Mass media exposure and childhood diarrhea: 
a secondary analysis of the 2011 
Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey

Zakia Alam¹, Michiyo Higuchi², Mohammad Abul Bashar Sarker,³ and Nobuyuki Hamajima⁴

¹Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh
²Department of Global and Community Health, Nagoya City University School of Nursing, Nagoya, Japan
³Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh
⁴Department of Healthcare Administration, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan

ABSTRACT

In order to reduce child mortality, recommendations for diarrhea management practices have been widely promoted by various methods, including mass media. This study examined whether mother’s exposure to mass media was associated with child’s diarrhea, and with the diarrhea management practiced by their mothers. Data on 7,068 women, whose youngest child was under five years old, were extracted from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, 2011, together with information on the child. The outcome variables were an episode of diarrhea in the two weeks prior to the survey and diarrhea management practices; exposure to mass media was used as the major explanatory variable. They were descriptively summarized, and logistic regression analyses were performed. Television was found to be the most common form of media. Among 346 children who had experienced an episode of diarrhea in the previous 2 weeks, less than 42.5% were given zinc and only 26.3% of the mothers provided sufficient fluids. No significant associations between mother’s mass media exposure and child’s diarrhea were observed. Women who read newspapers/magazines were more likely to provide sufficient fluids and food, and those exposed to the radio were more likely to provide zinc supplementation. Since mother’s exposure to newspaper/magazines and radio showed associations with some recommended practices for the treatment of childhood diarrhea, mass media clearly has the potential to improve diarrhea management practices. More effective use of mass media is anticipated; in particular, promotion of zinc supplementation and increasing fluid intake during diarrhea, neither of which were currently well practiced.

Keywords: mass media, diarrhea, oral rehydration therapy, zinc, child, Bangladesh, Demographic and Health Survey

INTRODUCTION

Globally, mortality rates for children under the age of five have fallen from 93 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 41 in 2016.¹ Despite the overall decline in mortality over the last two decades, diarrheal disease still kills around 525,000 children every year and is the second
leading cause of death in children under five years old.\textsuperscript{2} In Bangladesh, the under-five-year mortality rate has drastically declined from 144 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 34 in 2016.\textsuperscript{3} The under 5-year mortality rate due to diarrhea has also decreased; however, it was 2.3 per 1000 live births in 2016. This figure is lower than India and Pakistan, but higher than other South Asian countries and majority of Southeast Asian countries.\textsuperscript{4}

The immediate cause of death after diarrhea is dehydration. Dehydration can be prevented through increased intake of fluids and continued feeding, while rehydration therapy using oral rehydration salts (ORS) has been demonstrated to reduce diarrheal mortality by up to 93\%\textsuperscript{5}. Most diarrhea cases are treatable at home by administration of ORS. Recommended homemade solutions (RHS), such as sugar-salt and water, or cereal-based drinks can also be used. More recently, zinc supplementation has been included in the treatment recommendations, as it reduces the duration and severity of the diarrheal episode, stool volume, and the need for advanced medical care.\textsuperscript{6}

It has been suggested that the provision of information through electronic mass media is effective in increasing awareness of the value of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and that it can also encourage people to administer zinc to their children to treat diarrhea.\textsuperscript{7-10} Mass media has been used to disseminate several public messages regarding various social and medical issues.\textsuperscript{11-14} and studies have been conducted to determine whether there is an association between mass media exposure and people’s knowledge, practice and health outcomes.\textsuperscript{15-17} In Bangladesh, mass media has been utilized for health promotion, too. For example, since the 1990s, the Bangladeshi government, in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Bangladesh, has used a cartoon called ‘Meena’ to deliver messages related to health.\textsuperscript{18} It is believed that a large proportion of the population has been educated regarding essential health information in this way.\textsuperscript{19-21}

However, to date, no study has investigated whether mass media exposure is related to diarrhea management practices for children under five years old in Bangladesh. Therefore, in this study, we aimed to describe mother’s exposure to mass media and diarrhea management practices, using a nationally representative Bangladeshi dataset. Associations between mothers’ exposure to mass media and a diarrheal episode among children under 5 years old and the diarrhea management practiced by the mothers of these children were then examined.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

\textit{Dataset and extracted samples}

Nationally representative data from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2011 were used for this study. The original dataset was obtained from ICF International at the authors’ request. The BDHS 2011 was conducted by the National Institute of Population Research and Training, part of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh from July to December 2011. The complete BDHS study sample consists of 17,842 ever-married women aged 12–49 years, and 3,997 men aged 15–54 years, from 17,141 households. Detailed information about the study design and data collection of BDHS 2011, including ethical considerations, can be found elsewhere.\textsuperscript{22}

