

Participant Information Sheet/Consent Form

<i>Adult providing own consent and consent for their children</i>	
Title	<i>The Effect of Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, and Economic Resources on Human Capital Accumulation in Early Life</i>
Short Title	<i>Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, Economic Resources and Human Capital Accumulation</i>
Protocol Number	<i>[Protocol Number]</i>
Project Sponsor	<i>The University of Sydney</i>
Coordinating Principal Investigator/ Principal Investigator	<i>Professor Shyamal Chowdhury</i>
Associate Investigator(s)	<i>Victoria Baranov, Associate Professor in Economics, University of Melbourne</i> <i>Valentina Duque, Lecturer in Economics, University of Sydney</i>
Location (where CPI/PI will recruit)	<i>Bangladesh</i>

Consent to be contacted for research purpose: *This part of the consent will be collected over the phone. Participants only agreed to be contacted for research purpose will be contacted further.*

Good day, my name is [name]. I have received your contact from the Kapsasia Health Model Authority, and I am contacting you on behalf of a research team based in Australia. The Kapsasia Health Model of Maternal and Child Health administration has also informed you about our research study. Would you like to be contacted for the research purpose? Your participation is completely voluntary. If you are willing to be contacted for the research purpose, I will then provide detail information about the study. At that stage you will again be able to decide if you would like to participate in the study after learning all the details about the study. However, at present, I would like to know if you would like to be contacted for the research study or not.

Response: Agreed – 1, Not agreed-2. If the respondent agrees to be contacted: Thank you for agreeing. We will contact you with more information about our research study. Otherwise: Thank you for taking our call. No further contact will be made regarding this research or any other study on our behalf.

1. Introduction

We are conducting a research study on how mothers and fathers use their time and money to invest in their children. We also want to learn how mothers think about their children's health at different ages in their lives.

You have been invited to take part in this study because, as a new mother, you and your child's information has been added to the system (or database) of the *Kapasias Model of Maternal and Child Health*. This system allows your local health authority to connect you and your baby to health services.

Below you will find more information about the study and the activities involved if you wish to participate in the study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a family member, relative, friend or your local doctor.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. Taking part or not does not change your relationship with the researchers or any other entity involved in this study.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project
- Consent to the use of your personal and health information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

2. What is the purpose of the study

This research has been initiated by the study three researchers: Professor Shyamal Chowdhury of the University of Sydney, Associate Professor Victoria Baranov of the University of Melbourne, and Dr Valentina Duque of the University of Sydney. The purpose of these researchers is to examine whether providing targeted interventions to women *early in pregnancy* offers cost-effective ways to enhance maternal wellbeing and children's physical and mental development in rural Bangladesh.

Apart from the researchers listed above, *Moner Bondhu*, a local organization that provides mental health services, is also involved in the study. In addition, the study is a

collaborative effort with and supported by the Bangladesh Ministry of Health. The study is being funded by J-PAL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

3. What does participation in this research involve?

You will be participating in a randomised controlled research project. Sometimes we do not know which services are best for people. To find out we need to compare different services. The services for the current study are: a) no new services; b) information about the eligibility to health services and public safety net programs and assist with the enrolment; c) information on the importance of the early-life environment; d) psychological counselling.

We will put people into groups and will give each group a different service or a combination of the above services, or none of the above services. The results are compared to see if one is better. To try to make sure the groups are the same, each participant is put into a group by chance (lottery). This research project has been designed to make sure the researchers interpret the results in a fair and appropriate way and avoids researchers or participants jumping to conclusions.

There are no additional costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. All intervention required as part of the research project will be provided to you free of charge.

You may be reimbursed for any reasonable travel expenses associated with the research project visit. In addition, you will be asked to take part in three surveys, for which you will be compensated for your time at a rate of 150 Taka, 50 Taka, and 150 Taka for the first, second, and the third survey, respectively.

4. What do I have to do?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in interviews where an interviewer will visit you at your home and ask you a series of questions related to you, your children, husband, and in-laws. Two such interviews will take place over the next 12 months, and each interview will take about one hour of your time. In addition, one short interview over the phone, which will take about 15 minutes, will take place as well. You will be compensated for your time as mentioned above. The interviewer may also collect your and your children's height, weight, and mid-upper arm circumference and hair sample.

You might also be given one or more of the services mentioned in the previous section. This will require about 15 minutes of your time, and you will not be compensated for your time. In addition, you might be invited to participate in group meetings of four to six people in your village, where activities to improve psychological well-being will be discussed. This may also happen over the phone instead of in group meetings. The amount of time required for each meeting is about an hour and half, which includes your approximate commuting time to and from your home to the meeting venue. In the case

of in-person meetings, 50 Taka will be given to cover your transportation costs. However, you will not be compensated for your time.

