

## Editorial

Intestinal parasites (helminths and protozoa) are very Common in Bangladesh which cause vast economic loss. The two papers published in this issue show how serious is the problem. The recent publications in 1992 and 1994<sup>2,3</sup> show that the incidence of ascariasis, hook worm infestation and amocblasis in Dhaka city is comparatively much less than found more than 30 years before in the sixth decade. But very little is known about the villages where most of our people live with little or no public health care.

If the people are given necessary basic education about personal hygiene and sanitation through health workers and Imams of the mosques, the situation will improve much. The basic teachings of Islam on cleanliness and the modern knowledge of sanitation and public health if combined the situation will no doubt improve. The most important step to be taken in the villages is to arrange proper disposal of the night-soil (Muazzam, 1966)\* and provision of pure drinking water.

The public health department should endeavour to take necessary steps with the cooperation of the local people instead of waiting for foreign help with harmful strings attached to it.

Our problem should be solved by us which is not difficult if there is definite will and desire.

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\* Muazzam, M. G. (1966) : Pathology, Laboratory Diagnosis and Prevention of Intestinal Helminths. *The Medicus*, 33(1) : 68-73