For this study, data on women aged 15–49 whose youngest child was under five years and lived with her were extracted along with this child’s data. A total of 7,068 women and their youngest child were included in this study.
Independent variables

Exposure to mass media: reading newspapers and/or magazines, listening to the radio, and watching television were used as independent variables in this study. The frequency of each activity was coded into three categories: (1) not at all, (2) less than once a week, and (3) at least once a week. Based on these three categories, subjects were defined as ‘not exposed’ for those who answered ‘not at all’ or ‘exposed’ otherwise.

Other demographic and socio-economic factors of mother and household characteristics were also considered as possible confounding variables. These included place of residence, mother’s age, education, working status, religion and household’s wealth index. The wealth index is a composite measure of a household’s cumulative living standard, which is calculated based on the household’s ownership of selected assets, indicating its relative economic level.22

Dependent variables

The dependent variables were the occurrence of a diarrheal episode and diarrhea-related practices. In BDHS, mothers were asked whether their child had experienced diarrhea during the 2-week period prior to the survey and this was used as the variable for a diarrheal episode. The variables regarding diarrhea management practices were as follows: (1) whether the child received ORS and/or RHS; (2) whether the child received zinc syrup or tablets; (3) the amount of fluid the child was given, including breast milk (nothing / much less / somewhat less / about the same / more than usual); (4) the amount of food a child was given (never gave / stopped / much less / somewhat less / about the same / more than usual). According to guidelines issued by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), increased fluid and continued feeding during the diarrheal episode are recommended.6 Therefore, we defined a ‘more than usual’ amount of fluid during a diarrheal episode as a sufficient amount and all other options were considered insufficient. Regarding food, the options ‘about the same’ or ‘more than usual’ were defined as sufficient.

Statistical analysis

First, characteristics of the mothers and the households were described by the occurrence of childhood diarrhea in the 2-week period prior to the survey. Chi-squared tests were used to examine differences in characteristics between two groups (with or without a diarrheal episode in the 2-week period prior to the survey). Second, exposure to mass media and diarrhea management practices were compared by place of residence (urban or rural), and chi-squared tests were performed to examine associations. Third, logistic regression analyses were performed to test the associations between exposure to mass media and a diarrheal episode, as well as each of the four diarrhea management practices. Crude and adjusted odds ratios (ORs) after adjusting for demographic and socio-economic factors (place of residence, mother’s age, education, working status, religion and household’s wealth index) were estimated, as well as 95% confident intervals (CIs). A two-tailed P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Stata ® version 12 and SPSS® version 20 were used for the analyses.

RESULTS

Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of mothers and households are shown in Table 1. None of the examined characteristics were statistically associated with child’s diarrheal episode. Table 2 shows that the majority of women, in both urban and rural areas, did not read newspapers and/or magazines at all (71.2% and 87.6%, respectively). The main form of media
that they were exposed to was television. All types of media were statistically associated with place of residence. The proportion of exposure to newspapers and/or magazines and television was higher in urban areas than in rural areas. The proportion of exposure to radio was relatively low compared with other media and was higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Of the total 7,068 respondents, 346 women (4.9%) had a child who had experienced an episode of diarrhea in the two weeks prior to the survey. Approximately 80% of these women had given their child ORS and/or RHS but less than half of children had been given zinc syrup or tablets in either the urban or the rural areas. Only 26.3% of respondents reported that they

