

POPULATION SERIES

End Fistula Now, Restore Women's Dignity



Cast Away: The Stigma of Fistula

I had no idea, that there were so many women out there suffering the same fate as mine", says a surprised Zinara from Kushtia. She is one amongst many women recovering in the post-operative ward of the National Fistula Centre at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Zinara had to undergo surgery to repair her obstetric fistula.

Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury that is usually caused by prolonged, obstructed labour, without timely medical intervention. During this period the sustained pressure of the baby's head on the mother's pelvic bone damages soft tissue, creating a hole - a fistula - in the birth canal. The fistula causes a constant leaking, causing the girls and women to lose control of bodily functions. The only treatment for obstetric fistula is a surgical procedure where the hole in the birth canal is repaired. Obstetric fistula has been recognized as a medical condition but now it needs to be acknowledged as a social one that requires attention and sensitivity.

The number of girls and women with obstetric fistula cases in Bangladesh is unknown; a survey is currently underway to determine the figures. Between 50 and 80 percent of women under the age of 20 in poor countries develop obstetric fistulas, and the youngest patients are merely 12 to 13 years old. Due to the lack of education and inability to access proper health care these young girls live with this condition for years untreated, ashamed, and humiliated and in worse cases shunned by their own families; communities will even go as far as to justify the girls' suffering as a punishment or curse. The victims of the debilitating condition are often divorced from their husbands, and forced to live on their own without social interactions or possibilities to work. These women then face further poverty and the additional psychological distress of losing a child (in most cases prolonged labour leads to the death of the child).

Poverty lies at the root of this suffering. The widely practiced tradition of child marriage puts young girls under immense social pressure to conceive right after marriage; unknowingly this makes them likelier to develop obstetric fistula during the delivery of the child, as their bodies are not matured enough for the strenuous delivery.



(UNFPA) has been working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure victims of fistula receive the treatment and rehabilitation they need. As part of these efforts doctors are trained and learn from renowned national and international fistula surgeons. Furthermore 500 midwives will graduate from a UNFPA supported program and will provide a whole continuum of care such as adolescent health care, family planning, antenatal care, safe delivery and early detection of complications which can prevent fistula as well as ensure the lives of mothers and babies. UNFPA is the sole organization to support all rehabilitation centres in the country; one of them is located in Bokshibazaar near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. At the rehabilitation centre, survivors of fistula are provided with skill training to aid their rehabilitation and integration back into their own communities. Other private facilities run with support of the development partners and dedicated fistula surgeons.

Ways to prevent obstetric fistula start by, Delaying marriage: The younger the girl the likelier that she will die or develop obstetric fistula during labour.

Birth spacing: Providing women access to family planning services reduces probabilities of developing obstetric fistula.

Attending health care services: Antenatal visits, delivering at the health facilities with

the help of a midwife and attending postnatal care visits ensure early detection of complications.

Comprehensive sexuality education for boys and girls: When girls are educated about the rights concerning their body and reproduction and get necessary services, rate of maternal complications and mortality decreases. Communities need to be made aware of preventive measures against obstetric fistula and the treatments that are currently available so that women have a chance at a better life. Most women who recover from obstetric fistula through surgery, become community fistula advocates. They educate their community and women regarding the availability of treatment for obstetric fistula.

The 23rd of May is the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula. The theme for 2015: "End Fistula Now, Restore Women's Dignity" lies at the heart of UNFPA's goals to improve maternal health in Bangladesh. The eradication of fistula can be achieved through the cooperation and commitment from all strata of society, including individuals, families, health-care providers and leaders.

Zinara was lucky, she survived the complications related to giving birth at too young an age and has received treatment and rehabilitation for obstetric fistula. Many other girls and women have not been so lucky.

Veil of Shame.....

SUPRITI SARKAR

As I walk up to her, I cannot help but notice how innocent Sabrina's smile is. Her eyes look tired and shows signs of being through an ordeal, yet that still does not stop her from turning red and looking towards her mother when I ask her how old she is. Sabrina's medical charts say she is 25 but her mother is not sure if she is 20 or 21 years old.

Sabrina from Sunamganj, is one of the thousands of young girls who suffer from an obstetric fistula and has undergone surgery, to repair it at the National Institute of Fistula at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). When asked how she developed the condition she tells me that when she was 16 years old she was married off and soon became pregnant with her first child. When she was in labour, the Dai was unable to deliver the child. "I was in excruciating pain. I thought I would die. Only the baby's head was out and then the Dai told my relatives to take me to the nearest hospital", says Sabrina. Once at the hospital, doctors performed an emergency caesarian to deliver the child. Sadly, it did not survive. When her mother-in-law discovered Sabrina's incontinence, as a

result of the fistula that developed during the prolonged and obstructed labour she ordered her son to take her back to her mother's.

