

USING PHOTOVOICE TO EXPLORE MATERNAL PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD HEALTH ISSUES IN BANGLADESH

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Photovoice is a participatory-action research method that empowers people to use visual evidence of issues that are important in their lives. The specific aim of this project was to explore the perceptions of rural and urban Bangladeshi women of what child health issues are most important to them. Long term goals with this research are to assist in the development of maternal and child health programs that are culturally appropriate. In this way, the programs will be more likely to gain acceptance from the community. The participants consisted of seven women with children under the age of five from two areas in Bangladesh who were provided with, and taught how to use a digital camera with the help of an interpreter. Women were guided by three questions:

1. What do you do to keep your children healthy?
2. What are some health issues that you see in your children?
3. How do you help your children through these issues?

On a follow up visit women were asked to describe and explain two of their pictures. Thematic analysis was used to interpret results which were further explored based on current health policies and practices. The results will be shared with nursing partners in Bangladesh for development of maternal/child health programs.