

**Gobeshona Young Researcher Programme (GYRP)**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> batch  
 Proceedings of the Workshop on  
**Research Problem Identification and Proposal Writing**  
 25 February 2017



**Gobeshona steering committee members**



Supported by:



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Workshop venue: Hotel Asia Pacific, House # 2, Road # 2, Block # K, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212

Workshop Date: 25 February 2017

Project initiator: Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD

Workshop facilitator: Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah, Programme Coordinator, IUCN Bangladesh

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## Introduction:

Gobeshona started another yearlong journey with the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of young researchers to inspire them communicating research on climate change in Bangladesh. Nineteen selected participants attended the inaugural ceremony followed by the first workshop on research problem identification and proposal writing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February at Hotel Asia Pacific, Baridhara. The programme was opened by Dr. Saleemul Huq the Director of ICCCAD and the workshop was facilitated by Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah, Programme Coordinator of IUCN Bangladesh.

Gobeshona is a knowledge platform initiated to fill up the knowledge gap in confronting the severe impacts of climate change in Bangladesh. In 2014, Dr. Saleemul Huq started Gobeshona with a steering committee to reflect research into the national policy and the local practices. Immediately he found an urgent need of improving publications by the Bangladeshi researchers who may highlight solutions to local problems. Gobeshona workshop series targeted the young researchers – mentoring and inspiring them to publish research into international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Gobeshona Young Researcher Programme (GYRP) is a series of 4 workshops aiming to improve the quality of research on climate change in Bangladesh. The young researchers are guided through a year to convert their manuscripts into journal articles according to the standard of international peer-reviewed journals. Gobeshona has finished two batches of yearlong young researcher workshop series. This year Gobeshona is planning to conduct the all the four workshops over six months and follow up the researchers on their responses to the journal reviewers' and editors' comments.



*Left: Dr. Saleemul Huq and Ina F Islam were planning the third batch of GYRP workshops with the facilitator Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah. Right: Dr. Saleemul Huq inaugurated the 1<sup>st</sup> GYRP workshop.*

## The Inaugural Ceremony:

Dr. Saleemul Huq inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of GYRP welcoming the young researchers to strive to solve the climate change problems. Bangladesh couldn't yet depict the actual local context in scientific journal articles as the dominating numbers of publications come from researchers living abroad than the resident researchers. But, resident researchers in the first place are responsible to publish evident-based solutions to international peer-reviewed journals because they are supposed to understand issues better than others. These articles would not only strengthen local capacity but also help reforming the policy; and the globe will consider Bangladesh's expertise to adapt with the adversities which Bangladesh has been doing for long.

It is very important that local community of researchers start the culture of publishing into international peer-reviewed journals, which are eligible to be cited by the IPCC in its Assessment Reports. GYRP is such an opportunity for the young researchers of Bangladesh to form that scientific community and proactively get involved in publishing.

## The Workshop:

After the inaugural, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah started facilitating the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop with 3<sup>rd</sup> batch young researchers clarifying the purpose of these yearlong activities is not only improving research methodology, but it's publishing research in academic journals. Then he wanted to know the views of individuals on communicating research.

### Guidance to Publishing

1. Find out at least three peer-reviewed journals related to your topic. The list of references of your manuscript may help you to find suitable journals.
2. It's better to start with journals with lower impact factor according to the strength of your research. The term impact factor refers to the frequency the articles of a journal are cited which is a means to rank a journal.
3. Read the journals' guidelines for the authors to choose the first one to submit your manuscript.
4. Set your workplan with timeline and send your plan to Gobeshona.
5. Prepare your manuscript according to the journal guidelines and workplan.
6. Submit your manuscript to the journal. Never submit a manuscript to more than one journal at the same time.
7. What responses you may expect from a journal?
  - a. Returned
    - i. If the journal is not interested on the thematic area of your research, they will return your manuscript in a short time.
    - ii. Inform Gobeshona that your manuscript has been returned.
    - iii. Check the published articles, select the 2<sup>nd</sup> journal and start from Step 4 again.
  - b. Under Review (It means this time you are in the right journal)
    - i. Double blind review (author and reviewer both are blind or unknown to each other)
    - ii. Single Blind (here the author does not know who the reviewers are)
    - iii. Inform Gobeshona that your paper is under review.
  - c. Reviewer Comments: You will usually get 3 types of comments
    - a) Reject with reasoning.
    - b) Major Revision (reviewers advised to revise methodology, major findings, discussion, or asked for extra analysis or adding a new paragraph).
    - c) Minor (reviewers asked for clarifying a point, giving some references, or changing sentence structure or language).
    - d) Inform Gobeshona what comments you are getting from the journal.
8. Accept any comment
  - a. Address the comments made by the journal politely.
  - b. If your manuscript is reviewed, but not accepted, never submit that manuscript to another journal without attending to reviewer's comments, because you might find the same reviewer or editor dealing with your same manuscript in the new journal.
  - c. Contact Gobeshona to present your research for feedback to ICCCAD weekly seminar
  - d. Update Gobeshona about your plan
9. Accepted:
  - a. Congratulations, you have achieved your goal!
  - b. Inform Gobeshona about your achievement by sending the acceptance letter.
10. Publish and outreach your research
  - a. Once your research is published, add it to Gobeshona portal
  - b. Use social media to disseminate in your circle



