROJECT Bhasa and draw out the best implementation ways with the effective partnership.

The team leader of PROJECT Bhasa and the experts from different interventions oriented the whole

project outline to the participants. The initiative was taken to prepare the work plan of the second phase of the project through hands-on training and practice. The major discussion points were-

1. What worked well, what didn't go so well in the first phase in different interventions (Anchal, SwimSafe, first responder training, school awareness programme and community engagement)
2. What changes are expected at the field level in the new phase
3. Adding new activities and strategies to escalate the success of the project
4. Mapping and identifying potential partners for engaging and implementing alternative drowning prevention model

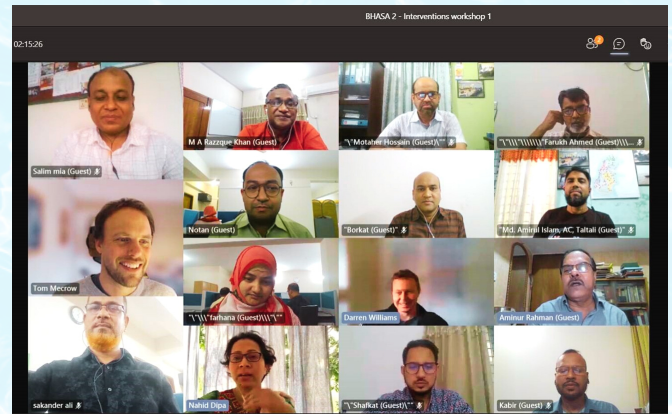
For each segment, different groups were formed and they presented their ideas. Every participant discussed each topic later on that led to achieve maximum benefits of holding the workshop and finalize the work plan. The workshop resulted in team members having a shared vision for the project and a much-improved understanding of how the various elements of the project fit together. The work plan for the second phase of the PROJECT Bhasa will be finalized after discussions and workshops with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) on the data obtained from here.



One of the teams is presenting their group work in the workshop

Virtual workshop for the PROJECT Bhasa-II

A workshop titled 'Historical Background of PROJECT Bhasa' was organised at a virtual platform with the head office and field team of PROJECT Bhasa-2, CIPRB and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) members on 18 March 2021. This was the first intervention workshop of PROJECT Bhasa-2. The history of drowning prevention research in Bangladesh, the background of intervening PROJECT Bhasa and the successes and challenges of phase-I was discussed through a presentation delivered by Dr Aminur Rahman, Project Director, PROJECT Bhasa-2. Newly joined members have enriched their knowledge and the existing members have reinvigorated the information. This will help in strategic intervention planning for phase II to reach the ultimate goal to reduce fatal drowning throughout



A group photo was taken during the virtual workshop

the country including the Barishal Division through a standard drowning prevention model.

PROJECT Bhasa-II was rewarded in the development fair

PROJECT Bhasa-2 has participated in the two-day (26-28 March 2021) Development Fair organized by Kalapara Upazila Administration, Patuakhali. That event was organized to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh and the centennial birth anniversary of the founding

Haque along with other government officials and dignitaries visited the stall of PROJECT Bhasa-2 several times. Drowning prevention received special attention from the fair visitors. They were very keen to know the detail about drowning prevention. Awareness- raising messages on child



Visitors are going through the SBCC materials of PROJECT Bhasa at the fair

"Child drowning prevention interventions should be implemented at each high-risk area of the Barisal Division.

Because every life has potential which we cannot be letting fall prematurely"- Mr. Hasnat Mohammad Shahidul Haque, UNO, Kalapara, Patuakhali.

leader of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Considering the importance of thematic presentation, the fair organizing committee has awarded PROJECT Bhasa-2. Honorable Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), head of sub-district administration, Mr. Hasnat Mohammad Shahidul

drowning prevention were promoted at the fair. Relevant materials such as posters, guidelines, manuals and execution materials of Anchal, SwimSafe, and First Response etc. were displayed at the fair.

Case study

The siblings would not return to Anchal together

Faria the name of life, intelligence and infinite vitality, with whom her parents dreamed of growing up to be a doctor for standing by the side of afflicted people, was lost in the terrible days of the COVID-19 pandemic. She was not affected by corona virus, neither she died due to any fatal disease. She died because of drowning, just a few steps feet away from her house.

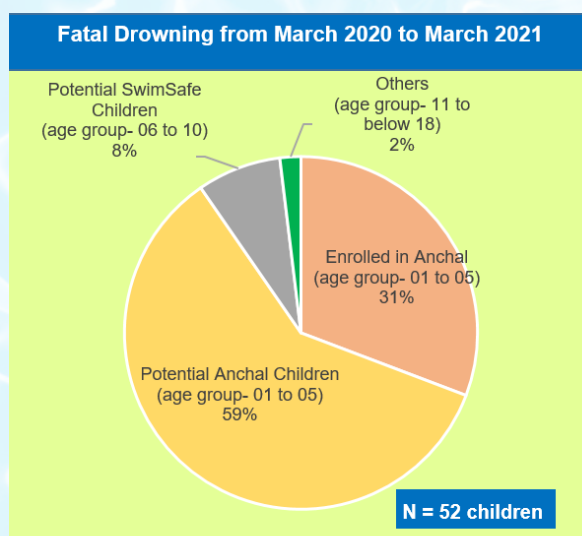
The two children of Salma-Zakaria couple were enrolled at the Anchal-community based daycare center, run by PROJECT Bhasa to prevent child drowning. To prevent COVID-19 infection, all the educational institutions including daycare centers remain closed since March 2020. As a result, Salma was struggling to take care of them with plenty of household chores. On the day of the incident, Faria and her brother were playing with their cousins in their courtyard. Salma could not able to keep a close eye on and left the children with their grandmother. Faria was moving frequently to her mother, grandmother and cousins. Suddenly Salmanoticed Faria's disappearance. Going insane, Salma started looking for her here and there but

