

Introduction

Grameen Communications is a leading IT solutions provider in Bangladesh, concentrating on software development &



GRAMEEN COMMUNICATIONS
Proud to serve those who serve the poorest and the poor themselves

implementation, hardware support, and training. It has been providing 360 degrees IT solutions to more than 5000 branches of various Micro-Finance organizations including Grameen Bank, a Nobel peace prize winning micro-credit organization.

It also runs GramHealth system that is an integral part of the Portable Health Clinic (PHC) project. PHC is jointly developed by Kyushu University, Japan and Grameen Communications to provide affordable eHealth services to low-income, low literate people living in remote and under-served communities by using a shared mobility service project funded by Toyota Motor Corporation.

Objectives for Bangladesh Challenge

Bangladesh Challenge team will visit Grameen Communications in one of their promotional events that showcase PHC. Our objective is to learn and document the operation of PHC. There is a growing interest in mHealth world-wide, but most of them are focused on the urban population who are relatively well-off. In contrast, PHC project of Grameen Communications is a social business that aims at expanding access to healthcare to a rural area which has tremendous implications for sustainable development. Understanding their operational model – the interface between devices, system, and social institutions – in the context of rural Bangladesh and the challenges they face will be an important lesson for adapting PHC to other rural areas along Belt and Road Region.

Bangladesh Challenge team has already had an experience of doing a preliminary study in Guangxi province of China, where the idea of PHC type of operation was very well received by the local government and health workers. This project in Guangxi will now proceed further under the TESD project and there will be a pilot project in partnership with a local university, a university hospital, and government authorities in Guangxi, with potential cooperation of the mHealth industry. Once this pilot project is done in Guangxi China, a similar initiative can extend to other countries and region and for this, lessons from and connection with the PHC project of Grameen Communications will be an important step forward.