

**IAP Study**  
**Grants Programme for Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices**

**FINAL REPORT TEMPLATE**

Final reports should be emailed to [secretariat@iapartnership.org](mailto:secretariat@iapartnership.org) cc. [telliott@iapartnership.org](mailto:telliott@iapartnership.org) no later than the date specified in your signed contract. This deadline is not extendable and final payments are conditional on submitting this form by then.

*Please type all responses in the appropriate sections below. Take care to adhere to length limits.*

**Project Name:**

Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices

**Proposal Lead's Name and Email Address:**

Name: Dr. Mainul Hossain

E-mail Address: mainul.eee@du.ac.bd

**Lead Academy and Partner Organizations (please list lead academy first):**

National Young Academy of Bangladesh (NYAB)

**Please summarize all project activities throughout the grant period, from planning to implementation to dissemination. If these differed significantly from what had been proposed, please elaborate and explain reasons. (500 word maximum):**

**Activity #1: Recruitment of Research Assistants**

Two research assistants (RAs) were hired and they started office from February 15, 2022.

**Activity #2: A National Workshop on "Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices"**

An online national workshop was arranged on February 22, 2022. Two nationally renowned professors were invited as keynote speakers. More than 90 participants joining from all across Bangladesh and USA. More than 86% of the participants were undergraduates, while the rest included postdoctoral researchers, early career researchers and young professionals. The impact of the national workshop was measured by conducting (i) a survey (ii) Q&A and open discussion and (iii) an evaluation test.

**Activity #3: Selecting Academic Ambassadors**

The evaluation test was graded by the distinguished speakers and the NYAB grantees. The top 8 performers (4 highest scorers from BSc level and 4 from the MSc./Ph.D./postdoc/early career researchers) were selected as academic ambassadors for this project and were assigned with the responsibility of promoting awareness of predatory academic practices, within their network. The list of the ambassadors can be found here ([Link](#)).

**Activity #4: Arranging an International Poster Competition**

An international poster competition was organized based on the theme "Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices" on March 17, 2022. Eighteen top quality posters were received from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and USA. A panel of distinguished judges evaluated the posters and selected one best poster and five honorable mentions. The posters will be shared with IAP as well as with universities and research organizations in Bangladesh and the neighboring young academies (NaYAN, SLAYS and

INYAS) for mass distribution. The posters can be displayed in classrooms, laboratories, libraries and seminar halls to further increase the awareness of predatory practices.

- **Best Poster** ([Link](#))
- **Honorable Mention-1** ([Link](#))
- **Honorable Mention-2** ([Link](#))
- **Honorable Mention-3** ([Link](#))
- **Honorable Mention-4** ([Link](#))
- **Honorable Mention-5** ([Link](#))

### **Activity #5: Meeting with the Policy Makers**

The project lead and the president of NYAB met with several academic leaders and policy makers that included three different deans and the director of an academic research center. The ongoing project was briefly explained to the policy makers and possible measures, that could be taken, at the policy level, to

**Prof. Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu**  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology  
University of Dhaka



**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman Talukder**  
Director, Research and Innovation Centre for Science and Engineering (RISE)  
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)



**Prof. Dr. Quazi Deen Mohd Khosru**  
Dean, Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering  
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)



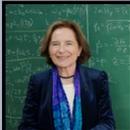
**Prof. Dr. Mohammad Tamim**  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering  
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)



stop predatory academic practices were discussed in details. IAP`s summary report entitled “Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences” was handed over to them during the meeting.

