

The James P Grant School of Public Health

The James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University was established in 2005 as the first school of its kind in Bangladesh. The School's flagship programme is the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. Additionally, a Continuing Education Programme comprised of numerous short courses for professional enhancement is offered.

Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS (CGSH)

The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS; a UNAIDS Collaborating Centre, CGSH was created through a formal agreement between UNAIDS and JPGSPH in 2008 and is located within James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University. The Centre is dedicated to research, policy, advocacy and training activities in the arenas of gender, sexuality, and HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh as well as in other developing countries. The Centre has been working to promote a broad-based understanding of sexuality and sexual rights in society, as well as expanding the frontiers of public health discourse and practice in relation to sexuality and rights.

Vision and Mission

CGSH's vision is an empowered Bangladesh where inequalities and inequities in gender, sexuality, and sexual rights have been overcome.

Major Objectives

- Expansion of knowledge – CGSH conducts multi-disciplinary research in order to shed light on the socio-political dynamics of gender, sexuality, sexual rights and HIV/AIDS and to introduce innovative approaches to intervention programmes.
- Promotion of dialogue and exchange - CGSH serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange among a variety of stakeholders. The objective is to bring into conversation groups that would not necessarily interact with one another otherwise – such as activists,, academics, policy-makers, and representatives from sexual and marginalized communities

- Network and partnership building – Following on its platform building activities, CGSH promotes solidarities and alliances among other organizations that are working in similar arenas
- Dissemination of information - The Centre has organized and sponsored regional, national, and international seminars, workshops, and conferences to highlight and disseminate knowledge and relevant experiences in gender, sexuality, sexual rights and HIV/AIDS amongst key stakeholders.
- Advocacy for change – CGSH members interact with policymakers and key stakeholders to constructively promote innovative changes in policy, programmes and interventions in support of impoverished and marginalized populations affected by gender discrimination, sexuality and sexual rights violations and/or HIV/AIDS.
- Capacity building – The Centre organizes short courses and training programmes which address the diverse issues underlying gender, sexual rights and HIV/AIDS, as means of building and enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders including communities, planners, programme makers, researches, policymakers, and advocacy groups.

The Centre combines its activities in research, advocacy, and policy and programme development into three distinct but often inter-related areas:

Gender

CGSH follows a gender-based approach to public health by integrating gender perspectives in all of its research, training, advocacy, policy and programme developments activities. CGSH works to ensure that the differing needs of all persons including those belonging to gender and sexual minority communities are incorporated at all levels and stages of planning and policy making.

Sexuality

Sexuality and sexual rights are important emerging issues, although they remain relatively under-developed in Bangladesh from conceptual, operational and policy perspectives. The Centre provides trainings, conducts

research, and advocates building awareness of the interface between sexuality, sexual rights, and sexual health.

HIV/AIDS

The Centre hosts numerous research activities on critical HIV/AIDS policies and programmes. The Centre also hosts HIV/AIDS education outreach initiative in collaboration with UNAIDS. The initiative provides internship opportunities for student trainees.

Ongoing Activities at the Centre

Research Projects

- A multi-country collaborative research project on gender-based violence conducted in Bangladesh and in Kenya. JPGSPH and the African Population Health and Research Centre (APHRC) are both funded by DFID.
- A multi-country research project looking into violence against marginalized communities in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. This project is funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy.
- A research project looking into male and female sexual health concerns in rural and urban Bangladesh funded by DFID.
- A national level study of reproductive health needs of adolescents and communities funded by Government of Japan and disseminated by NIPORT.
- A research project looking at stigma and discrimination of HIV positive people in Bangladesh funded by UNAIDS and in partnership with Ashar Alo, a local NGO in Bangladesh.



BRAC is actively involved in alleviating poverty by promoting human rights, dignity and equity through social, economic, political and human capacity building. With its expansion in a wide range of health and education initiatives, the Centre will help in further strengthening and advancing BRAC's quest for establishing social justice.