



# DIGNIFYING LIFE **DHAKA 2024**



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**PLC.**

# Partners



## PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Project Title</b>	Dignifying Life Dhaka 2024
<b>Project Period</b>	May 2024
<b>Implemented By</b>	AYAT Education
<b>Supported By</b>	Dhaka Bank PLC.
<b>Partners</b>	Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM) of the Government of Bangladesh, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Simmons University, Kumudini Welfare Trust, National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and Evercare Hospital Bangladesh

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Activities	Date	Location	Duration	Participants
End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Training	May 20-23, 2024	Kumudini Hospital	Four-day residential	70 nurses and faculty members from 20 public and private nursing colleges across Bangladesh
Seminar on Radiation Oncology	May 21, 2024	National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH)	Half-day	110 physicians and medical students from NICRH
Multidisciplinary Tumor Board	May 23, 2024	Evercare Hospital Bangladesh	Half-day	65 hematology and oncology experts from Evercare Hospital Bangladesh and other hospitals
Interventional Radiology Seminar	May 24, 2024	Dhaka Club	Half-day	50 radiology experts and physicians from different hospitals
Roundtable on Nursing Education	May 26, 2024	Crowne Plaza Dhaka Gulshan	Half-day	25 national and international experts including representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, DGNM, BNMC, NIANER, Dhaka Nursing College, Massachusetts General Hospital, Simmons University, University of Nebraska Medical Centre, the World Bank, ADB, CARE Bangladesh, UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children, Swisscontact, ILO, Dhaka Bank PLC., and Evercare Hospital
Nursing Leadership Workshop	May 30, 2024	AYAT College of Nursing and Health Sciences (ACNHS)	Half-day	12 Principals of different public and private nursing colleges

## PROFILE OF RESOURCE PERSONS



**Dr. Bimalangshu R. Dey, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Harvard University  
Director, Bangladesh Program  
Massachusetts General Hospital Global Health



**Anne-Marie Barron, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN**  
Professor Emerita  
College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences  
Simmons University



**Dr. Heather Shlosser, DNP, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC**  
Dean of School of Nursing and College of Natural  
Behavioral and Health Sciences  
Simmons University



**Alphonse Taghian, MD, PhD, FASTRO**  
CC Wang Professor of Radiation Oncology  
Harvard Medical School  
Chief of Breast Radiation Oncology  
Director, Lymphedema Research Program  
Massachusetts General Hospital



**Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, DNP, RN, FACDONA**  
Dean and Professor of College of Nursing  
University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)



**Dr. Andrew Branagan, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Medical Director, Mass General Cancer Center  
Nantucket Cottage Hospital



**Dr. Arul Mahadevan, MD, FRCS**  
Medical Director  
Mass General Cancer Center  
Wentworth Douglass Hospital



**Dr. Jeannine Ritchie, MD**  
Chief of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
Exeter Hospital



**Elizabeth I. Buchbinder, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Medical Oncologist, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



**Shams Iqbal, M.D.**  
Instructor in Radiology  
Massachusetts General Hospital



**Kelsey Flynn, RN, BSN, MBE**  
Oncology Nursing Director  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Faculty, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics



**Anooja Rai, MSc**  
Clinical Molecular Diagnostics Supervisor  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



**Emily Erhardt, RN, MS**  
Program Manager  
Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Global Health



**Nisha Wali, RN, MSN, FNP-BC**  
Hematology/ Oncology Nurse Practitioner  
Massachusetts General Hospital

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The final moments at the end of life's journey reveal our true essence and remind us of our shared humanity. More than any, this time deserves to be treated with dignity and respect as our care for those experiencing reflects our humanity and compassion. In facing the inevitability of death, palliative care stands as a testament to our empathy and kindness, affirming that every life is precious and deserving of respect until the very end. Patient-centered compassionate palliative care aims to provide relief to those facing death due to severe, life-limiting illnesses through the management of physical symptoms and emotional stressors and providing mental and spiritual support. Although it is vital in our healthcare system, Bangladesh is reported as being "among the worst in providing palliative care to its citizens." AYAT Education, a social enterprise, aims to change this reality through its dedication to dignifying life through purpose-driven initiatives that improve the quality of health education and care in Bangladesh.