## Activity #6: Arranging an International Workshop

An international workshop on Increasing Awareness of Predatory Academic Practices was held on March 31, 2022 which was attended by more than 90 students and researchers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal,

 <b>Organized by</b>  <b>7:00 to 9:00 PM Bangladesh Time (UTC+6)</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>International Workshop on Increasing Awareness against Predatory Academic Practices</b> <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:nyab.againstpredatorypractices@gmail.com">nyab.againstpredatorypractices@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://nyabangladesh.org/home-basic/iap-project/">https://nyabangladesh.org/home-basic/iap-project/</a> <b>Keynote Speakers</b>  <b>Ana María Cetto</b> Research Professor, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Member, IAP Working Group on Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences  <b>Tracey Elliott</b> Project Director of IAP for Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences <b>Moderators</b> <b>Chief patron:</b> Mohammed Abdul Basith, President, NYAB, Professor, BUET <b>Chair:</b> Mainul Hossain, Project lead and Member, NYAB, Assistant Professor, University of Dhaka <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sabrina Elias, Secretary, NYAB, Assistant Professor, IUB</li><li>• Sajid Muhaimin Choudhury, Member, NYAB, Assistant Professor, BUET</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keynote Speeches</li><li>• Remarks from INYAS, NaYAN and SLAYS</li><li>• Declaration of Poster Competition Winners</li><li>• Winner of Poster Competition Presenting the Poster</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>	<b>SCAN to REGISTER</b> 

Sri Lanka, Thailand and USA. Neighboring young academies (NaYAN, SLAYS and INYAS) also participated in the event. The keynote talks were delivered by Ana Maria Cetto (Research Professor, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico) and Tracey Elliott (Project Director, IAP). A quick survey and a panel discussion was held followed by the keynote talks to make the workshop more impactful. The best poster and honorable mentions from the International Poster Presentation Competition were announced in the workshop.

## Recording of the International Workshop ([Link](#))

### Activity #7: Developing the prototype of "Preductive" tool

A research assistant has been dedicatedly assigned to develop the prototype of the web-based tool "Preductive". So far, some universities in Bangladesh have been targeted where the google scholar profiles of researchers are automatically retrieved from the websites. An algorithm is being developed to scan the publication list and flag any predatory journals/conferences.

**Please provide an honest assessment of the extent to which you feel your project achieved its objectives and a rationale for this assessment (100 word maximum):**

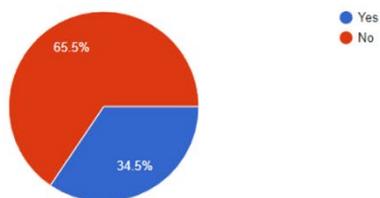
On a scale of 1 to 10, the project achieved a score of 8 as per our assessment. The project can be considered successful in terms of creating awareness of predatory academic practices among undergraduate students and early career researchers. This is evident based on the survey results and evaluation test from the national and international workshops. We were also able to convince several policy makers to take the necessary actions against predatory practices in academia. More work is needed to develop the automated “predeictive” tool for further increasing the awareness.

**Did your project meet its anticipated outcomes? How did you measure impact? (100 word maximum):**

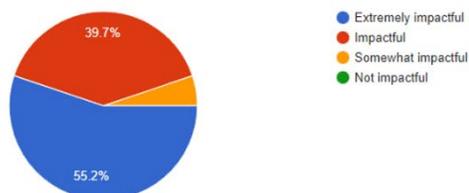
The project met its anticipated outcomes in increasing awareness against predatory practices as well as educating the policy makers. More work, however, is needed to implement the policies in practice. More than 90 young researchers attended the national as well as the international workshops. The neighboring young academies (NaYAN, SLAYS and INYAS) participated in the international workshop. The impact of the project was measured by conducting polls and surveys after the workshops. A summary of the results is presented below:

**National Workshop [February 22, 2022]**

Have you heard about predatory journals and conferences before?  
58 responses

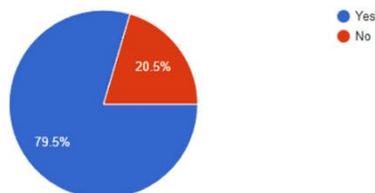


How impactful was the NYAB-IAP workshop on “Increasing awareness of predatory academic practices” for your academic /research career?  
58 responses

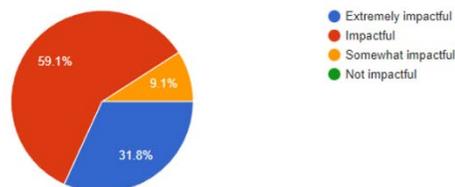


**International Workshop [March 31, 2022]**

Have you heard about predatory journals and conferences before?  
44 responses



How impactful was the NYAB-IAP workshop on “Increasing awareness of predatory academic practices” for your academic /research career?  
44 responses



