

# 10<sup>th</sup> KNOWLEDGE FAIR ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

SRHR  
BUSINESS  
FOR THE  
GRASSROOTS  
Knowledge > Business > Impact

14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2025  
@ SHERATON DHAKA

## Introduction / Background

Since 2017, the SRHR Knowledge Fair has served as the flagship annual event of **Share-Net Bangladesh (SNBD)**, a knowledge platform dedicated to bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Over the years, it has evolved into the **largest space in Bangladesh** for dialogue, collaboration, and evidence exchange on SRHR, bringing together practitioners, youth leaders, researchers, development partners, policymakers, government officials, civil society actors, and the private sector.

In 2025, as the Fair celebrates its 10th edition, it takes another step forward with the theme **“SRHR Business for the Grassroots”**. This year’s focus reflects a strategic shift, from discussing SRHR as a policy and programmatic agenda to exploring its **economic and social value** as a driver of innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Despite notable progress in Bangladesh’s health, education, and gender indicators, **gaps persist at the grassroots**, where SRHR outcomes are shaped by access, affordability, and agency. Communities continue to face challenges such as child marriage, inadequate menstrual health management, unsafe abortions, gender-based violence, and limited access to reproductive health information and services. These issues disproportionately affect women, adolescents, and marginalised groups, slowing progress towards achieving the SDGs and realising the country’s demographic dividend. Is the public sector alone capable of addressing these challenges, or do we need ethical businesses to jump in?

The **SRHR Knowledge Fair 2025** will build on this momentum by **repositioning grassroots SRHR not as a cost, but as a smart business for society and development**, one that delivers measurable returns for individuals, communities, and the national economy. By linking **knowledge, policy, and financing**, the Fair will demonstrate how locally grounded evidence can shape investments, inspire innovation, and strengthen community-led SRHR business models that transform lives and sustain impact.

## Rationale: Why Grassroots SRHR “Businesses” Matter

For Bangladesh, home to one of the world’s largest adolescent populations, grassroots SRHR investments represent both an **urgent priority and a transformative high-return opportunity**. They are essential to unlocking the country’s **demographic dividend** and directly advancing **SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), and SDG 5 (Gender**

**Equality)**. By demonstrating the tangible social and economic outcomes of SRHR, the Knowledge Fair will make the case that investing in communities is not charity; it is smart, sustainable business for national progress.

The global SRHR landscape is shifting. Traditional funding sources are shrinking, while political and ideological pushbacks are threatening decades of progress in sexual and reproductive rights. This growing volatility calls for a fundamental rethink of how SRHR knowledge and practice can be sustained, not only through advocacy and aid but also through **innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment**.

Historically, SRHR has been framed as a public good — a rights-based service to be provided, rather than a sector that can generate value and livelihood. Yet, across communities, a quiet transformation is underway. Local actors are redefining what it means to sustain SRHR: women’s cooperatives producing affordable menstrual hygiene products, youth groups creating digital SRHR enterprises, and social businesses integrating health access with livelihood generation. These initiatives prove that SRHR can indeed be **both a right and a viable enterprise**.

At the same time, the knowledge ecosystem within SRHR is expanding. Over the past decade, platforms like Share-Net have cultivated a culture of evidence generation, learning, and knowledge translation. However, as knowledge facilitators, we are increasingly aware that **knowledge has limited value if it cannot sustain itself**. When research findings remain within reports or workshops, their impact fades with the project cycle. But when that same knowledge informs a local innovation, business, or social enterprise, it gains continuity, relevance, and ownership at the grassroots.

Thus, **“SRHR Business for the Grassroots”** is more than a theme; it is a necessary evolution of how we understand sustainability in SRHR. It urges a shift from dependency to dynamism, from projects to products, and from information to innovation. It acknowledges that the long-term future of SRHR lies not only in policy frameworks or donor funding but in the **capacity of communities to turn ideas into enterprise**.

## Objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> SRHR Knowledge Fair 2025

The **10<sup>th</sup> SRHR Knowledge Fair 2025** aims to advance a new conversation on the future of SRHR in Bangladesh, one that connects **knowledge, innovation, and business** to ensure sustainability and community ownership. Building on a decade of evidence generation and policy dialogue, this year’s Fair will explore how SRHR knowledge can be transformed into **enterprise, social innovation, and grassroots business models** that deliver both social and economic impact.