Among the most serious issues in Bangladesh regarding palliative care is the lack of general awareness and training provided to physicians and nurses. Currently, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) is the only government hospital in the country with a Palliative Care Medicine department; its absence in the rest of the medical colleges and hospitals weighs heavily on our healthcare system as less than 0.01% of patients in need of palliative care actually receive the service (source: BSMMU and NIPORT). Over the past month, AYAT Education has hosted several events in the last six years under the "**Dignifying Life**" banner in collaboration with its partners Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Simmons University, with the generous support of **Dhaka Bank PLC.**, to elevate learning and teaching of palliative care and improve the standard of healthcare in Bangladesh.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### 1. End of Life and Palliative Care Training

One of the key initiatives is the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Training 2024, a four-day residential program organized annually by AYAT Education. This year, in partnership with Kumudini Welfare Trust, the training brought together over 70 nurses and faculty members from 20 public and private nursing colleges across Bangladesh. The training, held in Mirzapur from May 20 to 23, emphasized a holistic approach to patient well-being, with specialized nurses from abroad providing training in pain and symptom management, loss and grief, mental health and self-care, and ethics.

Esteemed speakers, including Harvard University Professor and Bangladesh Program director at MGH Dr. Bimalangshu R. Dey, Simmons University's Dean of the School of Nursing Dr. Heather Shlosser, and University of Nebraska Medical Center's Dean of the College of Nursing Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, shared their experience and insights with the participants. Their presence underscored the global recognition of Bangladesh's unique ability to provide compassionate care.

The training culminated with the presence of Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, Dr. Rokeya Sultana, Hon'ble State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Md. Azizur Rahman, Secretary of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, and Professor Dr. Md. Titu Miah, Director General of the Directorate General of Medical Education. This initiative demonstrates AYAT Education's dedication to enhancing the dignity and quality of care for those in their final stages of life, fostering a community of continuous learning and excellence.



## 2. Seminar on Radiation Oncology

In collaboration with MGH and the National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH), AYAT Education hosted a seminar on Radiation Oncology on May 21, attended by 110 physicians and medical students. Prof. Dr. Nizamul Haque, Director of NICRH, and Prof. Dr. Swapan Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Former Director of NICRH, shared their decades of experience in radiation therapy for palliative care of cancer patients.

Seminar speakers Dr. Alphonse Taghian, CC Wang Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Arul Mahadevan, Cancer Service Line Medical Director for Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, discussed critical topics such as hypo-fractionation, lymphedema, cardiac toxicity in cancer treatment, and multidisciplinary care in lung cancer management. The discussions highlighted the crucial role of radiation therapy and the importance of advocating for patient-centered care.



### 3. Multidisciplinary Tumor Board

AYAT Education's commitment to innovative cancer care and palliative care and rehabilitation of cancer patients was demonstrated through a multidisciplinary tumour board held at Evercare Hospital on May 23, which brought together experts from diverse fields to discuss complex cancer cases with 65 hematology and oncology experts.

Led by Bangladesh Program Director at MGH Professor Dr. Bimalangshu R. Dey and attended by notable figures like Breast Cancer Specialist Dr. Alphonse Taghian, Harvard Medical School Professor and Medical Director of Mass General Cancer Center at Nantucket Cottage Hospital Dr. Andrew Branagan, Chief of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at Exeter Hospital Dr. Jenaine Ritchie, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Medical Oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Dr. Elizabeth I. Buchbinder, Clinical Molecular Diagnostics Supervisor at Brigham and Women's Hospital Anooja Rai, and CEO of Evercare Hospital Bangladesh Dr. Ratnadeep Chaskar, the board explored treatment options for melanomas, lymphoma, and breast cancer. The collective expertise of the board members facilitated more informed and effective patient-centered care decisions, embodying AYAT Education's mission to elevate healthcare standards in Bangladesh and ensure that their programs have a sustainable impact.



#### 4. Seminar on Interventional Radiology (IR)

The Interventional Radiology (IR) seminar was hosted at Dhaka Club on May 24 in partnership with MGH and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Dr. Shams Iqbal, Instructor in Radiology at MGH, led the session participated by 50 physicians, diving into the transformative impact of IR. He emphasized how this innovative field employs image-guided, minimally invasive procedures to maximize patient recovery and minimize risks, particularly in cancer treatment where precision is crucial. Distinguished guests, including Dr. Bimalangshu R. Dey and Dr. Bishwajit Bhowmick, Professor of the Department of Radiology & Imaging at BSMMU, and Prof. Syed Zoherul Alam, President of Bangladesh Society of Vascular & Interventional Radiology (BSVIR), shared valuable insights, paving the way for humane and innovative medical interventions in Bangladesh. Both seminars exemplify AYAT Education's dedication to innovative educational approaches and leading-edge medical advancements.

