

Do Medical Expenses of COVID-19 Treatment in Private Hospitals of Bangladesh Create Economic Burden: Evidence from Media Report

COVID-19 Tedavisinin Tıbbi Masrafları Bangladeş Özel Hastanelerinde Ekonomik Yük Yaratıyor mu: Basın Raporundan Kanıtlar

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Dear Editor,

COVID has created a difficult situation for the whole world due to the unavailability of appropriate treatment.^{1,2} As a developing country, the citizen and government of Bangladesh need to spend a lot of medical expenses to treat COVID-19. According to a research of the health ministry of Bangladesh, the government spends an average of Tk 1.28 lakh on treating a COVID-19 patient in ordinary beds and 4.08 lakh in an intensive care unit (ICU). A COVID-19 patient spends on average Tk 37,128 and Tk 68,885 per day for a normal and ICU bed. United hospital costs Tk 120,000 for per day treatment and different lab tests, Japan Bangladesh friendship hospital costs Tk 3, 22,492 for 6 days, LabAid Specialized hospital costs Tk 84,872 at High dependency unit for 27 hours, Bangladesh Specialized hospital costs Tk 1, 68,429 for five days' treatment.^{3,4}

These treatment costs create an economic burden for the families who are not financially wealthy in Bangladesh. The families of COVID patients stated to different newspaper that they needed to sell

their properties, home, courtyard lands and raise fund through social media to manage costs for treatment. Due to the unviability of beds in government based COVID hospital, these families are forced to go to private hospital. Government regulation and policy to regulate costs in private can solve the economic burden.

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