

Engagement of the Volunteers for Cancer Awareness

Since the establishment, Alo-BT is working for cancer prevention in the rural area to educate the local women about the rising incidence and unrecognized hazards of cervical cancer and prevention. Alo-BT started cervical cancer screening (VIA test) from September 13, 2023 at RBHC (A sister concern of Alo-BT) situated in the village Ikarkuri, Naogaon and approximate 222 rural women screened till now. Among them, patients who are identified as VIA positive have been sent to Naogaon Sadar Hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for treatment with regular follow-up after treatment.

In 2023, Alo-BT and UNV Bangladesh jointly organize a seminar for the engagement and role of Volunteers towards Cancer care Service in Rural Bangladesh. In this perspective, Alo-BT has started training the volunteers (Figure 15). The trained volunteers will-

- Contact local high school authorities to conduct a short session with the targeted age group class to motivate and inspire learning about early cancer screening and vaccination.
- Conduct door-to-door visits to distribute educational materials and engage in one-on-one discussions with community members.
- Collaborate with local healthcare providers to facilitate cervical cancer screenings and follow-up care for those in need.
- Utilize social media platforms to disseminate information about cervical cancer prevention and screening.
- Empower community members to become advocates for their own health by promoting regular screenings and seeking medical attention when needed.

Awareness and screening are the fundamental steps in cancer management that can lower the death rate. Volunteers can play a crucial role in raising awareness about cervical cancer in rural areas, empowering community members to take proactive steps towards prevention and early detection. We discovered obstacles in this task, particularly for the students, who are not consistent in their work because they have classes and exams. As a result, we are also recruiting volunteers from the village's residents, and these tasks require training.



Figure 15: Engagement of the Volunteers for Cancer Awareness at RBHC, Naogaon.