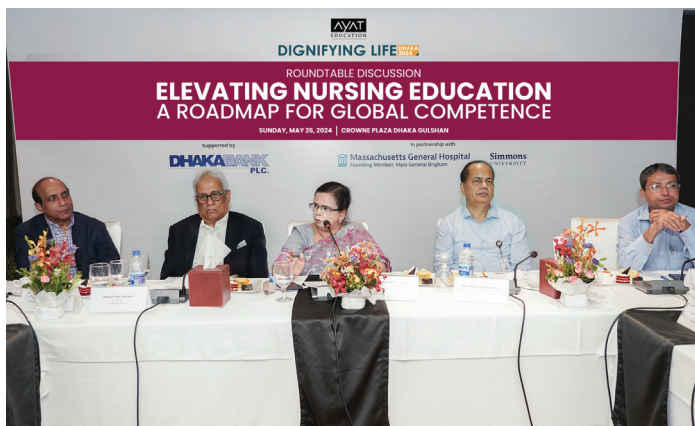


#### 5. Roundtable on Nursing Education

To equip our nurses with the skills and education needed to meet global healthcare demands, AYAT Education organized a roundtable on “Elevating Nursing Education: A Roadmap for Global Competence” on May 26, which brought together experts to address challenges and devise strategies for enhancing nursing education in Bangladesh.

Distinguished guests and representatives from the government, including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery, BNMC, NIANER, Dhaka Nursing College, and international partners from Massachusetts General Hospital, Simmons University, and the University of Nebraska Medical Centre, along with development sector partners such as the World Bank, ADB, CARE Bangladesh, UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children, Swisscontact, and ILO, and private sector partners like Dhaka Bank PLC. and Evercare Hospital Bangladesh attended the roundtable. Maqsurah Noor, NDC, (Additional Secretary), Director General of Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), and Abdul Hai Sarker, Chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC. attended the event as Special Guests.

The discussions highlighted the importance of dignifying the nursing profession and equipping nurses with the skills necessary to achieve global competence. As an outcome of this roundtable, discussants agreed on recommendations to improve nursing education and training, identify key partnerships and collaborations, and propose policy changes to support the growth and dignity of the nursing profession.



## 6. Nursing Leadership and Administration Workshop

Lastly, in collaboration with Simmons University, AYAT Education organized an interactive half-day workshop on May 30 on Nursing Leadership and Administration with 12 Principals of different public and private nursing colleges. Participants learned the basic leadership skills to lead both academic and administrative functions of their respective nursing colleges, respond to healthcare challenges and trends, and manage the quality of education as well as the finance and operations of managing their institutions.



### A FUTURE OF COMPASSIONATE CARE

Through various innovative initiatives and international collaborations, and generous support from Dhaka Bank PLC., AYAT Education is transforming palliative care in Bangladesh. By addressing critical gaps in awareness and training, they are elevating the standards of compassionate care. These efforts ensure that everyone receives the respect and care they deserve in their final moments, fostering a future where compassionate, high-quality care is a fundamental right for all.

## VIDEO DOCUMENTATION OF MAJOR EVENTS

1. End of Life and Palliative Care Training: <https://youtu.be/I9XdinrX-ck>
2. Seminar on Radiation Oncology: <https://youtu.be/6TIREvNhm1Y>
3. Multidisciplinary Tumor Board: [https://youtu.be/0FM1oU\\_Qfel](https://youtu.be/0FM1oU_Qfel)
4. Seminar on Interventional Radiology (IR): <https://youtu.be/dCVMSQ9Qer8>
5. Roundtable on Nursing Education: <https://youtu.be/lrPIJFOz4JA>

## LIST OF SOME MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

**The Daily Star:** Specialised palliative care training for physicians, nurses held

URL: <https://www.thedailystar.net/health/healthcare/news/specialised-palliative-care-training-physicians-nurses-held-3633966>

**Dhaka Tribune:** Expert: Collaborative efforts can elevate nursing education in Bangladesh;

URL: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/347622/expert-collaborative-efforts-can-elevate-nursing>

**UNB:** Collaborative efforts can elevate nursing education in Bangladesh: Speakers;

URL: <https://unb.com.bd/category/Press%20Releases/collaborative-efforts-can-elevate-nursing-education-in-bangladesh-speakers/136348>

**Let's i KMR:** বর্মণ তর্কীয় ংশ্চি ই চি ংচি ক কঁর্ফেরা ংবর্কি রি ংমি : গন্বিচি প্ৰি ক;

URL: <https://www.khaborerkagoj.com/corporate-corner/815583>

**NEWS HOUR:** COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS CAN ELEVATE NURSING EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH;