| Characteristics                  | Total | Diarrheal episode | P-value |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------------------|---------|
| Place of residence               |       |                   |         |
| Urban                            | 2,231 | 95 (27.5)         | 2,135 (31.8) | 0.09    |
| Rural                            | 4,837 | 251 (72.5)        | 4,585 (68.2) |
| Mother’s age                     |       |                   |         |
| ≤19 years                        | 986   | 50 (14.5)         | 936 (13.9)  |
| 20-29 years                      | 4,380 | 219 (63.3)        | 4,160 (61.9) |
| ≥30 years                        | 1,702 | 77 (22.3)         | 1,624 (24.2) |
| Mother’s education               |       |                   |         |
| No education                     | 1,268 | 68 (19.7)         | 1,199 (17.9) |
| Incomplete primary              | 1,218 | 67 (19.4)         | 1,151 (17.1) |
| Primary                          | 3,558 | 168 (48.6)        | 3,389 (50.4) |
| Secondary or higher             | 1,024 | 43 (12.4)         | 981 (14.6)  |
| Mother’s working status          |       |                   |         |
| Non-working                      | 6,359 | 309 (89.3)        | 6,049 (90.0) |
| Working                          | 709   | 37 (10.7)         | 671 (10.0)  |
| Religion                         |       |                   |         |
| Islam                            | 6,364 | 317 (91.6)        | 6045 (90.0) |
| Other                            | 704   | 29 (8.4)          | 675 (10.0)  |
| Source of drinking water         |       |                   |         |
| Non-improved                     | 809   | 46 (13.3)         | 761 (11.3)  |
| Improved                         | 6,259 | 300 (86.7)        | 5,959 (88.7) |
| Type of toilet facility          |       |                   |         |
| Non-improved                     | 3,663 | 192 (55.5)        | 3,469 (51.6) |
| Improved                         | 3,045 | 154 (44.5)        | 3,251 (48.4) |
| Wealth index                     |       |                   |         |
| Poorest                          | 1,470 | 76 (22.0)         | 1394 (20.7) |
| Poorer                           | 1,346 | 67 (19.4)         | 1,279 (19.0) |
| Middle                           | 1,358 | 71 (20.5)         | 1,286 (19.1) |
| Richer                           | 1,415 | 71 (20.5)         | 1,343 (20.0) |
| Richest                          | 1,479 | 61 (17.6)         | 1,418 (21.1) |
Mass media and diarrhea in Bangladesh

Table 2  Mass media exposure by place of residence

| Mass media exposure                          | Total | Place of residence | P-value |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
|                                              |       | Urban              | Rural   |         |
|                                              |       | n %                | n %     |         |
| Newspaper or magazine (n=7,061)              |       |                    |         |         |
| Not exposed                                  | 5,820 | 82.4               | 1,586   | 4,234   | 87.6    | <0.01   |
| Exposed                                      | 1,241 | 17.6               | 641     | 600     | 12.4    |         |
| Radio (n=7,065)                              |       |                    |         |         |
| Not exposed                                  | 6,412 | 90.8               | 2,077   | 4,335   | 89.6    | <0.01   |
| Exposed                                      | 653   | 9.2                | 152     | 501     | 10.4    |         |
| Television (n=7,067)                         |       |                    |         |         |
| Not exposed                                  | 2,750 | 38.9               | 388     | 2,362   | 48.8    | <0.01   |
| Exposed                                      | 4,317 | 61.1               | 1,843   | 2,474   | 51.2    |         |

Table 3  Management practices during diarrhea by place of residence

| Management practice                          | Total | Place of residence | P-value |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|
|                                              |       | Urban              | Rural   |         |
|                                              |       | n %                | n %     |         |
| Oral rehydration salt and/or recommended homemade solution (n=339) |       |                    |         |         |
| Yes                                          | 270   | 79.7               | 74      | 196     | 79.4    | 0.83    |
| No                                           | 69    | 20.4               | 18      | 51      | 20.7    |         |
| Zinc syrup and/or zinc tablets (n=341)       |       |                    |         |         |
| Yes                                          | 145   | 42.5               | 42      | 103     | 41.5    | 0.55    |
| No                                           | 196   | 57.5               | 51      | 145     | 58.5    |         |
| Amount offered to drink (n=346)              |       |                    |         |         |
| Sufficient                                   | 91    | 26.3               | 23      | 68      | 27.1    | 0.59    |
| Insufficient                                 | 255   | 73.7               | 72      | 183     | 72.9    |         |
| Amount offered to eat (n=346)                |       |                    |         |         |
| Sufficient                                   | 228   | 65.9               | 71      | 157     | 62.6    | 0.03    |
| Insufficient                                 | 118   | 34.1               | 24      | 94      | 37.5    |         |

provided sufficient fluids, whereas 65.9% provided sufficient food. Giving sufficient food was statistically associated with place of residence (Table 3).

After adjusting for demographic and socio-economic factors, no significant association was observed between any type of mass media exposure and a childhood diarrheal episode (Table 4). Exposure to newspapers and/or magazines was significantly associated with the provision of
Zakia Alam et al

sufficient fluids and food (adjusted OR 2.11, 95% CI 1.14–3.91 and adjusted OR 3.17, 95% CI 1.51–6.65, respectively) and mothers who listened to the radio were more likely to provide zinc syrup or tablets (adjusted OR 2.50, 95% CI 1.19–5.23) during a diarrheal episode than women who did not (Table 5).

