

Khulna City Corporation Faecal Sludge Management Scholarship Programme

1. Background and Introduction

1.1 Introduction:

Worldwide, 2.7 billion people rely on onsite sanitation and more than 4.5 billion people do not have access to safely managed sanitation services. In terms of sanitation, Bangladesh is an example of rapid progress in the South Asian region. Over a period of less than 10 years, open defecation has been reduced from 19% (in 2000) to less than 1% (in 2015). Yet, in many places there is still no management system in place to deal with the faecal sludge (e.g. septage and pit latrine sludge) from such systems. This results in the faecal waste often being dumped directly into the immediate residential surrounding areas, neighbourhood or downstream environment, with significant health and environmental implications. Despite this progress, the Economics of Sanitation study by WSP in 2011, estimated that the impacts resulting from poor sanitation and hygiene is still costing the economy of Bangladesh BDT 295 Billion (US\$ 4.2 billion) per year, or the equivalent of 6.3% of annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the same study, two thirds of this 6.3%, is related to mortality.

Like other countries in the South Asia region, Bangladesh has experienced accelerated urbanization. The urban population has grown from 1.9 million in 1950 to 46.1 million in 2010, jumping from just 4.3 percent of the total population to 28.1 percent in 60 years. Rural-urban migration has been the main driver of urban growth with only 21.6 percent of urban residents born in an urban area. Many of those who migrate live at the bottom of the pyramid and are least likely to live in healthy environments. Population densities in many urban areas would seem to justify sewerage construction, but from a financial point of view, sewerage is not likely to be a viable sanitation solution for all in the near future. It is clear that the larger part of the sanitation solution in Bangladesh will need to come from non-sewered solutions. It is urgent to demonstrate innovative alternative sanitation solutions for the context of urban Bangladesh.

In response to this situation, many innovations have started in Bangladesh, especially around faecal sludge management, over the past years. Results are promising, but also show the complexity of arriving at city wide services, requiring business development, policy changes, technical and financial solutions, as well as behavior change of a range of stakeholders. Recently, the Government of Bangladesh has approved the institutional and regulatory framework (IRF) for Faecal Sludge Management for cities and towns in the country. With this, an enormous step forward has been made, unimaginable a few years back. FSM is now a rising priority in Bangladesh, and local authorities look to central government for guidance and examples. The challenge is that such guidance and examples are not yet there.

1.2 FSM Programme Brief:

Over the past 4 years (2014-17), the program "Demonstration of pro-poor market-based solutions for faecal sludge management in urban centers of southern Bangladesh" has been implemented in 3 cities including Khulna City Corporation, Kushtia and Jhenaidah Paurashava. At the local level, knowledge and awareness on FSM among the stakeholders has increased, and important building blocks have been put in place. These building blocks are for example engagement and capacity building of mechanical and manual emptier communities, occupational health and safety guidance for emptying, an innovative treatment plant, design a long term treatment option for FSM, formative research and behavioural change communication strategies for FSM, local norms and regulations. Furthermore, research was done with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Fisheries and Marine Resource Discipline of Khulna University and Worldfish on re-use options for its approval in Bangladesh. This programme also initiated a scholarship programme on FSM for the graduate students in Khulna.

At the national level, the program contributed to the FSM discussion, development and testing of the IRF, as well as the national emptier convention. Internationally, the other countries in the region are benefitting from the experiences in the towns under FSM programme, with two learning events in Bangladesh, inputs provided to Gates grantees in India, and uptake of lessons learned within SNV by Nepal, Indonesia, Zambia and Tanzania.

CWISE Programme:

Despite the important building blocks have been put in place, long way to go to see a real impact on the ground. And for which it again needs very concentrated efforts hence another project has been taken to develop city-wide inclusive sanitation services, increasing access to safely managed sanitation and tripling the amount of human waste treated. The title of the project is 'City Wide Inclusive Sanitation Engagement (CWISE)'. This project will be implemented in five towns in southern Bangladesh with different duration. For Khulna it is for three years. The program will use value chain development methodology and will contribute to sector knowledge and learning on urban sanitation.

For further details please visit our website (<http://www.snv.org/project/FSM>)

1.4 Youth in Development and Faecal Sludge Management Scholarship:

Working with FSM demands innovation and upgradation of existing practice. SNV believes in youth capacity who can break this traditional mould. According to UNFPA the world is the home for 1.8 billion people within the age of 10-24 who are the shapers and leaders of our global future. In Bangladesh this youth group represents about 18.85% of total population having age of 15-24. This post-liberation young groups are more advanced in technology, education and knowledge. They keep that strength to make tremendous contributions to the development of our country if proper opportunities are offered to this potential group. This youth group of rising stars are ready to tackle whatever challenges lie ahead only if an enabling environment is offered to them.

