

# The Prevention of Dengue Disease in Bangladesh Through Public Health Measures and the Role of the Municipal Corporations (1)

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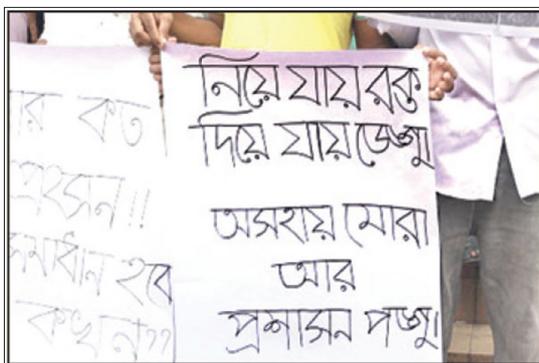
## ABSTRACT

Since its independence 50+ years ago, Bangladesh has achieved measurable progress in its health sector, including increasing life expectancy, reducing under-5 child mortality, and expanding immunisation coverage to near 100%. However, in the present decade (2016-25), the menace of vector-borne diseases, particularly Dengue, spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes, has become prevalent—the number of hospitalisations and deaths is substantial. It is especially prevalent in overcrowded, low-income areas of Dhaka city. Accordingly, this paper argues for improving environmental conditions through municipal measures, including targeting mosquito-breeding sites through chemical spraying and public space sanitation; eliminating standing water; larviciding; insecticide spraying; and community mobilisation, as well as social accountability of the municipal authority for their performance, responsiveness, and use of public resources.

**Keywords:** Ades Mosquitos, Bangladesh, Dengue, Dhaka, Municipal Measures, Social Accountability

We got the idea of writing this paper, seeing the graffiti on the walls in Dhaka city that reads, "They (*Aedes* mosquitoes) take away our blood, leaving behind Dengue disease. We (the residents of Dhaka city) are helpless because the municipal mosquito control is completely inactive. This social expression demands accountability of the Municipal Corporations.

## The Graffiti on the wall



**Table 1: Incidence of Dengue Infection in Bangladesh**

Year	Cases	Deaths	Case/Fatality Ratio
2018	10148	28	0.0026
2019	101354	164	0.0016
2020	Reliable data not available		
2021	28429	105	0.0037
2022	62382	281	0.45
2023	321179	1705	0.53
2024	101214	575	0.55
2025	105562	412	0.39

## Sources

Compiled by the author, tan mainly from the WHO and the Government of Bangladesh (Ministry of Health).

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