**DISCUSSION**

Regarding recommended diarrhea management, giving ORS and/or RHS and continuing food were well practiced by mothers, whereas providing zinc syrup or tablets and increasing fluid intake were not. Using nationally-representative data in Bangladesh, we found no significant associations between mother’s exposure to media and occurrence of child’s diarrheal episode. However, significant associations were found between exposure to newspapers and/or magazines and the provision of sufficient fluids and food, as well as between exposure to radio and treatment with zinc after adjusting for confounding factors. Television was not associated with diarrhea management practice although it was the most commonly accessed mass media, even in rural areas.

In this study, approximately 80% of women used ORS and/or RHS. This high level of use in Bangladesh could be due to the launch date of ORS on the market. In 1969, the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh first used ORS solutions for the treatment of diarrhea. Since then, ORS has become widespread as a result of recommendations by various United Nations agencies and social and commercial marketing strategies. Electronic mass media is one of the major sources of information about ORS; this was the case even in the 1990s, for example in India and in Egypt, with television and radio identified as the main sources of

### Table 4 Logistic regression estimates for odds of diarrheal episodes according to mass media exposure

| Mass media exposure            | Crude | Adjusted |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|
|                               | OR (95% CI) | P-value | OR (95% CI) | P-value |
| Newspaper or magazine (n=7,061) |       |          |         |          |
| Not exposed                   | 1     | 1        | 1       | 1        |
| Exposed                       | 1.07  | 0.63     | 1.14    | 0.38     |
|                               | (0.81–1.42) |          | (0.85–1.51) |          |
| Radio (n=7,065)                |       |          |         |          |
| Not exposed                   | 1     | 1        | 1       | 1        |
| Exposed                       | 1.15  | 0.45     | 1.12    | 0.55     |
|                               | (0.81–1.64) |          | (0.78–1.59) |          |
| Television (n=7,067)          |       |          |         |          |
| Not exposed                   | 1     | 1        | 1       | 1        |
| Exposed                       | 0.93  | 0.55     | 0.98    | 0.88     |
|                               | (0.75–1.16) |          | (0.78–1.24) |          |

1Adjusted for place of residence, mother’s age, education, working status, religion and household’s wealth index
Reference was the ‘not exposed to media’ group (for all three media and combined media).
Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio
Table 5  Logistic regression estimates for odds of practices of diarrhea management according to mass media exposure

| Mass media exposure | ORS and/or RHS (n=339) | Zinc syrup and/or tablet (n=341) | Amount of drink (n=346) | Amount of food (n=346) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                     | aOR\(^1\) (95% CI)     | aOR\(^1\) (95% CI)              | aOR\(^1\) (95% CI)    | aOR\(^1\) (95% CI)    |
|                     | P-value                 | P-value                          | P-value                | P-value                |
| Newspaper or magazine |                         |                                  |                        |                        |
| Not exposed         | 1                       | 1                                | 1                      | 1                      |
| Exposed             | 2.09 (0.92–4.72)        | 1.46 (0.82–2.60)                | 2.11 (1.14–3.91)       | 3.17 (1.51–6.65)       | <0.01 |
| Radio               |                         |                                  |                        |                        |
| Not exposed         | 1                       | 1                                | 1                      | 1                      |
| Exposed             | 1.69 (0.61–4.67)        | 2.50 (1.19–5.23)                | 1.03 (0.46–2.29)       | 1.27 (0.59–2.75)       | 0.54 |
| Television          |                         |                                  |                        |                        |
| Not exposed         | 1                       | 1                                | 1                      | 1                      |
| Exposed             | 1.04 (0.58–1.88)        | 1.34 (0.83–2.17)                | 1.67 (0.97–2.88)       | 1.27 (0.78–2.07)       | 0.33 |

\(^1\)Adjusted for place of residence, mother's age, education, working status, religion and household’s wealth index
Reference was the ‘not exposed to media’ group (for all three media)
Abbreviations: aOR, adjusted odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; ORS, oral rehydration salt; RHS, recommended home solution
A previous meta-analysis of ORS social marketing and mass media strategies indicated that mothers who were exposed to information in the media were twice as likely to use ORS than mothers who were not.\textsuperscript{7} In Bangladesh, awareness and availability of ORS/RHS might have resulted in a high level of ORS/RHS use and no association between mass media exposure and ORS/RHS use.

