

Rising Dengue Prevalence in Bangladesh and the Need for Strengthened Public Health Measures.

Shahida Haque

Advisor, Research and Evaluation, Bangladesh Centre for Communication Program (BCCP), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sir,

Through your esteemed journal, I would like to draw urgent attention to the alarming rise in dengue prevalence in Bangladesh. Over the past several years, dengue has transitioned from a seasonal public health concern to a year-round threat, with record-breaking cases and fatalities reported across the country. The rapid urbanization, inadequate waste management, expansion of construction sites, and climate variability—especially prolonged monsoon seasons and warmer temperatures—have collectively created ideal breeding conditions for *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Despite ongoing public health interventions such as awareness campaigns, larvicide use, and community mobilization, the number of hospitalized dengue patients continues to increase significantly. The high burden on healthcare facilities, shortages of hospital beds in peak season, and growing incidence of severe dengue forms (including dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome) demand immediate strengthened measures.

A critical gap remains in sustained community participation. Many households still store water improperly, leave containers uncovered, and fail to eliminate stagnant water. Additionally, regular monitoring of high-risk zones and timely vector control activities are often disrupted due to resource shortages, lack of coordination among authorities, and limited public compliance.

To address this challenge, a multi-layered strategy is essential. First, all city corporations and municipalities must enforce routine vector surveillance and environmental sanitation. Second, public education programs should be intensified, utilizing both traditional and digital media to promote behaviour change.

Bangladesh has demonstrated resilience in managing health emergencies, but dengue requires consistent, coordinated, and community-driven prevention efforts. Unless immediate and long-term measures are implemented, dengue will continue to pose a significant burden on public health and the national healthcare system.

I hope this letter encourages renewed action and policy prioritization to curb the escalating dengue prevalence in our country.