5. Other relevant information about the research project?

A total of 2,640 women from 120 villages from two sub-districts of Gazipur district will take part in this study. All participating women would be similar to you – they are either pregnant or they have young children or both. It is likely that some of those women might be drawn from your village. However, different women may receive different services due to chance. For example, not all women would be asked to participate in the group meetings.

This research is currently being conducted only in Bangladesh. In the past, similar studies have been conducted in other countries such as Pakistan.

6. Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later on you decide to change your mind, you would be free to withdraw from the project at any stage.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form to sign, and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision on whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your health and other services that you or your children currently or in the future would receive from your local health services, or your relationship with *The University of Sydney, Moner Bondu, and Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*.

7. What are the alternatives to participation?

You do not have to take part in this research project to receive benefits through the *Kapasias Model of Maternal and Child Health* that you currently receive.

8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, possible benefits may include more knowledge on child development and the parental practices that enhance your child’s health over many years; information on the availability of government programs and enrolment support to these programs; and improvements in physical and mental well-being for both mothers and children.

9. What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part in this study?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any considerable risks or disadvantages associated with taking part in this study.

10. What kind of data will be collected in the survey?

Data that will be collected in the survey include: household demographic and other information; houses, lands and other asset ownership; economic activities and employment; beliefs; women mental health & hair sample; preferences; children and mother height, weight and mid-upper arm circumferences; children mental health & development; take up of health care services; participation in social safety net programs; parenting style; parents time and money investment on children; women empowerment; and intimate partner violence.

All collected data will be retained for 25 years after the completion of the project.

11. Data on height, weight and mid-upper arm circumference

You will be asked to provide a separate consent to collect data on height, weight and mid-upper arm circumference. If you agree, this data will be collected from you and your children.

12. What about the data taken in the Kapasia model?

We plan to link your data collected in the Kapasia model to our data. You will be asked to provide a separate consent for this data linkage.

13. What will happen to my test samples?

You will be asked to provide additional consent for the collection of your hair during the research project. If you agree, we will take a very small sample of hair from the back of your head. This sample will be sent to a laboratory without any of your personal information on it. Instead, we will use a unique number that is associated with you in our research. Only the research team will know which number corresponds to which participant. The sample will be analysed for hormones that measure levels of stress. The hair samples are destroyed in this process. The laboratory will provide the named researchers with data on hormone levels. However, this information is not useful for measuring or clinically diagnosing any medical conditions. We will therefore not provide individuals with individual-level results, but participants will be able to see group-average results in the reports provided to participants at the end of the study. The data from the hair sample may be used in related research, but the data will always remain stripped of any personally identifiable information.

14. What if new information arises during this research project?

Sometimes during the course of a research project, new government services become available that might benefit you. If this happens, you are free to enrol in any government service for which you are eligible. We may ask you which services you receive, but it will not affect your eligibility to participate in the study.

15. Can I have other treatments during this research project?

Whilst you are participating in this research project, you will be able to take all of the treatments and medications you usually take based the advice of your medical practitioner. You can also enrol in any government service for which you are eligible.

16. Can I withdraw once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

Your decision will also not affect your relationship with the Kapasia Model of Maternal and Child Health.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind you can withdraw by not taking part in the survey or any other activities that we invite you to participate described above. There will be no consequence of your withdrawal.

For **group meeting**: If you take part in a meeting, you are free to stop at any stage or to refuse to answer any of the questions. However, since it is a group discussion, it may not be possible to withdraw your individual comments from our records once the group has started.

For **interview**: If you take part in an interview you may refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer.

If you choose to withdraw, we will not collect any more information from you. Please let us know at the time you withdraw what you would like us to do with information we have collected about you up to that point, although personal information already collected will be retained to ensure that the results of the research project can be measured properly and to comply with law.

17. Could this research project be stopped unexpectedly?

This research project may be stopped unexpectedly for a variety of reasons. These may include reasons such as:

- The Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deciding not to continue with the Kapasia Model of Women and Child Health
- Unexpected funding cut

18. What happens when the research project ends?

The project is linked to the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Kapasia Model. However, the access to health and other public services are not subject to the continuation of the research project. Unless the Ministry of Health decides to integrate it, the information service and the mental well-being service may not remain available once the research project is over.

Part 2 How is the research project being conducted?

