

"Service to Sufferers  
is Service to God"

December 2018



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**Prof. Lisa Harvey and Dr. Hueiming Liu visited CIVIC Trial Project**

Prof. Lisa Harvey, University of Sydney and Dr. Hueiming Liu, University of New South Wales, Australia visited CRP from 1st December to 7th December 2018. During their visit, they worked with Mohammad Sohrab Hossain to interview different healthcare professionals, policy makers and trial staff who have extensive experience working with people with spinal cord injuries. They also ran a focus group discussion with CIVIC staff members who are managing the site at CRP. CIVIC team members, Prof. Lisa Harvey and Dr. Hueiming Liu visited SCI patients in Sylhet division. The purpose of this remote visit was to have face to face interviews with some of the recruited SCI patients of the CIVIC trial and similarly to observe the real situation of people living with SCI in their own communities.



*Lisa Harvey and her team visited a SCI patient's home*

**International Day for Persons with Disabilities**



*Awareness raising rally on International Day for Persons with Disabilities*



*Wheelchair basketball tournament*

On 3 December 2018, CRP observed the International Day for persons with Disabilities (IDPD) at its premises through rally, human chain and sports competition. This year the theme was “Empowering Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring Inclusion and Equality”.

A rally with patients, staff, volunteers, journalists and distinguished guests went from CRP-Savar to Shimultola Highway where a human chain was formed for raising awareness and mobilizing supports for the rights, well-being and integrating the persons with disabilities into mainstream society. After returning from the rally, all guests enjoyed a wheelchair basketball tournament at the basketball court. Special guests present at the basketball tournament included Walter Jeanty, Deputy Head of Delegation, ICRC; Dr. Tara Kassaram, Medical Officer, Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO, Ms. Hasina, National Consultant for Mental Health, WHO and Farhana Sharmin, External Affairs & CSR, Krisenergy. The representatives from Krisenergy donated 500 blankets to the poor patients. Wheelchairs and sewing machines given by Bangladesh American Charitable Organization (BACHAO) were also distributed among the poor patients. Finally all spinal cord injury patients received prizes for participating in the sports competition. Fakhruddin Textiles kindly sponsored the t-shirts for the rally. A total of seven children with disabilities joined the Prime Minister’s programme in Dhaka. In the evening there was a cultural programme in the Reddaway Hall of CRP where several persons with disabilities performed.

## Evidence-based therapy training



*Dr. Monika Hasnat from Australia conducting the training*

CRP's Paediatric Department in collaboration with Training and Development Section, Human Resource Department, organized a training and information dissemination session on 8th and 9th December 2018. The training was held in CRP's conference room. A total of 31 participants included Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Speech and Language therapists, Paediatric Consultant and Nurses from the Paediatric Department and William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School (WMTS). The topics covered in this training were:-

1. Evidence-based therapy approaches for children with cerebral palsy (1-2 hour session).
2. Family centred care, family goal-setting, parent-professional partnership (1 hour).
3. Classification systems in Cerebral Palsy and clinical utility - Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS), Manual Ability Classification System (MACS), Communication Function Classification System (CFCS), Eating and Drinking Ability Classification System (EDACS) (1-4 hours).
4. Physical medicine and surgery for children with cerebral palsy. It focused on oral medications as a practical and available treatment, but also provided an overview of other interventions, including botulinum toxin, intrathecal baclofen, selective dorsal rhizotomy, orthopaedic surgery, deep brain stimulation (1 hour).

The trainer was Dr. Monika Hasnat, Paediatric Rehabilitation Physician MBBS, BMedSc, FRACP, FAFRM Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

## Valerie received Joyeeta award from Savar Upazila

CRP's Founder Valerie A. Taylor received a reception from the Women and Children's Affairs office at Savar Upazila on the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day and the National Community Fair on 9th December, 2018. The government of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs honored successful women (Joyeeta) for their contribution in different sectors. The Joyeeta awardees will be selected from upazila level first, then district, division and nationally. From Savar Upazila, Valerie received this award for her extraordinary contribution to society. Many Government officials of Savar Upazila attended the programme. Mr. Pranab Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Commissioner, Land, Savar Upazila was present as the Chief Guest. Along with Valerie, two other women received this award, one as a successful mother and the other as a successful business woman.



*Valerie receiving honorary crest from the Additional Commissioner (Land), Pranab Kumar Ghosh*

## CRP's 39th Anniversary

CRP celebrated its 39th anniversary on December 11th, 2018. The celebration started in the afternoon with the cutting of a cake by in the presence of CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor, Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, along with some guests, patients, children and staff members. Afterwards British Council Bangladesh screened the film 'A Different Romeo and Juliet'. In this stage play, three staff from CRP acted and British Council filmed it enabling it to be screened in each division of our country. After a successful tour, the British Council screened the film at CRP to be a part of the celebration. The patients and staff enjoyed the film a lot. The film is also available on Youtube.