searching in the pond did not even cross her mind. Getting her nowhere, she went to search the edge of the pond at the end. Searching intensively, Salma found the vesture of little Faria floated. Salma jumped into the water and grabbed Faria's little body. The doctor confirmed her death after immediately taking to the hospital.

Faria's brother is around four years old, still not able to take his sisters' untimely death. Sitting next to her grave, he cries for hours. He tries to get his sister back by digging the grave. The scream of this innocent child and the intense grief of Salma-Zakaria stirred the minds of everyone around. They repeatedly warn their neighbors to protect their children from drowning.



Salma still laments 'If the Anchal was open, her daughter would still be alive'.



Not only Faria, in this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but 52 fatal drownings also occurred in the project areas -Kalapara, Betagi and Taltali upazilas of Patuakhali and Barguna district. From March 2020 to March 2021, 16 Anchal enrolled children and 31 potential Anchal children have drowned. PROJECT Bhasa, CIPRB is working on child drowning prevention through several interventions like- Anchal (community daycare centre for under 5-age children), SwimSafe (lifesaving swimming teaching for under 10-age children), and First Responder Training etc. All the interventions are still closed due to lockdown. As a result, the risk of drowning increases prominently.

Regional and national level policies are needed to be implemented to prevent drowning-Dr. Aminur Rahman

Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) had arranged two virtual consultation meeting in two divisions (Khulna and Rangpur) on drowning prevention on 16 March 2021 and 18 March 2021 respectively. Around 80 guests from different government offices, members of local government, INGO, NGO, educational institutes, media personnel attended each of these meetings. In both meetings, divisional commissioners and deputy commissioner of respective divisions were present as chief guests and special C guests. Ms Rasheda K Choudhury, Executive Director, CAMPE and ex-advisor of the interim government of Bangladesh

presided over the meetings. The Director, International Drowning Research Unit-Bangladesh of CIPRB, Dr. Aminur Rahman, Deputy Executive Director, CIPRB, presented the keynote paper in both workshops. In his presentation, he picturized the drowning reality and statistics from the national and global perspectives. Based on his data which were presented in the keynote, other discussants came to the point that despite this COVID-19 pandemic, drowning is a silent epidemic in our country's context. They all concluded that regional and national level policies are needed to be implemented to prevent drowning.

PROJECT Bhasa members are getting COVID-19 vaccine

PROJECT Bhasa-2 team is completing preparatory works during lockdown for the smooth starting of the new phase. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is one of them. As there is a high engagement with the community, central and field staff, paid volunteers have received the first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine according to the eligibility list provided by the government and now have the second shot. Simultaneously, they are encouraging relevant stakeholders for getting the vaccine. Till now, 09 head office and 42 field level staff, 334 Anchal Maa(s), 205 VIPC and UIPC members, 8 Community Swimming Instructors, 231 parents of Anchal enrolled children and 3 Interactive Popular Theatre (IPT) members were vaccinated.



One of the Anchal maas is receiving COVID-19 vaccine in Kalapara, Patuakhali

PROJECT Bhasa-II disseminated awareness-raising messages regarding COVID-19 & drowning prevention

Drowning is preventable



Always keep an eye on the children so that they cannot go near to water sources alone



Always cover the water containers at home



Fill up the unnecessary holes or ditches around your house



Provide first aid with the help of a trained certified person after rescuing the drowned child and send to the nearest health center immediately



Be gentle and friendly with the children to reduce their mental stress



Spend delightful time with children



Send your 1-5 years old baby in the nearby Anchal or any day care centre



Learn swimming to your 6-10 years children by a trained instructor

Drowning prevention related messages

COVID-19

What to do to prevent corona virus infection



Avoid handshakes and hugs



Avoid any kind of public gathering



Keep at least 3 feet distance from any person while in public place



Stay home and self-isolate when you feel unwell with minor symptoms such as cough, headache, mild fever etc.



After coming home from outside, before eating, after using the toilet and after sneezing and coughing, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds



Clean and disinfect the floor and areas which are regularly touched



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unclean hands



Must wear mask while going outside and make sure it covers both your nose, mouth and chin



Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or cloth or else cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow while coughing and sneezing



Avoid going out of the house unnecessarily

COVID-19 preventing awareness messages

Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB)

House B 162, Road 23, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1206



+88-02-58814988,



info@ciprb.org



CIPRB.ORG



@CIPRB



ciprb.org



Lifeboats

Drowning is preventable



CIPRB