

Editorial

Bridging the Gap: A Literature Review on Research Involvement, Professional Development, and Global Connectivity among Medical Doctors in Bangladesh

Kariul Islam[†] 

1. Editor-in-Chief, SSB Global Journal of Medical Science

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Address for Correspondence

Kariul Islam
Editor-in-Chief, SSB Global Journal of
Medical Science
Email: chiefeditor@ssbjournals.org

In the rapidly evolving field of global healthcare, the role of medical research, professional development, and international collaboration is more vital than ever. Yet, in Bangladesh—a country that has made significant progress in healthcare delivery—there remains a profound disconnect between clinical practice and academic inquiry. The recently conducted literature review, "Bridging the Gap: Research Involvement, Professional Development, and Global Connectivity among Medical Doctors in Bangladesh," sheds critical light on this persistent imbalance and offers insights into pathways forward.

The review reveals that while Bangladeshi physicians are committed and highly capable, their participation in formal research activities remains alarmingly low. Systemic barriers such as limited institutional support, a lack of structured mentorship, insufficient research training, and poor access to funding have created an ecosystem where curiosity is rarely nurtured into discovery. Medical students and early-career doctors, in particular, face a dearth of opportunities to engage in meaningful scientific inquiry.

Professional development, although emphasised in rhetoric, is inconsistently practised across institutions. Continuous medical education (CME) is often unstandardized, and opportunities for skill enhancement in areas like biostatistics, medical writing, and evidence-based medicine remain scarce. This stagnation in academic growth not only undermines the potential of individual practitioners but also limits the overall advancement of the healthcare system.

Perhaps most critically, the review underscores the lack of global connectivity. In an era where knowledge transcends borders, Bangladeshi physicians are often isolated from international research networks and collaborations. Barriers such as inadequate digital infrastructure, limited access to peer-reviewed journals, and a lack of visibility in global forums hinder both contribution and recognition on the world stage. This isolation stifles innovation and prevents local challenges from informing global health discourse.

Bridging this gap is not only possible—it is imperative. Institutions must prioritize research literacy and offer structured platforms for inquiry. Medical curricula should integrate research methodology and academic writing as core competencies. Faculty development programs must be revitalized to train mentors who can guide young researchers with purpose and rigour. Moreover, the government and professional bodies must work hand in hand to create enabling environments through grants, awards, and recognition for scholarly work.

Digital technology offers a unique opportunity to overcome historical limitations. Virtual research forums, collaborative platforms, and open-access journals can serve as gateways for Bangladeshi doctors to engage with the global community. Building partnerships with international institutions should no longer be seen as aspirational—it should be strategic and deliberate.

The review serves as a clarion call to reimagine the role of the Bangladeshi physician—not just as a healer, but as a scholar, innovator, and global contributor.

The path forward requires systemic change, collective will, and sustained investment. If we are to address the unique healthcare challenges of our population and contribute meaningfully to global health knowledge, we must empower our doctors not only to practice but to question, to discover, and to lead.