## Bangladesh Scout pleasure trip with special needs students of WMTS



*CRP's special needs children from William and Marie Taylor School joined a pleasure trip of Bangladesh Scouts*

A pleasure trip for special needs students was arranged by Bangladesh Scouts on 11th December, 2018 at the Dream Holiday Park, Narsingdi. A total of 120 special needs scouts' students joined the programme. From the William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School of CRP nine children with special needs and six staff joined.

The CRP team joined other teams from SWID, BPF, SEID trust and others organizations at the Scouts Institute at Kakrail-Dhaka. From there the entire team started for the Dream Holiday Park. There were several events for the students. The special scouts' students enjoyed the day a lot.



## Primary School Certificate Exam Result

From CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School 15 students, including six children with cerebral palsy, sat for primary school certificate exam held on 24th December, 2018. The pass rate was 100% and nine students achieved the highest grade point or marks in the exam. The school achieved this success for it has the very talented students, hardworking teachers and supportive parents.



*CRP's Conference room  
Partial Construction support from SABINCO*



*Developed database with the support of  
SABINCO*

### SABINCO supporting the poor patients at CRP

Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Ltd. (SABINCO) is a long standing supporter of CRP. For many years they have been supporting CRP's works. On 12th December 2018, SABINCO donated Six Lac taka for the poor patients of CRP. Their support enables the poor patients of CRP to receive treatment and rehabilitation free of cost or at the most subsidized rate possible.

### Annual picnic for patients

CRP organized an annual picnic for the spinal cord injury inpatients on 13th December, 2018 at Savar Military Farm. A total of 250 people including patients, carers and staff members joined in the picnic. It was a fine winter morning with a lot of excitement. After having breakfast everybody started playing. There was also a cultural programme where many patients and staff performed. A delicious lunch was served afterwards. When people finished lunch, they went to visit the mini zoo. The day ended with a raffle draw and prize distribution among the lottery winners. Everybody enjoyed the wonderful outing. It was a nice break for all from their routine life.



*Family and members of SEKNAK Welfare  
Trust handing over the cheque*



*Guests in the drawdown ceremony at CRP-Mirpur*

### 3rd drawdown from SEKNAK Welfare Trust

Syed Enayet Kabir-Naiyer Ara Kabir (SEKNAK) Welfare Trust handed over the third drawdown amounting 75 lac taka to CRP for the development and construction of CRP-CARSA Foundation, Barisal. The SEKNEK Welfare Trust has very kindly committed to donating a total of 3 crore BDT to this project in four quarterly installments. Every member of the SEKNEK Welfare Trust, their family and friends were present during the drawdown ceremony at CRP-Mirpur on 13th January, 2019. CRP's Founder, Executive Director, Fundraising Officer and the Assistant Manager of Engineering Department were present in the programme. There was a short briefing session presenting the progress of the construction of CRP-Barishal centre which was appreciated by the members of SEKNAK Welfare Trust.



*CRP's patients enjoying sports and other activities during the picnic*



## Formulation of the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act 2018: the prime activities and advocacy of Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA)

### Background

Bangladesh is a developing country in south east Asia made up of more than 10 percent of persons with disabilities. The disease paradigm across the globe, including Bangladesh, has moved from infectious to non-infectious diseases. At this moment, the country is facing challenges to deal with injuries in spine and extremities, autism, cerebral palsy, road traffic accidents, spinal mechanical pain, stroke related health problem and so on. These issues increase the necessity of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and other rehabilitation services. There has been a profound growth of professionals in medicine and surgery over the last decade. Despite the transformation of disease pattern, physiotherapists and other health professionals were yet to be integrated into the mainstream health practices due to gaps in health policy and research.

### History

The Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Services' course started under the direct influence of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, just after the Independence war for the wounded freedom fighters in 1972. The course stopped after 2 batches completed their graduation from NITOR and it took 30 years to inaugurate the first plaque of government Physiotherapy College by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the daughter of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Hasina. Since 2010 the Ministry of Social Welfare has been implementing rehabilitation services through 103 Integrated Disability Service Centres and 32 Mobile Therapy Rehabilitation vans.

### Challenges of providing Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Service

The first challenge was to meet the increasing demand of rehabilitation services in Bangladesh. There were discrepancies in quality and eligibility criteria for enrolling into Physiotherapy and rehabilitation professions. There were a lot of “quack” service centers serving throughout the country and no-definite guideline or standard of practice was available. Day by day the credit of the graduation and diploma courses was demoted for several groups working under the government. They changed the name of “Physiotherapy Department” in government hospitals, omitted the qualification and title protection of “Physiotherapist”, and stopped creating the posts in all stages of health care system. Also, a strange system developed, where the autonomous physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals were forced to work without their professional autonomy. There was no room for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation professionals to grow and there were no government regulations to license and regulate a rehabilitation service centre in Bangladesh.

### The initiatives by Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA), the member organization of World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)

BPA has been working to establish a regulatory body for Physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals since its establishment in 2001. Ministry of Health Services have taken several initiatives. In 2010, BPA applied a writ petition to the supreme court of Bangladesh for registering Physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals under BMDC. In 2010, BMDC regulations changed, so BPA filed another petition for “independent practice” of the professionals. In 2013, in response to BPA’s appeal, led by Dr. Valerie Ann Taylor to Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council, the regulatory body of physician and dentists, informed that they are unable to regulate the physiotherapy professionals due to scarcity of manpower and suggested to form another independent Council. Since then BPA concentrated on creating a positive appeal to the government through civil society, beneficiaries, stakeholders and policy makers. The initiative of BPA was closely supported by Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association (BOTA), Bangladesh Speech and Language Therapy Association (BSLTA) and International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics in Bangladesh (ISPO-Bangladesh).



