



## Emerging new trends in infectious diseases. Are super germs a threat?

Bangladesh is a small country with a dense population with nearly 164.7 million people living in a surface area of 56,977 square miles according to unofficial sources. The country has a population density of 1,115.62 people per square kilometer, (2,889.45/square mile), which ranks 10th in the world. According to World Bank sources nearly 35.86 % of the total population live in urban areas where crowded homes, work places, lack of safe drinking water and proper sanitation measures makes it a perfect haven for microbial population to flourish. To add to this, when the Monsoon season arrives, mosquito borne diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya becomes alarming high.

This year, Dengue fever has risen alarmingly with not only the Classical presentation but Dengue Haemorrhagic fever and Dengue shock syndrome have taken a heavy toll on the sufferings of the city dwellers. Even rural populations are getting affected which was unheard of before. Since, *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the transmitting agent so adequate measures should always be in proper place so as to control the mosquito population simply because vaccines are not as yet available.

Like-wise Enteric fever which is endemic in Dhaka city, all of a sudden increases when the rainy seasons arrive. Although *Salmonella* spp. is still sensitive to most of the antibiotics but certain cases have been found where it has become resistant to parenterals such as Ceftriaxone. Since enteric fever is a water-borne illness, providing safe drinking water can eliminate this threat to a large extent.

Over the last decade, Dhaka city has seen growth of ICU's and HDU's in a mushroom fashion. Patients admitted in these ICU's and HDU's are getting infected with certain super bacteria such as *E.coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Pseudomonas*, *Staph. aureus* etc which have practically become resistant to nearly all the drugs. These super bugs have become a part and parcel of the ICU's and HDU's and are invariably the etiological agents of Catheter-associated UTI, Central line associated Blood stream infections etc. Even newly admitted patients are suffering from these Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI's) and are a major concern of morbidity and mortality in ICU's.

Unless appropriate Infection control measures are taken urgently, these super germs may become a threat to our existence.

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