Publishing is the most important step to outreach a research and make it into use. Gobeshona has developed the guideline from the experience with the last two batches of young researcher. It is recommended to follow the guidelines and give feedback to improve this guideline.

### Activity 1: Why research?



Participants randomly divided into several groups to response the activities; the first was on reasoning research. They brought mostly three reasons that motivate researcher for doing research, which are (1) to identify a problem and the solution to that problem; (2) to fill the thirst for knowledge and innovation; and, (3) the individuals' desire to become an icon. Dr. Irfanullah then represented an academic finding on the researchers' motivation to conduct research as gold (financial rewards), puzzle (intrinsic satisfaction) and ribbon (career rewards).

More than 50 million research papers have been published so far with 3% annual growth in recent years

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In some disciplines, 85% of the papers have been never cited after publication.

### Activity 2: Research Proposal

Dr. Irfanullah introduced two websites  Terra Viva Grants Directory and  AUTHOR AID as examples that support developing country researchers in publishing their work. He recommended all participants to register and showed the ways to get benefited from these two sites.

These websites consist of examples of research proposal explaining the major components – research title, background, objective, research question, literature review, methodology, expected outcome, timeframe, indicator, justification of the study and reference.



*Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah guided the young researchers to communicate valuable research and brought them to the forefront to exchange ideas.*

### Activity 3: How to response to a call for research proposal?

The workshop participants chosen to start by observing, reviewing literature and, justifying research need on the problem. Reality must be checked while starting a research proposal added Dr. Irfanullah – the monetary return for doing the research, who are the tentative users of the research and how would they benefit from the work. The general key points:

- Read the donor guidelines carefully
- Check out your eligibility based on the required supporting documents (checklist)
- Confirm the effectiveness of the research
- Consider the timeline
- Take experts opinions
- Be careful about the budget

## Activity 4: Debate series

The workshop brought a series of constructive debates to clarify multiple views on doing and publishing research. Participants debated on the prospects and consequences of issues depicted below.

### What comes first, research or paper?

The research not aiming a paper could be puzzled on new problems driving to countless questions in the ever widening field. It is important to articulate the findings at each stage before entering to a new stage to avoid unmanageable circumstances. While a paper centric research always limits the scattered field of knowledge, keeping the researcher on a particular focus with the opportunity to conclude one topic and publish that. It also allows continuous evolution of that topic as new paper with new sets of problems and questions; gradually gives the opportunity of becoming an expert on that field.

### Should research be visionary or driven by resource?

Resources are often allocated based on necessity, trend and gaps of knowledge. It is easier doing research with external resources. On the other hand, the great vision of a researcher with strong passion also attracts resources to conduct a research.

### What journal should we target, local or international?

Local journals open the door of intensive innovation on highly localised contexts and international journals give global exposure and recognition. Both are important as long as they are reviewed by peers, indexed with good agencies and, if possible, have Impact Factors.

### Is quantity more important than the quality of paper?

The opportunity market may evaluate a researcher on the basis of number of publications. Even though quantity highly matters; in the long run that researcher won't be able to go far without emphasizing the quality of research.

Therefore, the young researchers should focus on paper, putting best efforts with the current state of knowledge upgrading the manuscript into a qualified article and keep on responding to the journals to get their first article published.



*The young researchers formed random groups to participate in several activities in the workshop*

## Wrap Up session:

In conclusion Dr. Irfanullah shared the concept of multiple authorship where more than one author make intellectual contributions to conceptualizing, analyzing or articulating the research, thus writing the paper. In any stage of the paper, authors must care about rephrasing others' intellectual properties by immediately citing and adding them to the reference section correctly – therefore avoiding plagiarism.

Finally, the Young Researcher Workshop-1 ended wishing all the participants the best on a fascinating journey of publishing research with Gobeshona.