IN BANGLADESH

Anti-Scabies Centres

Some time ago, the ICRC medical team in Bangladesh noted that in the various non-Bengali settlements 60 to 70 per cent of the children and a large number of adults were suffering from scabies. It was decided to construct Centres for the treatment of that skin disease, and the ICRC made a substantial sum available.

A Centre was established at Mirpur, near Dacca,[1] in a house specially converted for the purpose. It was so installed as to serve as a prototype for other Centres. Five have opened since April 1973 and are operating in Bangladesh.

Through a waiting room outside the Centre, the patient reaches two shower rooms. Here the skin areas affected are treated with soap and brush. Meanwhile the patient's clothing is boiled and hung up to dry outside. The patient then proceeds to one of the two treatment halls, where specially trained personnel attend to his sores. Should the stage reached by the disease require it, the treatment is renewed a few days later.

In the Mirpur Centre, 90 to 110 patients receive treatment daily.

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[1] *Plate.*