URL: <https://newshour.media/2024/05/26/collaborative-efforts-can-elevate-nursing-education-in-bangladesh/>

**Daily Sun:** AYAT Education promotes palliative care with specialised training for physicians, nurses;

URL: <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/753087/>

**Bangladesh Post:** Training on Palliative care held;

URL: <https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/training-on-palliative-care-held-139778>

# AYAT Education promotes palliative care with specialised training for physicians, nurses

Daily Sun Report, Dhaka

Publish: Thursday, 13 June, 2024 17:11

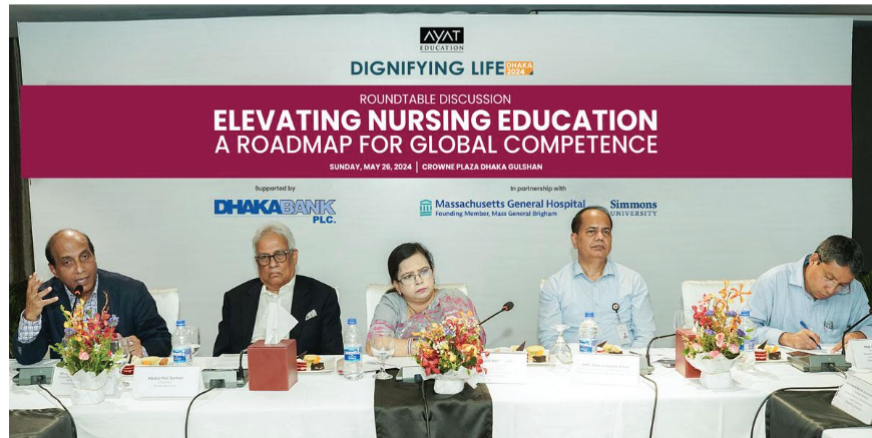


থবরের কাগজ সর্বশেষ জাতীয় রাজনীতি অর্থকড়ি বিশেষ প্রতিবেদন বিশ্বখাম রূপসী বাংলা খেলার ভূবন রঙ কর্মযোগ মুক্তিকর্ক

করপোর্টে কর্নর

## নার্সিং পেশায় দক্ষতা ও পারস্পরিক শ্রদ্ধাবোধ থাকা জরুরি: মহাপরিচালক

করপোর্টে ভেঙ্ক  
প্রকাশ: ২৭ মে ২০২৪, ১১:২২ এএম  
আপডেট: ২৭ মে ২০২৪, ১১:২২ এএম



## Specialised palliative care training for physicians, nurses held



Those infected by Coronavirus could experience flu-like symptoms. Photo: NDTV/istockphoto.com/AdrianHancu

A four-day specialised training workshop was held for physicians and nurses to equip them with essential skills in palliative care.

### UNB

Home > Press Releases >

## Collaborative efforts can elevate nursing education in Bangladesh: Speakers

UNB NEWS DHAKA PUBLISH - MAY 27, 2024, 11:45 PM UNB NEWS





## Expert: Collaborative efforts can elevate nursing education in Bangladesh

- Highlighted prevalent challenges faced by nursing profession
- Discussions also focused on the current state of nursing



The image shows health experts are seen attending a roundtable discussion in Dhaka on Sunday, May 26, 2024. Photo: Courtesy

👤 Press Release

Publish : 27 May 2024, 04:32 PM | Update : 27 May 2024, 04:32 PM

## NEWSHOUR

NEWS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CULTURE SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS

**Breaking News:** ★ PM Sheikh Hasina to hand over 'Ekushey Padak-2024' today ★ WEF Global Risk Report 2024:



CITY

## Training on Palliative care held



By Staff Correspondent

Published : 14 Jun 2024 09:35 PM



A four-day specialised training on Palliative care, a crucial aspect of healthcare, was held recently.

Some 70 nurses and faculty members from 20 public and private nursing colleges participated in the event.

Specialised nurses from abroad provided the training on pain and symptom management, loss and grief, mental health and self-care, and ethics. Palliative care aims to provide relief to those suffering from severe illnesses, manage physical symptoms and emotional stressors, and provide mental and spiritual support.

AYAT Education in partnership with Kumudini Welfare Trust provided the training to physicians and nurses at Mirzapur in Tangail.

Social Welfare minister Dr Dipu Moni and Health and Family Welfare state minister Dr Rokeya Sultana, among others, were present at the event.