FSM is a new subject and there is a lack of expertise even at an international level. Considering the urgency to initiate effective and safe management of faecal sludge demands, innovation and upgradation of existing practices are essential. SNV believes in role of the youths towards the nation building and can change the future of the society with their well-being and courageous behavior. We would like to develop their capacity whenever possible as we also believe that youth can show us which we have not been willing to look at within ourselves. Under this initiative FSM scholarship was announced for full time graduate students of the two leading universities in Khulna.

2. KCC FSM Scholarship

2.1 What is FSM Scholarship:

As a part of engaging Youth in Development, FSM scholarship was announced for full time graduate students of the two leading universities in Khulna, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) and Khulna University (KU), attracting students of merit from around the country who through their academic learning develop the capability to resolve many long-standing FSM challenges. A total of 8 students from KU and KUET have already completed research in multidimensional aspects of FSM.

The two leading universities in Khulna, KUET and KU, produce a bunch of meritorious students who have the capability to resolve many long standing complex challenges by successfully applying of their inventive insights. To encourage this youth force KCC, KUET, KU and SNV have jointly taken a scholarship scheme for the master's level student from these two universities to carry out research in multidimensional aspects of FSM since 2016.

This scholarship programme is to support regular students undertaking post graduate studies/ masters and interested to do thesis on issues related with Faecal Sludge Management.

Eight (8) students from Khulna University and Khulna University of Engineering & Technology awarded the scholarship for 18 months in 2016 from different background. They successfully explored different technical and socio-economic issues for FSM and suggested paths to mitigate that.

2.2 Number and Amount of the Scholarship:

This year, the same scholarship will also be awarded to the master's level student from KUET and KU. In total (8) students from both universities will be eligible to get the scholarship (not necessarily 4 from each university depending on the number and quality of research proposals). This FSM scholarship intends to support the research work conducted by the students' that comply with FSM programme

components. The scholarship period should be maximum three semesters based on course curriculum and research contents. Each student will receive 20,000 BDT (Twenty thousand tk only) monthly as stipend maximum for eighteen (18) months. The students will also get "research fund" as well to conduct his field work and other relevant activities. Students needs to submit a detail research proposal with budget to get the fund. The maximum research cost will be 50,000 BDT (Fifty thousand tk only).

2.3 Eligibility Criteria:

- i. The applicant should be a full-time student undertaking post graduate studies in any disciplines/departments of Khulna University (KU) or Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET);
- ii. S/He should have obtained minimum CGPA 3.00 or equivalent in bachelor degree;
- iii. The research proposal must comply with the SNV FSM program component;
- iv. Experience to work on FSM might be an advantage;
- v. Be fluent in English and Bangla report writing.

2.4 Preferable Quota (depending on the number and quality of proposals):

- i. Female – 50% and Male – 50%;
- ii. Science & Engineering – 50%, Business & Social – 50%.

3. Scholarship Committee:

3.1 Technical Review Committee:

In previous programme, there was no technical review committee. The applications were scrutinised and recommend to KCC by the Scrutiny committee members from each University. This time no scrutiny committee will be formed as suggested from the scholarship committee members. A technical review committee is formed with practitioner of urban sanitation. Recommended representatives by the scholarship committee are;

1. Prof. Dr. Ashraf Ali, Professor, ITN, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology;
2. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology;
3. Prof. Dr. Md. Nazmul Ahsan, Professor, Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, Khulna University;
4. Md. Abdullah P. Eng, Managing Director, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
5. Prof. Dr. Humayun Kabir, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University;
6. Mr. Mostafa Quaium Khan, Adviser, Bangladesh Urban Forum.

Depending upon the research topic the committee may identify additional expert to get technical review. KCC will invite and send the research proposals to this committee requesting for reviewing. The proposals will be sent to them by their expertise area. A proposal will not be sent to more than one member. A scoring sheet will be sent to them with the proposals.

Terms of References of Technical Review Committee;

- i. Reviewing the proposals;
- ii. Preparing a score sheet;
- iii. They will be involved once for primarily screen the applications;
- iv. Renumeration will be sent to their bank account as agreed by the scholarship committee.

3.2 Scholarship Committee:

A scholarship committee was formulated with representatives from KCC, KWASA, KUET, KU, WaterAid and SNV in 2016. This committee will be same as before. *The members of this committee are;*

1. Mr. Palash Kanti Bala, Chief Executive Officer, Khulna City Corporation and Convener of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
2. Mr. Abir Ul Jabbar, Chief Planning Officer, Khulna City Corporation and Member Secretary KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
3. Prof. Dr. Quazi Hamidul Bari, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology and Member of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
4. Prof. Dr. Sheikh Mursalin Mamun, Professor and Head, Urban and Rural Planning Discipline, Khulna University and Member of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
5. Mr. Rezaul Islam, Executive Engineer, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and Member of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
6. Mr. Abdullah Al-Muyeed, Technical Advisor, WaterAid Bangladesh and Member of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee;
7. Shahidul Islam, Governance Advisor, FSM Programme, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and Member of KCC FSM Scholarship Committee.

