

Seminar on Global Health

Arsenic contamination in drinking water: A public health problem in Bangladesh

Speaker	Dr. Abul Hasnat Milton, The University of Newcastle, Australia
Time	On 24th November, 2005, at 14.00-16.00 Coffee and refreshments will be served at 13.45
Place	Lilla Aulan, Medical Research Center, Entrance 59, University Hospital of Malmö, Malmö

Abstract

Bangladesh is currently experiencing the largest known mass poisoning in the history through arsenic contamination of drinking water. The significant achievement of providing bacteriologically safe drinking water through tube wells to more than 80% of the country's population was overshadowed by the detection of arsenic in the drinking water exceeding the minimum tolerable value.

About 80 million of estimated 140 million inhabitants of Bangladesh are living under the risk of Arsenic poisoning through food and drinking water, dermal contact or inhalation of air. A significant proportion of them are already showing many adverse health outcomes attributable to arsenic ingestion like diabetes mellitus, hypertension, respiratory effects, reproductive outcomes and skin and other cancers.

Dr. Abul Hasnat Milton, MBBS, M.Sc, PhD; is a Public Health Physician from Bangladesh and at present working as a Senior Lecturer of Epidemiology at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), The University of Newcastle, Australia.

He has conducted a couple of studies in Bangladesh on chronic arsenic exposure and its effects on pregnancy outcomes, respiratory effects and role of nutritional status on arsenic toxicity. In the seminar, he will talk about his research findings.

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