According to Sabrina, her mother-in-law told her husband, "What will you do with a sick wife? There is no point of her living with us anymore. We do not need to be burdened with her or her sickness". She continued to tell me how humiliating it was to live in such conditions. Constantly washing her clothes and always shying away from social interactions. "The winter nights were the hardest." recalls Sabrina. When I asked her how she had found out about the treatment of obstetric fistula, she said that a woman from her neighbouring community had informed her about the treatment being available at DMCH. "I am finally free of this sickness. I cannot wait to go back home"

A large number of the patients at the ward are more than 50 years old and have been suffering from this condition for over 35 years. For now it seems like only through word of mouth the treatment for obstetric fistula has been reaching women suffering from the debilitating condition. Living in rural communities, women still feel a sense of shame and are unwilling to come forward and seek help for obstetric fistula.

KNOWLEDGE CORNER - OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Prof. Dr. Ferdousi Islam (Lipi)

Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology  
Dhaka Medical College & Hospital

Symptoms of obstetric fistula include:  
Continuous dribbling of urine and no urge for urination

Flatulence, urinary or fecal incontinence, Foul-smelling discharge from birth canal, repeated infection in the urinary tract or birth canal, Irritation or pain in the birth canal or surrounding areas, Pain during intercourse.

If left untreated, Obstetric fistula leads to: Continuous leaking of urine, feces, and blood. To avoid the dripping, women limit water intake and liquid which potentially leads to dangerous cases of dehydration.

Ulceration and infections can persist as well as kidney disease and kidney failure.

Chances of conceiving a healthy baby is limited.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

The following UNFPA supported government medical institutes around the country provide treatment for obstetric fistula:

1. Dhaka Medical College Hospital
2. Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital
3. Mymensingh Medical College Hospital
4. Rajshahi Medical College Hospital
5. Rangpur Medical College Hospital
6. Bogra Medical College Hospital
7. Barisal Medical College Hospital
8. Chittagong Medical College Hospital
9. Khulna Medical College Hospital
10. Sylhet Medical College Hospital

Operation and Recovery details:  
The duration of the procedure to repair a fistula depends on the size and complication. Smaller fistulas take a maximum of half an hour to repair, but larger ones are more complicated and can take between two and three hours. The success rates for obstetric fistula repair are high, 90% for small ones and 80% for more complicated cases.

-Compiled By Sohel Rana

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Privatization Commission  
Prime Minister's Office  
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender (Sedan Cars)

1	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office.
2	Agency	Privatization Commission.
3	Procuring entity	Privatization Commission.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
5	Invitation for	Tender for Procurement of Govt. Vehicles (Sedan Cars).
6	Invitation Ref No.	03.417.00.127.00.258.2014-5664.
7	Date	19.05.2015.
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
9	Budget and source of fund	Revenue budget of 2014-2015.
10	Tender package No.	01 (one).
11	Tender package name	Purchase of Government Vehicles (Sedan Cars).
12	Tender schedule last selling date	08.06.2015.
13	Tender closing date and time	09.06.2015, 01.00pm.
14	Tender opening date and time	09.06.2015, 02.00pm.
15	Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender document (principal) - Receiving tender document - Opening tender document	1. Secretary, Privatization Commission. 2. Assistant Director (Admn), Privatization Commission. Tender Evaluation Committee of Privatization Commission.
16	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Optional (if necessary, notice will be served).
17	Eligibility of tenderer	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (authorized distributors) having office establishment, repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within assigned time.
18	Brief description of goods or works	Sedan Cars are to be latest, modern, international standard, good quality, brand new, fitted with modern amenities including CNG cylinder, high efficiency engine (EFI/MPI/ECI), CBU by the country of origin with detail specifications (supported by original catalogue brochure).
19	Lot No.	Identification Location Price of tender document (Tk) Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in days/months
1	02 Nos. of 1490-1500 cc. Sedan Cars	Dhaka 2,000.00 (two thousand) 2.5% quoted price From ready stock of within 30 days from the date of work order
19	Special instruction (if any)	Nil.
20	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Syed Nesar Ahmad Rummy.
21	Designation of official inviting tender	Secretary.
22	Address of official inviting tender	Privatization Commission, Paribahan Pool Bhaban, Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 9551986 Fax No. 9556433
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.		
<b>Secretary</b> Privatization Commission Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000		



INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) for Printing of Books for Class Two