Terms of References of Scholarship Committee;

- i. This committee will be responsible for final selection of the applicants;
- ii. A quarterly update meeting will be arranged with student, supervisor and scholarship committee members;
- iii. Lesson learning events will be arranged with student, supervisor and scholarship committee members;
- iv. The Scholarship Committee members will receive a remuneration as agreed for attending the meetings (transport and accommodation if applicable);
- v. The Scholarship Committee will be responsible for overall monitoring of the Scholarship;
- vi. Scholarship committee keep the sole right to withhold the scholarship contract if the students failed to show satisfactory performance.

4. Application Collection Process:

4.1 Call for Application and Wider Circulation:

A call for application will be announced in August. The notice will last for two months after circulation. A format is attached (Annex 3).

Scholarship notice need to be published as soon as possible through;

- KCC website and notice board;
- Khulna University website and notice board (including relevant department);
- Khulna University of Engineering and Technology website and notice board (including relevant department);
- Stakeholders website;
- Local newspaper (Daily Purbanchal);
- Cable Network;
- SNV website.

4.2 Application Formats:

The applicants must have to follow prescribed formats to submit their applications. Applications with any missing required documents will not be accepted.

1. Scholarship Application Form (Annex 4);
2. Research Proposal Format (Annex 5);
3. Recommendation Letter from two referees (Annex 6);
4. Motivation Letter (Annex 7).

4.3 Orientation in Universities

SNV will prepare a presentation with the following information regarding FSM scholarship and send to Universities. One orientation in each University need to arrange after the notice where SNV Urban Sanitation representative can orient to the students.

1. What is FSM?
2. Why FSM is needed?
3. What is FSM Scholarship?
4. Time frame and process of application?

4.4 Where and How to Submit the Application:

A detailed research proposal duly signed by the Supervisor(s) with completed application form should be submitted to Khulna City Corporation. Recommendation Letter from two referees (one must be from thesis supervisor) should also be submitted along with the research proposal.

The application should be submitted in both hard and e-copy;

For e-copy: Subject should be "KCC FSM Scholarship Programme". The application should be send to abirul.jabbar@yahoo.com with a copy to Lislam@snv.org and your respective supervisor.

For Hardcopy: Application should be submitted in the following address mentioning "KCC FSM Scholarship Programme" at the top of the envelope that contains all the application documents:

*Mr. Palash Kanti Bala,
Chief Executive Officer, Khulna City Corporation
and Convener KCC FSM Scholarship Committee*

For scholarship application forms and concept note please contact:

- Registrar Office of Khulna University and Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna;
- Chief Planning Officer, Khulna City Corporation.

5. Grantee Selection Process:

5.1 Short Listing and Reviewing of the Applications: KCC will forward the application to Scholarship Technical Review Committee members by their expertise area. The Technical Review Committee will review and score the applications.

5.2 Final Selection of Applications: The Scholarship Committee will shortlist the applicants and call the students to make a presentation regarding their research. After the presentation, this committee will score, recommend and finalise the candidates. The Scholarship Committee will suggest the applicants to reshape their research proposal to comply to the scholarship subject. For ensuring the gender equality some criteria may be relaxed for the female candidates but not compromising the required quality. This committee will have the right to withhold the scholarship anytime based on performance.

6. Fund Mechanism

6.1 Fund Management Mechanism:

A scholarship account will be created in each university. The full scholarship amount fixed for six months (depends on the total number of students awarded each year) will be disbursed to this account by SNV. University will transfer the money to the scholarship holders' account on quarterly basis upon submission of quarterly deliverables. SNV and scholarship committee has the sole right to postpone scholarship at any moment if the research work fails to attain minimum standard.

Apart from this stipend, students will also receive "research funds" as well to support his field study and other relevant cost. Thus, the research proposal should also include the detailed fieldwork plan and associated cost.

Considering the risk of losing students after certain improvements, there is a provision to transfer the scholarship to other students of that university upon approval from the supervisor. Scholarship committee should also be aware of that change made in the scholarship position. These alternate students will carry out the previously submitted research plan done by previous student. This student will receive the stipend from the month s/he will begin his research.

Two accounts officer, one from each university, will be assigned by respective universities to handle the financial issue. He will be responsible to transfer stipend and other cost to the scholarship holder and respective supervisors account. He will also bear the responsibility to submit financial documents to SNV as required.