In addition to ORS treatment, since 2004 zinc supplementation has been recommended by WHO and UNICEF to reduce diarrheal deaths. The effectiveness of zinc treatment was first documented in a community-based trial in Bangladesh in 1998. This knowledge is newer than use of ORS/RHS. Awareness and practice of zinc supplementation during a childhood diarrheal episode vary among countries. In Kenya, more than 80\% of women reportedly use zinc to treat diarrhea\textsuperscript{25} and in Benin, the corresponding number is over 50\%.\textsuperscript{26} In Indonesia, almost three-quarters of caregivers who had heard about zinc for the treatment of diarrhea, had heard about it through mass media (television, radio, and newspapers).\textsuperscript{27} Findings from Nepal in 2008 showed that more than 95\% of respondents had heard messages regarding zinc treatment for diarrhea via the radio or television, and respondents who were exposed to information on correct use of zinc were five times more likely to use it correctly than those not exposed to this information.\textsuperscript{8} A Nepalese project showed a positive association between exposure to information and zinc-related knowledge.\textsuperscript{28} Although the benefits of zinc supplementation in the management of diarrhea have been established, it is suggested these benefits are still not well appreciated by physicians and healthcare workers.\textsuperscript{29} Although zinc was first introduced in Bangladesh for the treatment of diarrhea, this current study showed that less than half of women in Bangladesh used zinc to treat diarrhea, regardless of whether they lived in urban or rural areas.

In the present study, exposure to radio was shown to be significantly associated with the use of zinc. In Bangladesh, both television and radio run advertisements regarding zinc syrup or tablets, and a case study suggested television and radio were the quickest media channels in terms of disseminating information on the benefits of zinc nationwide.\textsuperscript{30} The present study could not identify why only radio, and not television exposure, showed a significant association with zinc use. Although the prevalence of exposure to radio was relatively low in this study, our results suggest that it can still be utilized for health promotion. Our study also showed that women who were exposed to newspapers and/or magazines were more likely to provide sufficient fluids and food. The results imply that adjusting a child’s food and fluid intake may require higher health literacy. Findings suggested an important role for print and electronic forms of mass media in promoting diarrhea management practices. However, we did not find a significant association between mother’s exposure to television, which was the most popular mass media channel, and diarrhea management practice. Further research is needed to determine why, and exactly how, reading newspapers and/or magazines and listening to the radio are associated with diarrhea management practices.

A major limitation of our study was that only data for children who suffered from diarrhea in the 2-week period prior to the survey were included in our analyses of the associations between exposure to media and diarrhea management practices, which greatly reduced the sample size. As diarrhea is common among children, the sample size could have been increased if the survey asked about mother’s practices if the child had ever had a diarrheal episode.

In conclusion, nationally-representative data suggested mother’s exposure to mass media was not associated with child’s diarrheal episode. Exposure to newspapers and/or magazines was associated with the provision of sufficient fluids and food, and mothers who listened to the radio were more likely to provide zinc syrup or tablets. It is considered that mass media have the potential to improve diarrhea management practices. More effective use of mass media is anticipated, in particular, to promote zinc supplementation and increasing fluid intake during
diarrhea, neither of which are currently well practiced.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to express our sincere gratitude to Measure DHS (Calverton, Maryland, USA) for providing the 2011 BDHS data. We are grateful to Professor Dr. Mahmudur Rahman and Dr. Farhana Haque for their involvement in the preliminary design of this paper. We would like to thank Dr. Md Abdul Alim for his technical assistance. Our special thanks to all the staff in the department of healthcare administration, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, for their kind cooperation. This study was based on ZA’s master thesis for the Young Leaders’ Program (Healthcare Administration Course) of Nagoya University, which was supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. WHO. Under-five mortality. Global Health Observatory (GHO) data. http://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/mortality_under_five_text/en/. Accessed March 9, 2018.
2. WHO. Diarrhoeal disease. WHO. http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs330/en/. Published May 2, 2017. Accessed March 9, 2018.
3. The World Bank. DataBank: Health Nutrition and Population Statistics. The World Bank http://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=health-nutrition-and-population-statistics. Accessed March 9, 2018.
4. WHO. Rate of deaths by cause: Diarrhoeal diseases. Global Health Observatory data repository. http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.ghe2002015-CH3?lang=en. Accessed March 9, 2018.
5. Munos MK, Walker CL, Black RE. The effect of oral rehydration solution and recommended home fluids on diarrhoea mortality. Int J Epidemiol. 2010;39 Suppl 1:i75–87.
6. UNICEF/WHO. Diarrhoea: why children are still dying and what can be done. Geneva: UNICEF/WHO:2009.
7. Lenters LM, Das JK, Bhutta ZA. Systematic review of strategies to increase use of oral rehydration solution at the household level. BMC Public Health. 2013;13 Suppl 3:S28.
8. Wang W, MacDonald VM, Paudel M, Banke KK. National scale-up of zinc promotion in Nepal. Journal of Health Population and Nutrition. 2011;29:207–217.
9. Rao KV, Mishra VK, Retherford RD. Mass media can help improve treatment of childhood diarrhoea. National Family Health Survey bulletin. 1998;(11):1–4.
10. Miller P, Hirschhorn N. The effect of a national control of diarrheal diseases program on mortality: The case of Egypt. Social Science and Medicine. 1995;40(10):S1–S30.
11. Manoff RK. Getting your message out with social marketing. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. 1997;57(3):260–262.
12. Valente TW, Paredes P, Poppe PR. Matching the message to the process: The relative ordering of knowledge, attitudes, and practices in behavior change research. Human Communication Research. 1998;24(3):366–385.
13. Matsudo V, Matsudo S, Andrade D, et al. Promotion of physical activity in a developing country: The Agita São Paulo experience. Public Health Nutrition. 2002;5(1A):253–261.
14. Baker EJ, Sanei LC, Franklin N. Early initiation of and exclusive breastfeeding in large-scale community-based programmes in Bolivia and Madagascar. Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition. 2006;24(4):530–539.
15. Naugle DA, Hornik RC. Systematic review of the effectiveness of mass media interventions for child survival in low-and middle-income countries. Journal of Health Communication. 2014;19:190–215.
16. Bertrand JT, O’Reilly K, Denison J, Anhang R, Sweat M. Systematic review of the effectiveness of mass
communication programs to change HIV/AIDS-related behaviors in developing countries. *Health Education Research*. 2006;21(4):567–597.