Project and Tender Name	BRAC Education Programme Printing Different Types of Text Books
Source of Fund	SPA Fund
Tender Package No.	BPD-BEP-EM/05-15
IFT Ref. no. and Date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-BEP-EM/15-08 18 May 2015
Price of the tender documents	BDT 1000.00 (Taka One Thousand Only) non refundable
Tender Document Available	Accounts Department (8th floor) BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka
Date and Time for Selling Documents	25 May 2015 to 09 June 2015 between 09.00 am to 3:00 pm
Tender Dropping Place, Date and Time	Tender Box-1, BRAC Procurement Department, (Ground floor) 10 June 2015 between 9.00 am to 2:30 pm
Tender Opening Place, Date and Time	4th Floor, BRAC Centre cafeteria (suruchi) 10 June 2015 at 3:30 pm
Brief description of Goods (Detail description will be available in Tender Documents)	Printing of Text Books Lot-1: Books 116500 copies and Card set 10600 sets Lot-2: Books 290600 copies Lot-3: Books 569900 copies
<b>BRAC, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali Dhaka-1212</b> Phone: 9881265 Ext: 3797, 3088	

প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
ঢাকা-১০০০

মেমো নং-প্রকৌঃ বিদ্যুত-৪৪৩(২) তারিখঃ ২০/৫/১৫

Invitation for Tender

01.	Invitation for	Electrical repair and renovation works to the Extension Building of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall, University of Dhaka.
02.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 11/06/2015 Time: 12.00 noon.
03.	Tender opening date and time	Date: 11/06/2015 Time: 12.30pm.
04.	Website address	Detail information and tender document will be available in the website of (http://e-tender.univdhaka.edu)
<b>Engr. Md. Mokteruzzaman</b> Executive Engineer (Elec-1) University of Dhaka		

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ)  
নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী

ফেরীঘাট ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(২য় আহ্বান)

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন জঙ্গাশিবপুর-রায়পুরা-সায়দাবাদ-বাঁশগাড়া সড়কের মেঘনা নদীর উপর অবস্থিত পাছশালা-সায়দাবাদ ফেরীঘাট দিয়া চলাচলকারী যানবাহন হইতে সরকার নির্ধারিত হারে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হইতে পরবর্তী ১ (এক) বৎসরের জন্য ইজারা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে আত্মীয় ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদার-এর নিকট হইতে সীল কোটেশন আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০১ন/সবি, সন ২০১৪-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ (২য় আহ্বান)।
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন জঙ্গাশিবপুর-রায়পুরা-সায়দাবাদ-বাঁশগাড়া সড়কের মেঘনা নদীর উপর অবস্থিত পাছশালা-সায়দাবাদ ফেরীঘাট দিয়া চলাচলকারী যানবাহন হইতে সরকার নির্ধারিত হারে টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হইতে পরবর্তী ১ (এক) বৎসরের জন্য টোল আদায়ের নিমিত্তে ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩।	ইজারা চুক্তির মেয়াদ	চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে ১ (এক) বৎসর বা ৩৬৫ দিন।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশন মূল্য	টাঃ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ), ইজারা জামানত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী-এর বরাবরে কোটেশনের সঙ্গে অবশ্যই দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় কোটেশন বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
০৬।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	সকল শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার এবং আর্থিকভাবে স্বচ্ছল বাংলাদেশের সকল ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান। যাদের মূল্য সংযোজন কর (VAT) এবং টিআইএন (TIN) হালনাগাদ নিবন্ধিত হইতে হইবে এবং কোটেশনের সহিত উহার সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
০৭।	যে সমস্ত কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন সিডিউল পাওয়া যাইবে	বিভাগীয় কমিশনার-এর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ) সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী/ঢাকা/মানিকগঞ্জ/মুন্সীগঞ্জ/নারায়ণগঞ্জ/ গাজীপুর/সেতু নগর বিভাগ-১, সেতু জোন, ঢাকা/পরিষ্কার ও নগর বিভাগ, ঢাকা জোন, ঢাকা/উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ) সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-নরসিংদী/শিবপুর ও ১ম সারি কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, নরসিংদী।
০৮।	যে সমস্ত কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হইবে	(ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ) সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী। (খ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ) ঢাকা সড়ক সার্কেল, এলেনবাড়ী, ঢাকা। (গ) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ) ঢাকা জোন, এলেনবাড়ী, ঢাকা। (ঘ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী।
০৯।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭-০৬-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাচালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১০।	মুখ বন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৮-০৬-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	কোটেশন খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী। তারিখঃ ০৮-০৬-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় ইজারায় অংশগ্রহণকারী আত্মীয় ইজারাদার অথবা তাহাদের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিগণকে উল্লিখিত সময়ে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।
বিদ্রঃ সিডি কোটেশনের শর্তনুযায়ী সকল কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হইবে।		
মোঃ মনিরুজ্জামান নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ) নরসিংদী সড়ক বিভাগ, নরসিংদী		

জিডি-১৮৯২

GD-1899

GD-1873