6.1 Payment Schedule:

- i. Each student will receive 20,000 BDT (Twenty thousand tk only) monthly as stipend;
- ii. The students will also get "research fund" as well to conduct his field work and other relevant activities like buying books, printing, binding etc. Students needs to submit a detail research proposal with budget to get the fund. The maximum research cost will be 50,000 BDT (Fifty thousand tk only);
- iii. The supervisor of the students will receive a remuneration of 5,000 BDT for their supervisory work; maximum for 12 months;
- iv. Scholarship committee members will receive a remuneration of 2,000 BDT (Two thousand tk only) for attending the meeting and other scholarship events. There will be maximum six meetings in 18 months period;
- v. Technical review committee members will receive a remuneration of 2,000 BDT per research proposal. They will be involved once for primarily screening of the applications.

So, the maximum scholarship amount for eight students in two universities for 3 semesters might be as given below:

Table: Scholarship fund for 2018-2019

SI	Issue	Per unit cost	Unit	No. of People	Total Cost (BDT)
1.	Student stipend for 3 semesters	20,000	18 months	8	2,880,000
2.	Research fund	50,000	1 nos.	8	400,000
3.	Supervisor remuneration	5,000	12 months	8	480,000
4.	Accounts officer of the universities	1,500	18 months	2	54,000
	Sub-Total				
4.	Scholarship committee remuneration	2,000	6 nos.	7	84,000
5.	Technical review committee remuneration (per research proposal)	2,000	5 nos. (average)	6	60,000
6.	Other cost (notice, training, travel, accommodation, venue, food, exposure visit, learning event etc.)				700,000
	Total: Forty six Lac and Fifty Eight Thousand BDT Only				4,658,000

7 Role of Supervisor

Supervisors will play the important role in conducting the research:

- i. Support student in formulating research proposal;
- ii. Regularly monitor the work done by student and provide support to submit deliverables timely;

- iii. Take the responsibility to complete the research work by alternate students if the main scholarship holder left beforehand by keeping his research undone;
- iv. Be present in the scholarship related events arranged by SNV or scholarship committee.

8 Secretarial Support:

All secretarial support regarding the scholarship will be provided from CWISE programme in coordination with Khulna City Corporation, as KCC is continually loaded with different activities.

9 Support from CWISE Programme:

This scholarship programme will offer the opportunity to the students to do research who are interested in FSM sector. CWISE programme will continuously keep in touch with the students and the supervisors to check if the research is on track to complete their research. The programme will also arrange exposure visits to other Municipalities so that the students can learn and incorporate to their research. The programme may arrange short training for the students if needed based on their research.

The results of the research will be shared in national/regional workshop and learning events as appropriate and at the end of all the research, outputs will be shared in a national Sanitation Forum. The candidates are highly encouraged to publish their work and professional support can be provided to fine tune the reports for publication.

10 Progress Monitoring:

Each student will work closely with his/her supervisor. The specific deliverables that students have to submit to scholarship committee are:

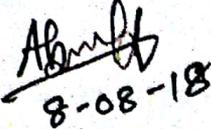
- i. Research proposal and detailed work plan with approval from supervisor
- ii. Quarterly update report/presentation
- iii. Students should provide six monthly progress report and presentation to scholarship committees
- iv. Final research presentation
- v. Final research report
- vi. Research outcome in article format

A quarterly update meeting will be arranged with student, supervisor and scholarship committee members. Here, students have to present his research update and findings. Scholarship committee keep the sole right to withhold the scholarship contract if the students failed to show satisfactory performance.

11 Conclusion:

Two meetings were held with KCC FSM Scholarship committee members respectively on 16th April 2018 and 29th July 2018 (Annex 1 and 2). This concept note is prepared based on the discussion and suggestions from the meetings. This needs to be approved and signed by CEO, KCC first and then by other committee members. CEO, KCC will forward the concept note to the scholarship committee members and the meeting participants.

Signed and approved by

SI	Name	Designation	Signature and Date
1.	Palash Kanti Bala	Chief Executive Officer, Khulna City Corporation and Convener, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	 08/08/2018
2.	Dr. Mursalin Mamun	Professor and Head, Urban and Rural Planning Discipline, Khulna University and Member, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	 08/08/2018
3.	Dr. Quazi Hamidul Bari	Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering Technology and Representative, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	 9.8.18
4.	Mr. Rezaul Islam	Executive Engineer, Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and Member, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	 08/08/18
5.	Dr. Abdullah Al-Muyeed	Technical Advisor, WaterAid and Member, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	
6.	Mr. Shahidul Islam	Governance Advisor, FSM Programme, Netherlands Development Organisation and Member, KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	
7.	Mr. Abir Ul Jabbar	Chief Planning Officer, Khulna City Corporation and Member Secretary KCC FSM Scholarship Technical Committee	 8-08-18