



Editorial

Pure Drinking Water should be Ensured

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On 8th April, 2022 (Friday) the ICDDR,B hospital was packed with outsider people. The physicians were very much embarrassed to give the treatment of the patients. To face the excessive patients, two tents were arranged for the patients by the hospital authority. By talking with the attendants and patients, it was informed that maximum patients came from Mugda, Shabujbag, Jatrabari, Basabo, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Shanirakhra, Uttarkhan and Dakshinkhan area of the Dhaka city. In every minute a new patient arrived. On this 8th April'22 one thousand forty eight diarrhoea patients were admitted in ICDDR,B hospital of Mohakhali. On 7th April'22 (Thursday) one thousand three hundred and eighty-two diarrhea patients were admitted in 24 hours. In this situation more than one patient was admitted in a minute. On the 6th April'22 the number of diarrhoea patient were one thousand three hundred & seventy, on the 5th April'22 it was one thousand three hundred and seventy-nine, on the 4th April'22 it was one thousand three hundred & eighty-three and on 3rd April'22 it was one thousand one hundred and seventy-one.

The physicians said that in the starting of summer more patients with diarrhea are admitted in the hospital regularly but the present scenario is horrible. The epidemic burden of diarrhoea is more. In the covid situation it was less because the people used to stay at home and they were habituated to fresh hands repeatedly. But after the reduction of Covid situation and increase of temperature of the environment the problem was started again. Contaminants in the water, bad flavor in water and insects in water are producing diarrhoea, cholera & hepatitis type of diseases. But the definite type of disease agent is not ascertained yet by the competent authority. ICDDR,B hospital is treating the cases, but they could not say the definitive cause of this incidence. After taking history from the patients, it was seen that maximum patients used to drink impure water supplied by WASA.

Habitants of different areas of the country including Dhaka City is suffering from diarrhoeal diseases. According to the emergency operation & control room source of DG Health, it was informed that about 4.5 lakh people were attacked with diarrhea from January'22 to March'22. Among this 55 thousand were treated in ICDDR,B of Mohakhali. One source of ICDDR,B said 23% of these patients coming here is attacked with severe diarrhoea or

cholera. They also told that cholera attacked patients were severely dehydrated, patients' eyeballs were gone to their eyehole, their tongue became dry, body became motionless, elasticity of skin had gone; i.e., if the skin is kept in between two fingers it does not go to original position. This type of patients should be admitted immediately. They are at the risk of death from severe dehydration. The chairman of WASA says that there is no prove of impurity of virus & bacteria of WASA supplied water but in some cases leakage and burst happens which is managed quickly. He says that the reserve tank in the ground and reservoir in the roof of the city habitants remains dirty. For which these two tanks should be cleaned in every three months.

A source of ICDDR,B Hospital says that more than twelve hundred patients of diarrhoea are admitted daily in this hospital from 16th March to 2nd week of April'22. In every year these patients were admitted but the number is very much high in this year. Increase in the number of patients are also in April'22 i.e., about one and half thousand daily. It is seen that one patient is coming in one minute. One is released within 6 to 8 hours after treatment so that the other patient can get the treatment. For what reason this situation is prevailing is asked to a scientist of ICDDR,B who answered that there is problem in water which is the cause of diarrhoea, and the diarrhoea is also a water borne disease. Extreme hot, intake of unhealthy food in the market and scarcity of pure drinking water causes such diarrhoea. Another cause is the unification of sewerage line with water line which has been informed to the WASA.

A Scientist of ICDDR,B Dr. Alamgir said when one is attacked with diarrhoea, then and there he/she should drink orsaline (ORS), side by side he should get 'chira water' and 'dab water'. Juice from outside source or unhealthy food should be avoided. If the patient is not improved, he/she should be admitted to the nearest hospital. Every diarrhoea patient should not be treated in ICDDR,B. Distant hospital should be avoided and nearest hospital should be the place of treatment. 38% of people of our country drink water from impure sources said by Doctors' platform for people's health for which two lakhs of people die from diarrhea yearly. So, for the supply of pure water, bacteria-virus free and unpolluted source should be ensured to them by respective authority for the control of diarrhea in Bangladesh.

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