

# ECOH



## **Ekhlaspur Center of Health**

Village: Ekhlaspur, Thana: Matlab  
District: Chandpur 3641  
Bangladesh  
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**Background:** Ekhlaspur is a village located in Matlab *thana* of Chandpur district with a population of about 8000. Among many health problems in Ekhlaspur, maternal and child health problems are important. Child births occur without assistance of a trained person. Many mothers die due to birth related problems, and many children die before their first birthday because of lack of proper health care facility.

Dr. M. Mostafa Zaman of Ekhlaspur (Bangladesh) and Mr. Misao Yano of Misato (Japan) initiated the Ekhlaspur Center of Health (ECOH) to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality in Ekhlaspur. Subsequently many residents of Misato joined them and formed a voluntary group, 'ECOH Supporting Association' (ECSA). A piece of land was donated by the descendants of Dr. Zaman's grand-parents, in which a 1120 sqft one storied building was built in 1999 with the assistance of ECSA.

**Activities:**

1. Health workers
  - Attend births at house-holds.
  - Provide antenatal and postnatal care.
  - Monitor growth and survival of infants.
  - Support immunization and family planning programs of the government.
  - Educate people about safe drinking water, safe disposal of human excreta including promotion of sanitary latrines, acute respiratory infection, diarrheal disease, intestinal worms, first aid and nutrition.
  - Register birth and death.
2. Training of village doctors on common ailments of children, and traditional birth attendants.
3. Outpatient services are provided every Friday, which we intend to provide everyday if fund is available. Life-saving drugs are supplied free of cost. Facility for simple pathological tests is available.
4. Research to identify local health problems and to find out appropriate means to solve them.

**Management:** ECOH is run by an Executive Committee elected by ECOH members from Ekhlaspur.

**Sustainability:** Patients pay a nominal charge for outpatient services, and ECOH members pay nominal membership fees. Because this fund is insufficient to meet the recurring expenditure, ECOH needs further financial support.

*Courtesy: Dr. Nobuo Yoshiike, Project Nutriheart*