

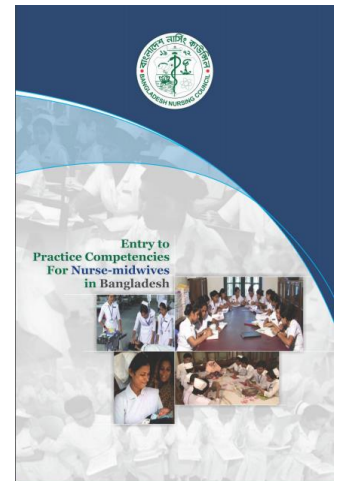
Human Resources for Health Project in Bangladesh Brief of Accreditation program for Nursing Institute

Accreditation is an objective and systematic method to assess the quality of an educational institution. It involves a well-developed set of standards, which specify the quality expectations of the institution, a self-evaluation by the institution against the standards, a site visit by accreditation reviewers who collect data to validate the self-assessment, an accreditation decision-making body who review the reports and determine the status and the terms of accreditation of the institution being assessed. Typically, this includes recommendations for improvement by specified dates. A national accreditation program is widely recognized as a key method for improving the quality of the education of the next generation of a given profession and is recommended by the WHO to enhance health human resources.

Development of the BNMC Accreditation Program

For an accreditation program to be effective, it is important that there be widespread stakeholder input into the development of the accreditation standards and the policies, processes, and procedures. The development of the BNMC Accreditation Program for Nursing Institutes (NI's) has been a multi-step, multi year process with extensive stakeholder involvement. Here are the steps taken.

- In March 2013, HRH assisted BNMC to establish the Accreditation and Competency Working Group (ACWG). The ACWG was chaired by the BNMC Registrar and received technical assistance from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). The first objective for the working group was to develop entry-to-practice competencies for nurse-midwives. This was achieved in March 2014 when the BNMC formally adopted the entry-to-practice competencies. The second objective was to review and update the existing accreditation standards and programme, and the third and final objective was to review and update the policies, processes, and procedures of the accreditation programme. This manual is the fruit of the work carried out.
- A one week training program on accreditation was held in Canada provided by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). The national accrediting body for nursing education in Canada. The BNMC Registrar attended among the other participants of this training program at Canada in 2013.
- The BNMC Accreditation & Competency Working Group (ACWG) chaired by the Registrar of BNMC was created and began working on accreditation in (2014).
- The ACWG with technical assistance of the Accreditation Expert reviewed international literature on accreditation for nursing education; BNMC sponsored a stakeholder forum to obtain input from representatives of government, DGNM, NIs and other stakeholders about quality expectations for NIs in Bangladesh.
- The ACWG developed a draft of standards with technical assistance from the Accreditation Expert, and a second stakeholder forum was held to obtain input on the draft standards. The standards were revised by the ACWG based on this input and a final set adopted (2014)
- The ACWG developed the policies, processes, and procedures of the program with the technical assistance of the Accreditation Expert. A third stakeholder forum was held to obtain input on the program and modifications were made based on this (2015).



- A pilot of the accreditation program with 2 NIs was conducted and a stakeholder forum held to evaluate the accreditation program based on the evaluation. The ACWG modified the program based on this input (2016).
- A forum was held with NIs to review the clarity and appropriateness of forms and templates that would need to be filled out during an accreditation review and further modifications made as a result.
- A manual outlining the policies, processes, procedures, guidelines, and tools that had been adopted was finalized and adopted by the ACWG.
- The final draft of Accreditation program was submitted to BNMC on December 6, 2016 for approval
- Considering the division and restructuring of MOHFW and approval of new BNMC Act, the final draft of accreditation guideline reviewed again in 2018, resubmitted by BNMC Registrar to MOHFW for approval on 05 April 2018.
- UNFPA was working separately to develop an Accreditation Tool for midwifery education. In late 2018, in consultation with HRH Project, WHO, GAC, it was agreed that UNFPA will use the Accreditation program for nursing Institutes (developed by HRH Project) as a foundational document for midwifery and incorporate midwifery.
- MOHFW suggested HRH project and UNFPA to work together with BNMC to make a single accreditation program for nursing and midwifery education (2019). In consultation with MOHFW, BNMC, the accreditation program was revised and four documents were finalized (i. Accreditation Program for Nursing & Midwifery Educational Institutions; ii. Accreditation Guideline for Nursing and Midwifery Educational Institutions iii) Self-Assessment tool & Review Team Report (Nursing) Institutions iv) Self-Assessment tool & Review Team Report (Midwifery)
- Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MOHFW organized a stakeholder workshop on 27 March 2019 with the participation of MOHFW, DGHS, DGNM, MOHFW, BMDC, CME, GAC, UFFPA, WHO, HRH Project. The Accreditation document was thoroughly reviewed, discussed and was conditionally approved by Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MOHFW.
- HRH Project worked with UNFPA and incorporated all the recommendations from MOHFW and submitted the revised document to MOHFW on 28 April 2019 for final official approval.

