

CO-DEVELOPING A NEUROSCIENCE-INFORMED PSYCHOSOCIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE-AFFECTED WOMEN LIVING IN THE SLUMS IN BANGLADESH

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BANCKGROUND

Bangladesh a climate change affected country where thousands of people are forced to migrate and settle in the urban slums due to climate changes. Here, mental disorders are often attributed to possession, supernatural power, lack of will power, or character fault rather than neuroscientific causes.



OBJECTIVES

To co-design and co-develop a training program for the climate change-affected women living in slums to explain the concepts of mental disorders and psychopathologies using simple neuroscientific explanation to reduce the wide spread mental health related stigma in the community..

METHODS:

We used a community based stepwise mixed method participatory study from August 2025 to June 2026 in Korail slum. The steps are shown in this following image



Household Survey



Co-Designing Workshop

RESULTS

We codeveloped 3-day long training program with the necessary manuals, hand notes, pre and post test questionnaire and audio-visual materials. After the successful implementation of the 3-day long training program, we found the training program is well accepted among the 20 to 65 years old women of the korail slum.



Interactive training session with women participants try to explain neuroscience with cauliflower

We found the training program significantly reduced their mental health related stigma DAYS scale.



CONCLUSION

This program can be a scalable psychosocial program to reduce stigma and promote help seeking climate-vulnerable communities in LMICs.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None to disclose.

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