17 Speizer IS, Magnani RJ, Colvin CE. The effectiveness of adolescent reproductive health interventions in developing countries: A review of the evidence. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2003;33(5):324–348.

18 Aghi M, Carnegie R. Formative research in the Meena Communication Initiative. *Promotion & education*. 1996;3(2):24–27, 46.

19 Fazle Rabbi AM. Mass media exposure and its impact on fertility: Current scenario of Bangladesh. *Journal of Scientific Research*. 2012;4(2).

20 Islam MM, Hasan AH. Mass media exposure and its impact on family planning in Bangladesh. *Journal of biosocial science*. 2000;32(4):513–526.

21 Asaduzzaman M, Higuchi M, Sarker MAB, Hamajima N. Awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS among married women in rural Bangladesh and exposure to media: A secondary data analysis of the 2011 Bangladesh demographic and health survey. *Nagoya Journal of Medical Science*. 2016;78(1):109–118.

22 National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Mitra and Associates, ICF International. *Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2011*. Dhaka and Maryland: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International; 2013.

23 Mosites E, Hacklemen R, Weum KLM, Pintye J, Manhart LE, Hawes SE. *Bangladesh ORS case study*. Seattle: University of Washington 2012.

24 Buch NA, Hassan M, Bhat IA. Parental awareness and practices in acute diarrhea. *Indian pediatrics*. 1995;32(1):76–79.

25 Simpson E, Zwisler G, Moodley M. Survey of caregivers in Kenya to assess perceptions of zinc as a treatment for diarrhea in young children and adherence to recommended treatment behaviors. *Journal of global health*. 2013;3(1):010405.

26 The Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) project. *Benin caregivers increase use of zinc and ors for the treatment of childhood diarrhea*. Bethesda and Washington DC: Abt Associates Inc. and United States Agency for International Development; 2013.

27 Point-of-Use Water Disinfection and Zinc Treatment (POUZN) Project. *Promoting zinc and ors for the management of childhood diarrhea in Indonesia*. Washington DC: Academy for Educational Development and United States Agency for International Development; 2010.

28 Point-of-Use Water Disinfection and Zinc Treatment (POUZN) Project. *Introducing zinc through the private sector in Nepal for the treatment of childfood diarrhea*. Bethesda and Washington DC: Abt associates Inc. and United States Agency for International Development; 2009.

29 Khan WU, Sellen DW. *Zinc supplementation in the management of diarrhoea: Biological, behavioural and contextual rationale. e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA)*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011.

30 Mosites E, Hacklemen R, Weum KLM, Pintye J, Manhart LE, Hawes SE. *Bangladesh zinc case study*. Seattle: University of Washington; 2012.