19. What will happen to the information collected? about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the study doctor and relevant research staff collecting and using personal information about you to be used for the research project. Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential.

Any information you provide to us will be stored securely. Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project or related future projects, and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

Your personal records (digital record) contained in the Kapasia Model database will be linked to the information collected in this study. All information will be collected electronically and will be anonymised and stored during the study. Only researchers will have access to such data, which will guarantee that these will only be used for the current study and not for other purposes. The data will then be destroyed after the retention period.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your permission.

In accordance with relevant Australian *and/or* NSW privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to your information collected and stored by the research team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please contact the study team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

20. Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

Victoria Baranov, Associate Professor in Economics, University of Melbourne

Shyamal Chowdhury, Professor of Economics, University of Sydney

Valentina Duque, Lecturer in Economics, University of Sydney

The study is being funded by J-PAL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

Apart from the researchers listed above, *Moner Bondhu* – a local organization that provides care for mental health and well-being service is also involved in the study. In addition, the study is a collaborative effort with and supported by the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

21. Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the HREC of *The University of Sydney*.

This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

22. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [INSERT HREC Approval No. XXX once obtained] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

Moner Bondhu's CEO, Tawhida Shiropa, is the local partner of this research study and could be reached at 01722895390.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager

human.ethics@sydney.edu.au

+61 2 8627 8176

23. What if I would like further information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher/s or his/her local representative will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

Shyamal Chowdhury, Professor of Economics, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia; email: shyamal.chowdhury@sydney.edu.au, Tel: +61 2 93517893

Consent Form - Adult providing own consent

Title *The Effect of Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, and Economic Resources on Human Capital Accumulation in Early Life,*

Short Title *Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, Economic Resources and Human Capital Accumulation*

Protocol Number *[Protocol Number]*

Project Sponsor *[Project Sponsor in Australia]*

**Coordinating Principal Investigator/
Principal Investigator** *Professor Shyamal Chowdhury*

Associate Investigator(s) *Victoria Baranov, Associate Professor in Economics, University of Melbourne*
Valentina Duque, Lecturer in Economics, University of Sydney

Location (where CPI/PI will recruit) *Bangladesh*

Declaration by Participant

I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the research described in the project.

I give permission to release information to The University of Sydney for the purposes of this project. I understand that such information will remain confidential.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I freely agree to participate in this research project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study without affecting my future health care.

I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Linking of the administrative data: I consent to the linking of my data collected by the Kapasia Model Authority to the data that will be collected by the research team conducting the current

study. Yes

No

Children's anthropometry data collection: I consent to the collection and use of information of myself and my children's height, weight, and mid-upper arm circumference, as described in the relevant section of the Participant Information Sheet.

. Yes No

Hair sample collection: I consent to the storage and use of hair sample taken from me for use, as described in the relevant section of the Participant Information Sheet.

. Yes No

Name of Participant (please print) _____	
_____	_____
Signature or left thumb impression of participant	Date

Declaration by study implementing officer/senior researcher†

I have given a verbal explanation of the research project, its procedures and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Senior Researcher or his/her representative† (please print) _____	
Signature _____	Date _____

† A senior member of the research team or a representative must provide the explanation of, and information concerning, the research project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

Form for Withdrawal of Participation - *Adult providing own consent*

Title *The Effect of Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, and Economic Resources on Human Capital Accumulation in Early Life,*

Short Title *Maternal Beliefs, Mental Health, Economic Resources and Human Capital Accumulation*

Protocol Number *[Protocol Number]*

Project Sponsor *[Project Sponsor in Australia]*

**Coordinating Principal Investigator/
Principal Investigator** *Professor Shyamal Chowdhury*

Associate Investigator(s) *Victoria Baranov, Associate Professor in Economics, University of Melbourne*
Valentina Duque, Lecturer in Economics, University of Sydney

Location (where CPI/PI will recruit) *Bangladesh*

Declaration by Participant

I wish to withdraw from participation in the above research project and understand that such withdrawal will not affect my relationship my relationship with *The University of Sydney*.

Name of Participant (please print) _____	
_____	_____
Signature or left thumb impression of participant	Date

In the event that the participant's decision to withdraw is communicated verbally, the Implementing Officer/Senior Researcher will need to provide a description of the circumstances below.

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Declaration by Senior Researcher or his/her representative†

I have given a verbal explanation of the implications of withdrawal from the research project and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Senior Researcher or his/her representative† (please print)	
Signature _____	Date _____

† A senior member of the research team must provide the explanation of and information concerning withdrawal from the research project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature