

**BRAC University  
James P Grant  
School of Public Health  
(JPG SPH/BSPH)**

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Harvard University  
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Dhaka, Bangladesh**

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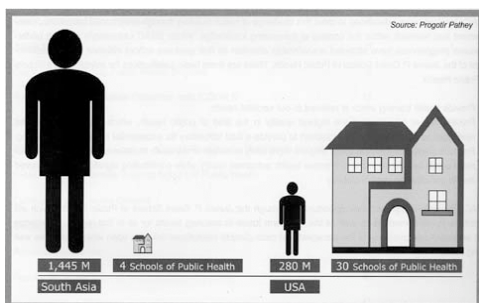
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**Population in Million & Number  
of SPH: South Asia and USA**



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**Existing Public Health  
Education**

- **USA 250 million**  
– 30 SPH
- **South Asia 1.2 billion**  
– 4 SPH though many more are planned (PHFI and others)
- **One year MPH at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, London, etc. costs over \$45,000**

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### **Existing Public Health Education**

- MPH program in Kerala, South India costs \$3,500
- Southern students who train abroad tend to stay abroad (recover debts, greater salary, opportunities to emigrate, etc.) while those who train locally stay in India

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### **Why a SPH in Bangladesh?**

- Provide health training which is relevant to the society and can be applied
- Provide education of the highest quality in the field of public health
- Produce graduates from the south who are more likely to remain in the south and become leaders in public health

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### **Objectives of JPGSPH**

- Provide health training which is relevant to the society and promote the continued improvement of health outcomes for South Asia

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### **Objectives of JPGSPH**

- **Provide higher education of the highest quality in the field of public health, which uniquely utilizes the resources of development in Bangladesh to provide a field laboratory for experiential teaching and learning**

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**The development of the James P. Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University is a collaboration between BRAC, the ICDDR,B, other schools of public health, and research institutions worldwide.**

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### **BRAC – A Brief Description**

- **Bangladeshi NGO established in 1972, with full time staff of 27,000 and 34,000 part-time teachers**
- **Budget of \$350 million per year of which 75% generated from BRAC activities**

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### **BRAC – A Brief Description**

- Microcredit, education, health, banking, women’s projects, human rights agenda, sericulture, dairies, fish culture, handicrafts, etc.
- BRAC University established in 2002

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### **BRAC Activities in Health**

- Water and sanitation, family planning, ORT, immunization, pregnancy related care, basic curative services, nutrition, tuberculosis control
- BRAC Health Centre, Limb and Fitting Centre

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### **BRAC Activities in Health**

- Nutrition program (BINP), tuberculosis control, immunization
- HIV/AIDS program, malaria, micro health insurance, community based arsenic mitigation, early childhood development, saving newborn lives, public private partnership for health

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**ICDDR,B – Research and Service**

- Library-over 50,000 journal titles  
15,000 books
- Clinical facilities – OPD, 200 beds, ICU, metabolic unit
- Laboratories - virology, enteric bacteria, parasitology, immunology, HIV/STI diagnostic facility, nutrition, and PCR

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**ICDDR,B – Research and Service**

- Matlab field study areas (defined population of about 160,000 with household records extending back over 40 years), field hospital and research ward

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**JPG SPH – Some Unique Attributes**

- Courses linked to field applications
- Studies relevant to Bangladesh reality
- Access to BRAC development programs and research activities
- Access to ICDDR staff and facilities
- Faculty from Bangladesh and partner schools in northern universities

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### **JPG SPH – Some Unique Attributes**

- Students drawn from south and north
- International standards of academic quality
- Sponsored students and inexpensive tuition fees

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### **Students**

- Bangladeshi – competitive entrance with scholarship
- Foreign – same academic standards
- Health professionals and other graduate level students interested in health
- Initial small class (25) with future increases
- Larger needs of Bangladesh after a few years of MPH program

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### **Student Recruitment**

- International
  - Publicity through BRAC University website and word of mouth
  - Selected by friends of the school
  - Telephone interviews
  - Written test and interviews

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## Student Recruitment

- Bangladesh
  - As above and newspaper advertisement
  - Written test and interviews

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## Students – First Batch

- Twenty-five with 13 female and 12 male
- 15 Bangladeshi, 10 non-Bangladeshi
- 15 MDs, 10 non-MDs
- Diverse experience

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## Student Body

Characteristics	2005-2006	2006-2007
Total Number	25	26
Females	13	12
Medical doctors	10	11
Bangladeshi students	15	14
International students	10	12

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## Faculty

- **Members of BRAC University**
- **International Advisory Board**
- **BSPH Core – five**
- **Visiting international faculty/counterparts**
- **Bangladeshi faculty**



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## Teaching and Learning

- **Courses modules lasting two to nine weeks**
- **Courses have clearly stated objectives, instructional strategies, detailed course outline, and an evaluation system**
- **Participatory, problem-based, experiential learning with individual and group work**

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## Teaching and Learning

- **Intensive field and community exposure in villages, urban slums and other settings to witness public health practice**
- **Culminating independent study of a public health problem in which the student demonstrates synthesis and integration of knowledge learned**

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## First Semester Courses (Savar – Rural Campus)

- Introduction (2 wks)
- Qualitative approaches (6 wks)
- Quantitative approaches (8 wks)
- Management (6 wks)

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## Study Village: Kakabo

- 2 km from TARC
- All households listed and village sketch made
- Preparing the village  
– meeting w/elites
- Welcoming villagers
- An integral part of teaching/learning



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## Second Semester Courses (Dhaka)

- Infectious diseases (3 wks)
- Environment & health (2 wks)
- Advanced epi/Biostats (2 wks)
- Human nutrition
- Health equity (1 wk)

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## **Second Semester Courses (Dhaka)**

- **Communications in health (1 wk)**
- **Reproductive health (1 wk)**
- **Human resources in health (1 wk)**
- **Maternal & child nutrition (2 wks)**
- **Aging & non-communicable diseases  
(1 wk)**

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## **Independent Field Study**

- **Eight weeks**
- **Evaluation/ intensive study of  
interventions**
- **Written study plan**

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## **Independent Field Study**

- **Projects to be studied include those  
at BRAC, other NGOs, ICDDR, B,  
and MoH**
- **Mentors**
- **Written report**
- **Oral presentation**

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### **Facilities**

- **Savar**
  - Residence, classroom, computer lab, internet, library, recreational facilities, field sites in rural villages
- **Dhaka**
  - BRAC headquarters, ICDDR B (including Matlab), residence, field sites in urban slums

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### **Collaborations: MoU Signed**

- ICDDR, B
- Columbia University
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Uppsala University
- University of Amsterdam

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### **Collaborations: MoU Signed**

- Harvard School of Public Health
- Johns Hopkins/Bloomberg School of Public Health
- University of Umea
- Karolinska Institute
- George Washington University

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**Features of the JPG SPH:  
A Summary**

- Partnership with internationally recognized public health institutions in the south and north, including a special relationship with ICDDR, B
- Residential training in a rural facility for 6 months
- Diverse student body from many countries

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**Features of the JPG SPH:  
A Summary**

- Location in a developing country provides a social laboratory for teaching and learning
- Placement in a development organization that is committed to the poor and disadvantaged

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**What Can the  
Schools of Public Health  
from the North Contribute?**

- Provide opportunities for visiting faculty to take short courses
- Assist with teaching and curriculum design
- Facilitate student exchanges in both directions

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**What Can the  
Schools of Public Health  
from the North Contribute?**

- **Develop joint research studies**
- **Provide opportunities for faculty from north to spend more than two-years away to assist with school and faculty development**

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