



Venue: Dilkusha Hall,
Hotel Purbani Int'l Ltd., 1,
Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-
1000, Bangladesh

WORKSHOP ON LEAD POLLUTION: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Wednesday
21 JUNE 2023



This workshop brought together researchers and curriculum experts from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), Department of Primary Education (DPE), and teachers from government schools and colleges to exchange ideas and recommend adding a chapter on lead pollution in the primary-level curriculum. The workshop helped the participants learn about lead pollution's impact through interactive group work, presentation, and video screening.

ABOUT

On June 21, 2023, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Pure Earth Bangladesh jointly organized a **workshop titled 'Lead Pollution: Adaptation and Mitigation'** at Dilkusha Hall, Hotel Purbani Int'l Ltd., Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.



OBJECTIVES

- To have a **consensus about adding lead pollution in the national curriculum** to maximize awareness around the issue, as children are the most vulnerable to lead poisoning.
- **Review the content on lead pollution and the Teachers' Handbook** together with the NCTB, teachers, and researchers
- **Raise awareness among the teachers about lead pollution** so that they can make aware the students, parents, and others with the enhanced knowledge



GUESTS & PARTICIPANTS

Chief Guest: Professor Md Farhadul Islam, Chairman, National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB)

Special Guest: Moss Nazma Akther, Secretary, NCTB

Chair: Dr. A K M Reazul Hassan, Member, NCTB

A total of 25 participants from various government educational institutions and organizations based in Dhaka, Comilla, and Narsingdi attended the four-hour-long (10 AM to 2 PM) workshop.





"Lead causes severe issues for children as well as pregnant mothers. It requires massive awareness among teachers, students, and parents. I hope this workshop will bring out the best ideas from my colleagues and we can plan further how to include it into our curriculum." - **Professor Md Farhadul Islam, Chairman, National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB)**

We can include lead pollution in different chapters of different subjects such as Social Science, Science, and Physical Science. As our curriculum follows the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) so this should include the environmental pollution issue. We understand that we can scale this up and need to include this in higher education as well." - **Dr. A K M Reazul Hassan, Member, NCTB**

"There are about 20 to 22 million children and one million teachers in primary schools. Incorporating the adverse impact of lead into the national curriculum can help teachers teach the students and educate the parents on the effects of lead." - **Dr. Mahfuzar Rahman, Country Director, Pure Earth Bangladesh**

GROUP WORK

During the Group work, Pure Earth Bangladesh shared a draft content on lead pollution to receive feedback from the participants, intending to be added as a book chapter in the primary curriculum. Also shared a 'Teachers' Handbook' to discuss and review its content and later include it in teachers' training courses. Their suggestions were: NCTB will articulate the wording of the contents maintaining

similarity with other chapters, mention universal/common lead sources so children from urban, rural, and marginalized contexts can understand and relate to them, include environmental laws in the handbook for teachers. They emphasized that the information in handbooks or book chapters must be authenticated and specified.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants and the guests shared many ideas and recommendations during the workshop; some of them were:

- Prioritizing the specific list of lead sources which are a risk for the children to include in the chapter
- Sharing the lead messages with parents through Parents-Teachers Meetings (PTM), home visits, and Parents Teacher Association (PTA) to maximize the impact
- Building capacity of the teachers by adding the lead issue in different training courses (Diploma program curriculum, Upazila Resource Centre)
- Sharing the information with proper references to ensure authenticity and make them more acceptable
- Raising awareness about the issue through poster presentations, developing videos and disseminating them in government-facilitated apps, leaflet distribution, TV shows, forming environmental clubs, household visits

