

Awareness Against Cervical Cancer: Reached our Voice More Than 200 Underprivileged Women, Naogaon

We lost a woman to cervical cancer every two minutes. How pathetic. Alo-BT seeks to increase awareness of the issue and would like to spread its message throughout every corner of Bangladesh. Women often seek medical attention at an advanced stage, when they have suffered significant financial losses and occasionally are not able to sustain their own lives.

In this perspective, on September 15, 2023, Alo-BT, and RBHC and Rotary Club of Dhaka Dhruva Tara jointly organized a “Health awareness program on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD): Cervical and Breast Cancer” at the Rahima Baniz Healthcare Center (RBHC), Ikarkuri, Boalia, Naogaon (Figure 14). Over 200 people, mostly women of different ages attended the program.

The chief guest in the program was Rtn Roshan Ara Akhtar (Chartered President, Rotary Club of Dhaka Dhruva Tara) and the special guest was former president of OGSB of Dhaka and the architect of Via and Colposcopy Department of the hospital, Rtn Prof. Dr. Latifa Shamsuddin Gynecologist and Obstetrician and Surgeon, Former Professor and Chairman, (Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

On behalf of RC of Dhaka Dhruva Tara Rtn Farzana Hasan Dina, Rtn Aneela Majid, Rtn Sonia Razzaque, Dr. Shahiduzzaman, Rtn Abdur Rahman Rizvi, Abdullah Almas Bin Rahman Tanveer were present including Officers and employees of Alo-BT and RBHC.

The program was inaugurated General Secretary, Alo-BT. She said, every year in Bangladesh 7 thousand women die of cervical cancer and 5 thousand women die of breast cancer. About 21 thousand are affected by these two cancers annually. The special guest Rtn Prof Latifa Shamsuddin emphasized the importance of preventing cancer by discouraging child marriage and promoting mother’s health and family care. Rtn Aneela Majid highlighted that, children aged between 9-15 should receive HPV vaccines, and their families should be made aware of this.

The program's main goal was to raise awareness of prevention among the rural women in the Naogaon district through education. Numerous topics were covered, including whether to get worried, why to get a VIA test even in the absence of symptoms, and vaccinations that can prevent long-term health problems in children aged 9 to 14. This initiative aims to achieve by 2030 both the WHO target strategy and SDG goal 3.



Figure 14: Awareness Against Cervical Cancer, Naogaon.