Meeting with honorable secretary of Ministry of Social welfare, who is the president of BRC



Meeting with honorable secretary of Ministry of Social welfare, who is the president of BRC



Raising the council issue to WCPT

## Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act

The act is a direct initiative of the government. In 2016, the National steering committee for Autism and Neuro-developmental disorder was chaired by Saima Wazed Hossain; the WHO goodwill ambassador of Autism and granddaughter of the Father of the Nation. The committee was formed by five ministries, including Ministry of Health and decided to give the responsibility to Ministry of Social welfare to initiate the council process. In the stakeholders meeting, BPA focused on professional autonomy, standard education and opportunity to serve the nation through government support.



*MOU with Duke university to initiate Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) degree in Bangladesh*



*BPA and CRP's joint advocacy to the Minister of Social Welfare*



*1st International conference for rehabilitation professionals arranged by BPA*



### 1st international Conference for Rehabilitation Professional

To ensure this basic component, Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA) arranged an international conference on 22nd December 2017 in Dhaka. Delegates from 12 countries attended the conference and the key note speech was given by Saima Wazed Hossain. As a professional Psychologist, she expressed her views and demanded professional autonomy, equal status, and equal salary for physiotherapy and rehabilitation professionals' equivalent to medical and health care professionals. This was the turning point of formation of BRC act 2018.

### Meetings, Seminar, Human Chain and Advocacy

To establish the council, BPA conducted more than 100 meetings with the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, National Parliament, Bangladesh Medical Association, Political organizations, Suchona Foundation, many NGO's, District commissioners, figured autonomous personality, lawyers, foreign delegates and experts. To overcome the situation, BPA formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club several times with the goal to create proper establishment of the Council. BPA arranged more than 48 community camps, 12 dialogues and more than 1270 letters and paperwork's in 2 years for the establishment of the council. BPA's executive committee held 46 extra meetings, four emergency general meetings and two annual general meetings for the council in last 2 years. The council was formed with the utmost collaboration of BPA and CRP to the government. In the crucial time when the council draft was about to place in Cabinet meeting for approval, CRP's Founder, Valerie Ann Taylor and Executive Director, Md. Shafiq- ul Islam played a vital role in advocacy to the government. Also, on the occasion of world physiotherapy day 2018, CRP's Physiotherapy Department in collaboration with BPA arranged a scientific session where the key persons of the council were present and committed to work hard for the establishment of BRC act. The longstanding effort to form the BRC was finally successful and BPA, BOTA, BSLT and ISPO-Bangladesh provided their enormous support.

### The Establishment of BRC

On 25th October, 9 months after BPA's conference, the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act 2018 was passed unanimously by national parliament of Bangladesh. In the parliamentary discussion, several MP's praised the contribution of health professionals (PT, OT, SLT, P&O) and the Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association. Comrade Rashed Khan Menon said this council is a revolutionary attempt of the government to ensure proper physiotherapy and rehabilitation services in Bangladesh. The country is working as a role model to promote, rehabilitate and prevent disability, he added.

The act has 37 sections, 7 schedules that mentions physiotherapist having 5 years graduate program as "Practitioner", 3 years diploma degree as "Medical technologists" (Physiotherapy) and 18 months short course as "Technician". Each professional will be registered in the council. The rehabilitation service units, hospitals and centers will also require BRC registration. The educational institutions will also need to be authorized by the council. The council will ensure standard care and service for the persons with disabilities in Bangladesh, stated by Rashed Khan Menon.

BPA is trying to contribute in bylaws of council regarding practice guide, status and details that are under process to gazette. BPA expects that the council will contribute significantly on education, services and creating a positive environment where physiotherapists will work with utmost honor, autonomy and dignity to contribute to society.

**K M Amran Hossain**  
Office Secretary, BPA

## Story of Shapla Khatun

Runa Khatun. Her father left them when she was a child of six months. After another six months her mother got married and Shapla started to stay with her maternal grandparents. She went to school until class five. During that time she suddenly fell down and felt pain in her legs. Her spine starts to bend and the pain starts to increase. She went to several doctors and traditional healer 'kobiraj' but nothing worked because she was affected by Ankylosing Spondylitis.

She is very talented and starts earning money by doing aplic work, a handcraft. She visited different relatives' houses for food and shelter. In 2018 she came to know about the skill development training at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed from a school principle of that village. Then she came to CRP by the help of an uncle.

She attended six months' tailoring training at Madhob Memorial Vocational Training Institute of CRP. During the training she also received treatment from CRP. She is getting a tailoring machine by the support of Shamsheer Knit.

Shapla is very hopeful to be an economically independent woman even with her extreme pain and breathing problem.



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