**Did you encounter any challenges? Were there any unexpected outcomes? (100 words maximum)**

The short time-frame of the project made things challenging for us, especially when organizing a national and an international workshop within a span of about one month. It was difficult to match the schedule of the keynote speakers and major stakeholders and ensure enough participation on such a short-notice. There was not sufficient time for advertising and circulating the event. While developing the “predeictive” tool we faced many technical challenges, which unexpectedly slowed down the progress. Also, there were some financial challenges, as the first installment got unexpectedly delayed.

**If you could start again, is there anything you would do differently to improve your project? (100 words maximum):**

We would request for at least a six-months project. This would allow us more time to gather our resources, hire expert research assistants and also reach out to a larger number of young researchers, both locally as well as internationally. In addition, as the pandemic situation has improved, we would like to organize in-person workshops, which, in reality are more impactful than online events. Also, we could use the extra time to engage policy makers from other research organizations beyond academia. Meetings could also have been arranged with librarians, funders/ministries and local publishers to further increase the awareness.

**How did your project engage key stakeholders outside of the research community? e.g., research funders/ministries, libraries services, local publishers. What have you learned from this engagement? (100 word maximum):**

Due to limited time, we were unable to engage ministries, librarians and local publishers in our project. However, we had in-person meetings with the three deans across two major universities in the country and the director of a research center (RISE, BUET) who are responsible for creating policies for the dissemination of research funds. Everyone appreciated our efforts and unanimously agreed to implement strict measures against predatory academic practices, incorporating new guidelines in promotion and recruitments. We also engaged neighboring young academies and learned that a collective approach, involving all stakeholders, within and outside the research community, is needed in order to win the fight against predatory practices.

**Has your project had any impact (benefits or otherwise) on your own academy? If so, what? (100 word maximum)**

Since its inception, the National Young Academy of Bangladesh (NYAB) has a working group dedicated to creating awareness of predatory academic practices. The topic has been discussed several times in our annual general meetings and all NYAB members have been extremely supportive of this. Before the project was awarded, NYAB arranged a couple of webinars on the same topic. The project had a positive impact on NYAB as it recognized our ongoing efforts and provided us with the necessary funds and resources to move forward and make a bigger impact in increasing awareness, policy making and implementation.

**Describe your efforts to give the project some legacy, beyond April 2022, through the connections, content and processes you have put in place. (100 words maximum):**

**a. Recruitment of Academic Ambassadors:** The 8 academic ambassadors, recruited after the national workshop, will continue to popularize the project and increase awareness of predatory academic practices.

**b. Posters:** The best poster and the honorable mentions from the poster competition will be shared with and displayed in various universities and research organizations in Bangladesh. The posters will also be shared with IAP and the neighboring young academies for mass distribution.

**c. Connection with Neighboring Young Academies:** We build strong connections with NaYAN, SLAYS and INYAS through this project. The knowledge gained can be shared to strengthen our collective efforts against predatory practices.

**d. Connection with Policy Makers:** A working relation was established with policy makers in academia through this project. In future, NYAB can work with them to implement policies against predatory practices.

**Please provide a summary of final expenditures, noting variances from the original proposal.**

Due to some technical difficulties, we have not yet received any grant money (as of April 18, 2022). Therefore, a summary of the proposed budget is provided below.

	Description	Cost
Expenditure Item 1:	Meetings, Workshops, Webinars and Visits	1800
Expenditure Item 2:	Research Assistant Salary	\$4,500
Expenditure Item 3:	Research Assistant: Festival Bonus	\$200×2 =\$400
Expenditure Item 4:	Online resource subscriptions (Zoom, Cabell`s list etc.)	\$400
Expenditure Item 5:	Workstation	\$1,200
Expenditure Item 6:	Web testing Server	\$1,200
Expenditure Item 7:	Miscellaneous	\$500
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>