1. To connect knowledge with financing and policy pathways for scaling and sustaining community-driven SRHR business models.
2. To highlight the business case of SRHR by demonstrating its contributions to health, productivity, livelihoods, and national development.

HOSTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



ORGANISED BY:



3. To amplify grassroots voices and innovations by showcasing community-led SRHR solutions and lived experiences.
4. To strengthen the ecosystem for SRHR social entrepreneurship by linking innovators with investors, accelerators, and policymakers.
5. To promote cross-sectoral learning and collaboration by co-creating actionable ideas that connect SRHR with gender, health, education, climate resilience, and economic inclusion.

## Key Themes and Discussion Area

The 2025 Fair will include plenaries, panels, grassroots testimonials, and exhibitions exploring:

### OPENING PLENARY SESSION

#### From Knowledge to Business: Rethinking SRHR Sustainability

This session will explore how SRHR must evolve from aid dependence to innovative, community-led business models. It will highlight how enterprise and local solutions can drive sustainable impact, inclusion, and long-term access to SRHR services.

### THEMATIC SESSION 1

#### Grassroots Innovation Marketplace: Ideas that Earn, Empower, and End Inequality

This session will showcase grassroots SRHR enterprises that earn, empower, and reduce inequality. Featuring live demos and storytelling, it will present models like eco-pads and telehealth, proving how community innovation can generate income and impact.

### THEMATIC SESSION 2

#### Building the SRHR Business Case: How Investing in SRHR Delivers Measurable Returns

Through data and expert insights, this session will demonstrate how SRHR investments yield economic and social returns. It will make the business case to investors, linking SRHR to productivity, national development, and cross-sector growth opportunities.

### THEMATIC SESSION 3

#### Where Knowledge Meets Business: Sustainable Social Enterprises for Economic Empowerment

This session will explore how SRHR knowledge can be transformed into social enterprises. It will offer actionable tools, connecting research, design, and investment to help innovators turn insights into market-ready, impactful solutions.

### CLOSING SESSION

#### Knowledge Fair Grand Finale & SRHR Champion Award Giving Ceremony 2025

The Grand Finale will summarise the key takeaways of SRHR business ideas and spotlight grassroots leadership. The ceremony will also recognise excellence through Share-Net SRHR Award, with three categories: Share-Net Community Award, Share-Net Youth Leadership Award, and Share-Net Lifetime Achievement Recognition.

## PARALLEL SESSION

### Business Beyond Boundaries: Regional SRHR Business for the Grassroots

This session will highlight opportunities for cross-border collaboration, scalable business models, and shared learning among neighbouring countries. The discussion will encourage entrepreneurs, organisations, and investors to think regionally and show how grassroots SRHR innovations can expand, connect, and thrive across borders to strengthen both community wellbeing and regional development.

## Expected Outcomes of the Knowledge Fair

- To establish SRHR as both a human right and a smart business strategy, ensuring access and equity for national growth.
- To position menstrual health as a smart investment by demonstrating its social and economic returns in education, productivity, and equity.
- To promote financing and community-led interventions as catalytic strategies for ending child marriage and sustaining education.
- To link financing for SRHR and GBV prevention with improved rights, health, and safe workplaces for enhanced business outcomes.
- To showcase scalable, community-led SRHR enterprise models as innovative solutions for sustainable impact.
- To demonstrate how research and evidence can drive actionable programmes, strategic investments, and effective advocacy in SRHR.

## CONCLUSION

The SRHR Knowledge Fair 2025 will reposition grassroots SRHR as a business for social change and sustainable 2025 will thus be a platform to celebrate grassroots voices and foster collaboration with corporates and development, demonstrating that investing in communities is not charity but strategy.

The **SRHR Knowledge Fair** partners and highlights the transformative value of investing in SRHR. Bringing together diverse stakeholders, the Fair will serve as a bridge between evidence and action, ensuring that SRHR investments translate into lasting change for communities across Bangladesh. By centring grassroots knowledge, connecting it with research, practice, evidence-based investment strategies, and policy, and thus reframing it as a business case, the Fair will reinforce SNBD's role as Bangladesh's leading SRHR knowledge platform.

Together, we can **invest today to transform tomorrow**, ensuring that every woman, youth, and community has the opportunity to excel.

HOSTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



ORGANISED BY:

