



Case Study Series 3:

Addressing Citizen's Concerns: Inspiration from Proactive Civil Servants

Case Title:

Utilizing the Unused: Proficient Use of the Hospital Premises

Shahbaz Ahmed and Hasan Muhammad Baniamin

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Policy and Innovation Lab (PLab) of South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG)
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The case studies for this series are collected from real-life cases of civil servants working in different South Asian countries. This collection initiative is an attempt to document different proactive approaches taken by civil servants and, in the process, encourage other civil servants to become more proactive in their own workplaces. If you know of other such instances of proactive acts, please email us (shahbaz.ahmed.hl@gmail.com), and we will get back to you to collect more information.

Utilizing the Unused: Proficient Use of the Hospital Premises

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Prospects for Gardens in Hospital Grounds

With a population density of 1,115.62 people per square kilometer Bangladesh cannot afford to let its limited land resources go unused. *Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer* Doctor X, who oversees a local community hospital, has been contemplating the underutilized spaces in the vicinity. Doctor X noticed that there were a lot of empty spaces around the community hospitals or clinics that remained unused throughout the entire year. He was thinking of ways to effectively utilize this land.

Integrating Horticulture into Healthcare

One of the fundamental ideas of Doctor X was to grow the fruits and vegetables inside the hospital premises, since almost all the government hospitals in Bangladesh contain unused spaces inside them. These spaces are predominantly seen in the out-of-city hospitals. There are already several gardeners appointed by the government for these hospitals to look after the flower plants-which mostly do not serve any other purpose than beautification of the surroundings. Doctor X believed that these spaces could easily be used for planting vegetables and fruit-bearing trees, and since the gardeners were already getting paid for their work, there was no need for a new recruitment system. Once these fruits and vegetables were harvested, they would be supplied to the hospital canteen for optimal utilization by the patients and hospital staff. After harvesting this seasonal produce,

Problem

There is a huge mass of unused land inside the hospital/clinic premises

Solution

Utilizing the land to grow vegetables and fruits which are sold to hospital's internal consumption needs.

Outcome

Maximizing the potential of unused land through the cultivation of seasonal fruits and vegetables.

it was stored in low/non-perishable containers to preserve it for a day or two. Subsequently, if the demand within the hospital was low, the surplus was distributed to the poor and destitute.

Transforming Hospital Landscapes

The approach by Doctor X advocates for a simple strategy of making the best use of the unused spaces inside the hospital as a means to supply nutritious food to the patients admitted to the hospital. The core objective or motto of this initiative was to grow seasonal fruits and vegetables inside the hospital premises, utilizing the unused spaces all around the hospital and creating a sustainable, on-site source of fresh produce to support the daily dietary needs of patients. With this simple yet effective plan, Doctor X helped reduce the procurement cost, as well as ensure the supply of food items from the premise itself.

Doctor X took this initiative to make the best use of the land. Thus, he not only ensured a supply of nutritious food with the lowest cost possible, but also advertised what nutritious food could be. He took such an initiative in 36 community clinics and the Upazilla Health Complex in his sub-district. Alongside this, he and his team also set up trays full of such nutritious food- as an advertisement of what was growing inside the hospital premises in Antenatal and Postnatal Corner (ANC and PNC)/ Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Centers in sub-health centers. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh endorsed this initiative because of its significance

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About the Authors

Shahbaz Ahmed is a Research Assistant at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG). He completed his BSS and MSS in Public Administration from the University of Dhaka. His interest lies in the fields of politics, democracy, human and organizational behavior, governance and leadership, e-governance and change management.

Email: shahbaz.ahmed.hl@gmail.com

Hasan Muhammad Baniamin is an Assistant Professor at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, North South University, Bangladesh. He obtained Ph.D. from the Department of Administration and Organisation Theory, University of Bergen, Norway. He published a number of articles in different journals such as Public Administration, Public Organisation Review, International Political Science Review, and International Journal of Public Administration. Some of his recent publications are:

Baniamin, H. M., & Jamil, I. (2021). Effects of representative bureaucracy on perceived performance and fairness: Experimental evidence from South Asia. *Public Administration*.

Baniamin, H. M., Jamil, I., & Askvik, S. (2020). Mismatch between lower performance and higher trust in the civil service: Can culture provide an explanation? *International Political Science Review*, 41(2), 192-206.

Email: hasan.baniamin@northsouth.edu