

# Primary health care seeking behaviour of people with physical disabilities in Bangladesh: a cross-sectional study

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## BACKGROUND

- Disability is activity limitations and participation restrictions which results from interconnection of physical impairment with contextual factors (1).
- People with disabilities constitute about 10 percent of the total population of Bangladesh (2) and among them 27.8% have physical impairment (3).
- A number of studies (4, 5, 6) were conducted on disability to know the health seeking behaviour of disabled people for the treatment of their disability.
- There is a lack of evidence on primary health care seeking behaviour of people with disabilities for their general illness.

## OBJECTIVE

This study was conducted to understand the primary health care seeking behaviour of people with physical disabilities (PWPDs) and to investigate the factors that determines the primary health care seeking behaviour of PWPDs for their general illness.

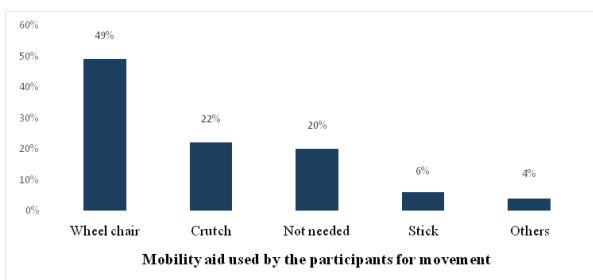
## METHODOLOGY

- This study was carried out at Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Dhaka, Bangladesh from November 27 to December 13, 2014.
- CRP (<http://www.crp-bangladesh.org>) is a specialized health care facility for disabled people in Bangladesh.
- We used the pre-tested survey questionnaire to collect data with face to face interview. A single interview lasted for around 30 minutes.
- All eligible respondents were interviewed. In total, 282 PWPDs, aged 18 years or over, were available for data collection.
- We took ethical approval from James P Grant School of Public Health for conducting the study. We also took permission from CRP authority before collecting the data. Moreover, we took informed consent from all participants.
- Frequency distribution was used to explore the primary health care seeking behaviour and logistic regression was performed to investigate the factors determine the primary health care seeking behaviour for general illness of PWPDs.

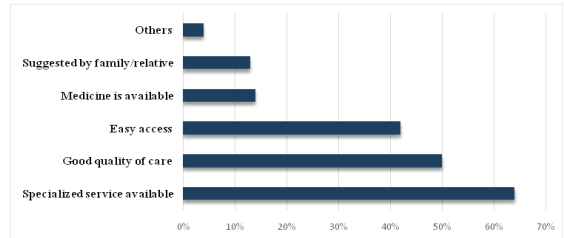
## MAJOR FINDINGS

### Health seeking behaviour:

- Majority of the respondents (85%) suffered from general illness in the past 6 months. They mostly suffered from fever, pain and infection (34%, 22% and 17% respectively) and majority of them (88%) received treatment.
- Among the respondents who delayed (>3 days) treatment seeking (17%), over one third (35%) faced difficulties in accessing treatment services.



- Over two-third (69%) of the respondents who received some kind of treatment consulted qualified physicians.
- Perceived expertise in treating people with disabilities (96%); good quality of care (74%); and easy access (63%) were among the reasons for choosing a provider (multiple responses were allowed).



### Factors for treatment seeking for general illness

- Respondent's sex, main earning member in the household, main earning member's education, form of impairment and last illness suffered by respondent in last 6 months were found significant statistical predictor of treatment seeking for general illness.
- For example, respondents who had main earning member with primary, SSC and undergraduate education completed, they were respectively 29 times, 25 times and 36 times more likely to seek treatment than those whose main earning member did not complete primary education (OR=29.34165, p=0.011; OR=24.89644, p=0.022 and OR=35.65034, p=0.019 respectively).
- When the main earning member of the family is a relative was taking care of the respondent was less likely to seek treatment than when the main earning member was the respondent him/herself (OR = 0.05, p=0.03).
- Female were 20 times more likely to seek treatment for general illness than their male counterpart (OR =19.79263, p=0.028).

### Factors from seeking treatment from a qualified practitioner for general illness

- Respondent's age, occupation, personal expenditure, household income, household expenditure and last illness suffer in past 6 months were found significant statistical predictor of choice of treatment for general illness.
- For example, the respondents who had earning occupation were 7 times more likely to seek treatment from qualified practitioner than the respondents who did not have earning occupation (OR = 6.60, p = 0.034).
- The respondent who had household expenditure of more than tk. 12000 were 5 times more likely to seek treatment from qualified practitioner than who had household expenditure of less than or equal to tk. 12000 (OR = 5.48, p = 0.017).

## CONCLUSION

- We propose a primary health care intervention for PWPDs which will consider the accessibility issues and needs of health care providers who are sensitized to the special needs of people with disabilities.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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