

## **Addressing the complexity of ASD through multisectoral partnerships in the era of Sustainable Development Goals**

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Service providers and the individuals and families living with ASD face many challenges, whether living in developing or developed countries. Largely due to very limited financial and human resources, families in low resource regions are deprived of comprehensive innovative evidence based services. Moreover, there are few models for making ASD services more accessible to non-urban low income families. Developing countries, in addition to that, are challenged by a lack of a systematic approach to their needs stemming from a lack of awareness, non-inclusive policies and discrimination. With the aims of addressing the needs of the primary stakeholders (the families) and mindful of the SDGs, Shuchona Foundation (a not-for-profit organization) began its work raising awareness and addressing the gaps in policy and program implementation. Starting with both domestic laws and international resolutions, since 2010, what was previously called Global Autism Public Health Initiative, Bangladesh, Shuchona has morphed into a leader especially in the southeast Asian region. Partnering with governments, national institutions and NGO's, it aims to bridge the gaps between policy makers, researchers, service providers and families and develop innovative, low-cost, sustainable programs that can be implemented within a country's existing infrastructure through public and private partnerships. Its vision is to help create a community that provides a universal support system and an environment wherein PWD can have a productive and meaningful life. Along with giving the SE Asian perspective, today's presentation will share our unique multisectoral life-span approach to implementing ASD services.