



INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (ISRT)
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH

পরিসংখ্যান গবেষণা ও শিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

StatLab and its policies

What is StatLab?

It is a statistical consulting service primarily for the students and faculty members of the University of Dhaka.

Rationale:

Statistical analysis has become an indispensable tool for quantitative research in almost all fields of study. Students and faculty members of other disciplines are increasingly faced with the difficulty of applying statistical methods to the analysis of their data with limited knowledge regarding the use of these methods. For most quantitative studies, it is necessary to consult a statistician several times during the study from the initial planning stage to the final report writing because the results of the study rely heavily on issues such as experimental design, quality of the collected data, choice of statistical methods for analysis and interpretation of statistical results. In the absence of a statistical consultation center within the university, students and faculty members from other disciplines do not know whom to turn to for expert advice. It may be mentioned that the faculty members of ISRT have been offering consulting services to fellow colleagues and non-academic persons at an individual level; however, this service needs to be formalized and institutionalized. Furthermore, graduate students of Applied Statistics require hands-on experience in statistical consulting if they are to be successful statistical practitioners. With a view to promoting high quality research across all disciplines within the university as well as enhancing training of the students of Applied Statistics, ISRT would like to propose the development of a statistical laboratory and/or consulting service called StatLab.

Aims:

- 1) To strengthen research on campus by assisting graduate students and faculty members of other disciplines in the statistical design of experiments including survey design and choice of appropriate statistical methodology and software for their research.
- 2) To provide support to faculty members in preparing scholarly research output through high quality statistical data analysis
- 3) To provide an environment for the students of Applied Statistics to develop consulting skills under supervision of a faculty member.
- 4) To promote professional development of the faculty of ISRT
- 5) To foster interdisciplinary research
- 6) To promote sound statistical practice among researchers from other disciplines
- 7) To improve computing facilities at ISRT by installing cluster computers



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Policies:

- 1) StatLab will offer statistical consulting support to research students and faculty members of the University of Dhaka. This service is free of charge for the duration of HEQEP project CP# 3236.
- 2) The person seeking statistical help for their research work (i.e. the "client") will receive assistance in the design of experiments and sample surveys, choice of statistical methodology and software for analysis, and interpretation of statistical results.
- 4) If the client is an M.S./M.Phil/Ph.D. student, he/she must obtain written permission from the Supervisor. StatLab will not analyze data for graduate students working on their theses. In such cases, the consultant will help the client by explaining the statistical analysis required for the problem and suggesting the software the client could use. However, if the client is a student working on a problem that is not related to class project/thesis work, StatLab may assist in analyzing the client's data depending on the number of contact hours required.
- 5) If the client is a faculty member, StatLab will help the client by explaining the statistical analysis for the problem and suggesting the software the client could use. In special circumstances, StatLab may also analyze the client's data in which case the client must acknowledge StatLab in any resulting publication and the consultant may claim authorship depending on type of contribution and volume of work. However, if the client is a faculty member working on a project for which he/she is entitled to monetary benefits, StatLab may analyze the client's data in which case a charge will apply.
- 6) StatLab will also provide similar consulting services to outside clients, which includes non-academic persons and academic persons from outside the University of Dhaka. Costs of this service will be discussed on a project-by-project basis.
- 7) At the end of the consultation, both the client and consultants will submit their report to StatLab Coordination team. The consultant's report may contain the amount of time spent for the consultation, brief description of the problem and suggestions, etc. The client's report will contain information on whether or not the consultation was helpful and suggestions on how to improve the procedure. If both the client and consultant agree, they may continue their collaboration after submitting the report to StatLab.
- 8) The coordination team will decide whether the consultation will be free of charge or client has to pay prior to assign a consultant (faculty or M.S. student).
- 9) The consultant (faculty or M.S. student) to be requested for the consultation has right to regret in providing assistance.
- 10) ISRT academic committee (AC) will form a coordination team to maintain the StatLab for a certain period. This period will also be determined by the AC.



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11) ISRT reserves the right to make amendments to the above policies at any time.

How to obtain StatLab services:

- 1) Consultations are made via appointment. In order to make an appointment, clients must fill out a prescribed form and provide a brief explanation of the research problem and type of assistance required.
- 2) StatLab will assign statistical consultants (ISRT faculty member and/or MS students) who will contact the client to arrange a meeting.
- 3) Students must submit a letter of permission from the chair of the department or supervisor.

Coordination team:

1. Prof. Mohammad Shuaib [Subproject Manager (HEQEP project # 3236)]
2. Prof. Md. Israt Rayhan [Director, ISRT]
3. Prof. Tamanna Howlader [Member, (HEQEP project # 3236)]