

The Department of Skill Development: A Productive Health Workforce Replicon

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Skills are fundamental for delivering clinical services at point of care as they are the corner stone of the daily work of all health professionals¹. One of the ways to enhance clinical competence is through Medical Simulation training to improve medical practitioners' competencies, and in return, improve patient safety and reduce health care costs². BCPS is rendering a well-organized skill development course in different disciplines through its Skill Development Department. Post graduate trainees and fellows are trained in a uniform and standardized teaching program to provide the best possible clinical services including safe surgical practice.

BCPS realized the importance of skill development of its fellows like many other renowned institutions of the world in order to provide current and concomitant best possible clinical services. Since 2005 the Skill Development Department of the College initiated different training programs in surgical and medical skills for the postgraduate medical trainees and fellows. Additionally, the department developed training facilities via video conferencing with different educational programs of many international institutions including live operative procedures. Over the years different facilities have been introduced embracing several international courses (Box-1)³.

Box -1

Skill Programs offered by the dept. of Skill Development

- i) Basic Surgical Skills (BSS)
- ii) Basic Life Support (BLS)
- iii) Basic Micro Surgical Skills
- iv) Basic Laparoscopic Skills
- v) Advanced Surgical Skills
- vi) Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- vii) Temporal Bone Dissection (TBD)
- viii) Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) and Neonatal Care (NC)
- ix) Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

International Training Centre (ITC) of BCPS is affiliated with the American Heart Association (AHA), the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine of United Kingdom for conducting the training programs on BLS & ACLS, ATLS and EOC & NC respectively

A. Basic Surgical Skills (BSS)

Basic Surgical Skills course has been introduced on November, 2008. 52 TOT and 55 students' batches on Basic Surgical Skills course were organized in the Department of Skill Development of BCPS since November, 2008 to till now with 846 fellows and 1021 students trained in basic surgical skills.

B. Essential Obstetric Care and Neonatal Care (EOC & NC)

Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity globally remains a priority for the health and development agenda, in the Sustainable Development Goals⁴. The Skill Development Department of the College has organized Essential Obstetric Care and Neonatal Care (EOC & NC) for Midterm and FCPS Part-II candidates, as mandatory pre requisite for Obst. & gynae fellowship exam. The need for structured management of obstetrical emergencies has much importance in reducing maternal and neonatal morbidities and mortalities specially in developing countries⁵. This is a franchised course of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) by BCPS. A total of 1389 trainees who passed FCPS Part-1 were trained in the training programs since March, 2013 to May, 2022.

C. Temporal Bone Dissection (TBD)

A total of 17 courses on Temporal Bone Dissection program have been organized by the department of Skill

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- d. Prof. (Brig Gen Rtd.) Md. Aminul Islam, Director (Administration), BCPS
- e. Mohammad Kamal Hossain, Assistant Director (Administration), BCPS
- f. Sajal Biswas, Lab Assistant, Dept. of Skill Development, BCPS

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Development, BCPS. 170 honorable fellows participated in the programs.

D. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

ATLS is a course of the American College of Surgeons



(ACS) and is jointly organized by BCPS and Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh (SOSB). The ATLS course is primarily targeted at people who do not deal with major trauma on a day-to-day basis, who must evaluate and manage the seriously injured patient during the period immediately after the injury⁶. The Promulgation Provider course of ATLS was introduced in 2019. Five provider courses have been organized by the Dept. Of Skill Development of BCPS till May, 2022. A total of 72 doctors participated in these courses

E. Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS)



Courses on Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) of the American Heart Association (AHA) are being carried out by Dept. Of Skill Development. The principles and resuscitation techniques learned through BLS and ACLS will enable the provider to intervene during emergencies and optimize patient outcomes⁷. So far, 08 BLS and 05 ACLS courses has been organized. A total of 149 fellows participated in BLS course and 62 fellows participated in ACLS course.

F. New Skill Courses in Skill Lab

The present Skills Development Committee in consultation with various Faculties of BCPS is going to introduce Basic Laparoscopic Surgical Skill, Basic Hysteroscopy Skill, Basic Ophthalmic Surgical Skill and Basic Pediatric Life Support courses.

G. Extension of Skill Lab

With immense support from BCPS, Government of Bangladesh and Ophthalmology faculty, the skill department has extended the laboratory at Level-3 Block-B of BCPS. Basic Ophthalmic Surgical Skills course is about to start in this new site of Skill Lab. Work is underway for expansion of faculty development, and manual development for eye specialties.

In addition, the current Skill Development Department is going to expand the administrative division for increasing official activities.

The international courses are running at regular intervals like the franchised course of LSTM on EOC & NC by the department in the premises of the college. Courses on BLS and ACLS of the American Heart Association (AHA) are also being carried out each year. The introduction of ATLS of the American College of Surgeons in collaboration with the Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh is set to becoming a landmark in the training for trauma management in this country. Faculties from abroad attend time to time to maintain the international flavor and standard of the course.

Moreover, the Department foresees the much-needed development of trauma care in Bangladesh and is set to train any desiring doctor through the ATLS program.

Efforts continue to enhance the scope of expansion of skill development keeping in pace with emerging subspecialties and other newer subjects. To initiate a skills course needs a well-structured manual development along with motivated and competent expert faculty to train fellows and students. Those programs are also the core events of the Skill department and going on perpetually.

The speed of introduction of new courses and the continuation of the ongoing courses suffered a significant setback during the covid pandemic. Nevertheless, the situation has turned favorably to carry on the courses along with its expansion since the middle of 2021.

The Skill Department is like the software of BCPS and continuous to enjoy immense supports from the authority, esteemed Faculties and Fellows from home

and abroad. The Skill Department is happy to acknowledge the contributions of its founder and runner actors e.g. the Senior and Junior fellows, Faculties, dedicated Staff and Administrators who have contributed their time and talents for the continuous improvement of this department.

The present committee is highly committed to run all the courses throughout the year focusing on the quality of care of BCPS.

The past and present Chairpersons and Member Secretary's names are sequentially given below :

The past and present Chairpersons and Member Secretary's names are sequentially given in Box - 2:

Box – 2

The past and present Chairpersons and Member Secretaries:

Professor Feroze Quader (Member Secretary, Convening Committee, 2006-2009)

Professor Md. Sanawar Hossain (Honorary Advisor, 2009-2011)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Honorary Co-ordinator, 2009-2011)

Professor Abdul Kader Khan (Honorary Advisor, 2011-2013)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Honorary Co-ordinator, 2011-2013)

Professor T.I.M. Abdullah-Al-Faruq (Chairperson, 2013-2015)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Member Secretary, 2013-2015)

Professor Abdul Kader Khan (Chairman, 2015-2017)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Member Secretary, 2015-2017)

Professor S.A.M. Golam Kibria (Chairman, 2017-2019)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Member Secretary 2017-2019)

Professor Kanak Kanti Barua (Chairman, 2019-2021)

Professor Shafquat Hussain Khundkar (Member Secretary, 2019-2021)

Professor A.H.M. Shamsul Alam (Chairman, 2021-present)

Professor Fatema Ashraf (Member Secretary 2021-present)

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